

South Gloucestershire Council

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION & STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

15 June 2011

LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND

Purpose of Report

1. To update Members on the Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid.

Background

2. The Department for Transport (DfT) announced a new funding opportunity called the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) as part of the Local Transport White Paper. Subsequently at the end of January some detailed guidance was issued on the LSTF confirming that £560m would be made available nationally for local authorities to bid for from 2011/12 to 2014/15.

3. The purpose of this fund is to enable local transport authorities to deliver sustainable transport solutions that support economic growth whilst reducing carbon. The guidance states that 'solutions will be geared to supporting jobs and business through effectively tackling the problems of congestion, improving the reliability and predictability of journey times, enabling economic investment, revitalising town centres and enhancing access to employment'.

4. Two funding opportunities were outlined and Local Authorities could be successful in only one:

1. Small Bids – Local authorities could bid for a small project of up to £5m which had to be submitted by the 18th April or the 6th June 2011; or
2. Large bids – bids up to £50m for which an Expression of Interest (EoI) must be submitted by the 6th June 2011 with DfT shortlisting successful bids by the end of July 2011. These shortlisted bids would then need to work up business cases for submission in December and final approval by June 2012. There is also an option for a key component, valuing up to £5m, of a large bid to be submitted by 18th April 2011 to deliver an essential (yet stand alone) element of the bid in advance of the large bid.

5. South Gloucestershire Council are, in partnership with the other West of England authorities, pursuing a large bid for £30.387m of which £5m is a key component. The Council has not submitted a small bid for funding.

Update

6. South Gloucestershire Council has joined with West of England Partners to submit an Expression of Interest by the 6th June for a large bid for £30.387 million to the LSTF. Of

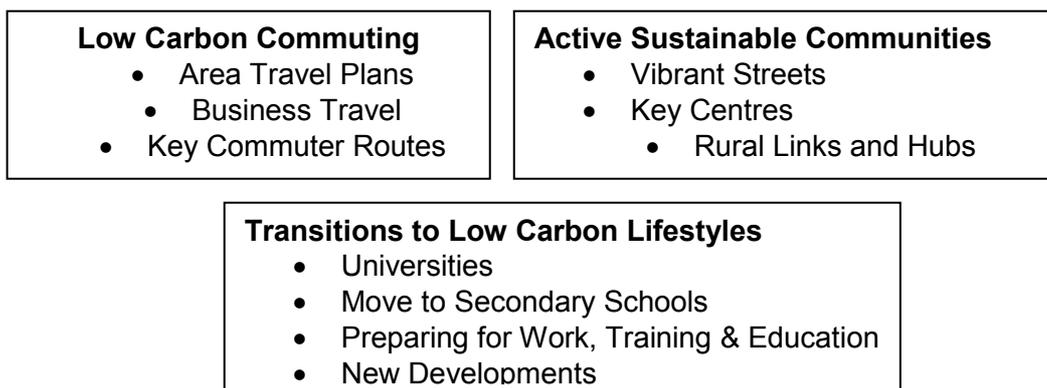
this a £5m bid was submitted to the DfT as a key component bid in April 2011. The Key Component bid focuses on the Key Commuter routes project under the Low Carbon Commuting Theme. South Gloucestershire's share of this funding is £9.682 m of the large bid and £1.75 million of the Key component Bid.

7. The following funding split for the authorities has been proposed by the Project Board consisting of the four Heads of Transport:

- South Gloucestershire Council - £9.682m
- Bristol City Council - £9.25m
- North Somerset Council - £3.205m
- Bath and NE Somerset Council - £3.250m

8. The funding available from the Department for Transport is 40% capital and 60% revenue to reflect the focus of the LSTF on smarter choices or soft measures rather than infrastructure. The West of England bid adheres broadly to this ratio.

9. The project is known as the West of England Sustainable Travel (WEST) bid and is based around 3 themes and includes 10 projects as set out below:



10. The objectives of the WEST bid, under these three themes, are as follows:

Low Carbon Commuting

- To reduce carbon emissions per capita for journeys to work;
- To widen lower carbon access to employment and to continue to support economic growth;
- To improve the health, reduce sickness levels and increase the productivity of the workforce.

