

Document	Briefing Note	Date:	08.03.11
Subject	Local Sustainable Transport Fund Bid (LSTF)		
Author	Rosemary Dale, PT&H (Major Schemes)		
Contact	Tel: 01752 305514 e-mail: rosemary.dale@plymouth.gov.uk		

Executive Summary:

This briefing note aims to:

- Provide details of a forthcoming bid, by Plymouth City Council, to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and
- Secure support for the bid from the Local Area Access Forum.

Plymouth's bid will include a package of infrastructure measures aimed at encouraging a greater uptake of sustainable travel. These infrastructure improvements will be supported by 'smarter choices' measures such as Personalised Travel Planning (PTP) within local communities.

The bid will build on the current Transport scheme in the East End and will facilitate the sustainable growth of the City coupling areas of growth to the east of Plymouth to deprived areas in the West therefore improving the connectivity of the two areas of the City and improving access to employment, healthcare and educational facilities.

1.0 Introduction to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

1.1 The Under Secretary of State for Transport, Norman Baker, announced the new Transport White paper, "Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon", in Parliament 19th January 2011.

1.2 A major element in the new Coalition Governments approach to transport is the creation of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF), offering councils in England up to £560m of project funding over the next 4 years for schemes that meet two core objectives to:

- support the local economy / facilitate growth; and
- reduce carbon emissions.

1.3 The LSTF has an allocation of £560m available nationally between 2011/12 - 2014/15 and is made up of both Capital and Revenue Funding.