Active and Sustainable Communities

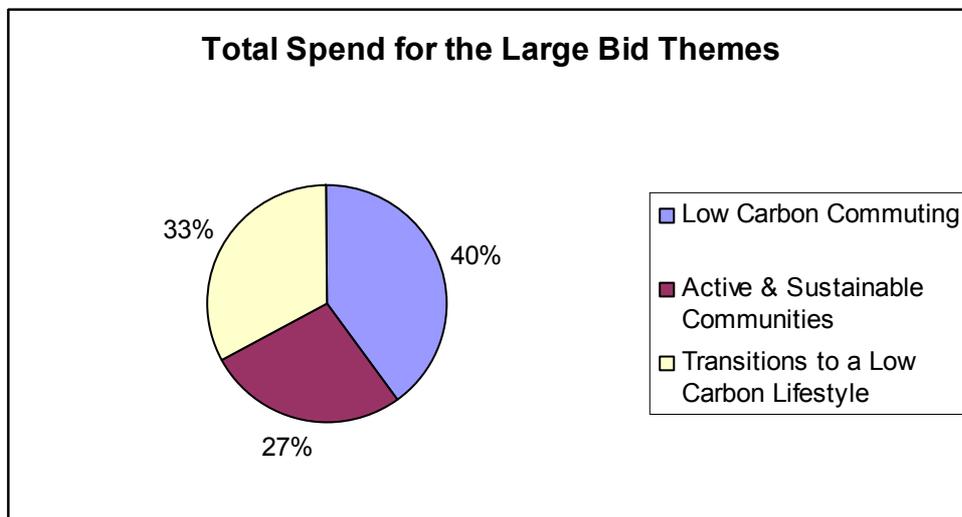
- To increase physical activity and improve health through greater use of walking and cycling for local journeys
- To support and strengthen local economies

- To improve sustainable transport links and access for employment, retail, education and leisure across the area.

Transitions to Low Carbon Lifestyles

- To embed sustainable travel choices at formative stages of children’s and young people’s lives;
- To increase the use of sustainable transport amongst University students;
- To target new housing developments to maximise the opportunity for new sustainable travel habits to form at this key transition point.

11. The majority of funding across the West of England is focussed on the theme of Low Carbon Commuting with the remaining funding split between Active & Sustainable Communities and Transitions to a Low Carbon Lifestyle. The funding split by theme in South Gloucestershire is as follows:



12. The projects are being implemented to differing levels in the four UAs. A short update on the purpose of the projects in South Gloucestershire is as follows:

Theme	Project	Summary
Low Carbon Commuting	Area Travel Plans	Focusing in the North fringe and Severnside working with employers to promote sustainable travel to work. This includes addressing barriers to sustainable travel as well as the provision of information to facilitate informed choices.
	Business Travel	This is a sub-regional project focusing on the provision of electric vehicle charging points and exploring the potential roll out the GO-LOW project.
	Key Commuter Routes	Focusing on public transport through the pump-priming of developer funded services, addressing punctuality hot spots, and building on the achievements of promoting the x27 by undertaking large scale promotion of public transport.
Active and Sustainable Communities	Vibrant Streets	Seek to work with the 6 priority neighbourhoods to identify barriers to sustainable travel and to address these.
	Key Centres	This element focuses on public realm improvements in the city centres and Weston-super-Mare. For South Gloucestershire a small amount of funding has been identified to improve wayfinding in the key urban centres.
	Rural Links and Hubs	This project seeks to work with parish/groups of parishes in rural areas to identify barriers to sustainable travel and to identify and implement solutions.
Transitions to a Low Carbon Lifestyle	Universities	Working with UWE to promote sustainable travel to students and to get the best possible use of the U-Link services.
	Move to Secondary Schools	To work with schools to promote sustainable travel choices with a particular focus on the move to secondary school.
	Preparing for Work, Training & Education	To work with FE colleges and job centres to promote sustainable travel and to identify barriers to sustainable travel choices for 16 to 19 year olds.
	New Developments	To work with developers to ensure that sustainable travel is a consideration for individuals buying new houses at the point of making the decision to buy through the provision of information and promotion of the benefits of sustainable travel.

13. Clearly many of these themes and projects are based around things that the council is already, or has already expressed an interest in, doing. The project seeks to deliver substantial benefits by learning from best practise, both internally and externally, and by delivering these tried and tested practises to greater levels within the authorities. This is consistent with the DfT guidance.

Engagement

14. Given the tight timescales, as set out by the DfT, for producing these expressions of interest it has been impossible to undertake extensive engagement on the LSTF and its contents. However key stakeholders have been engaged through meetings with businesses and UWE and a workshop was held in April for key stakeholders to help shape the WEST bid and to endorse the contents of the Key Component bid.

15 Engagement has also taken place with the LEP who are providing a letter of support for the bid.

16 It is proposed that, if shortlisted in July, further engagement on the bid would be undertaken with stakeholders and communities to ensure that the detail of the project is developed jointly for the business case submission in December.

Next Steps

17 The DfT will announce the successful small bids and key components at the end of June and the shortlisted large bids in July 2011. If the WEST Expression of Interest is successful then work will begin on a business case for submission in December following a cabinet decision and consideration by the Select Committee.

Recommendation

- (1) That Members note the submission of the key component bid and the expression of interest for the WEST bid.

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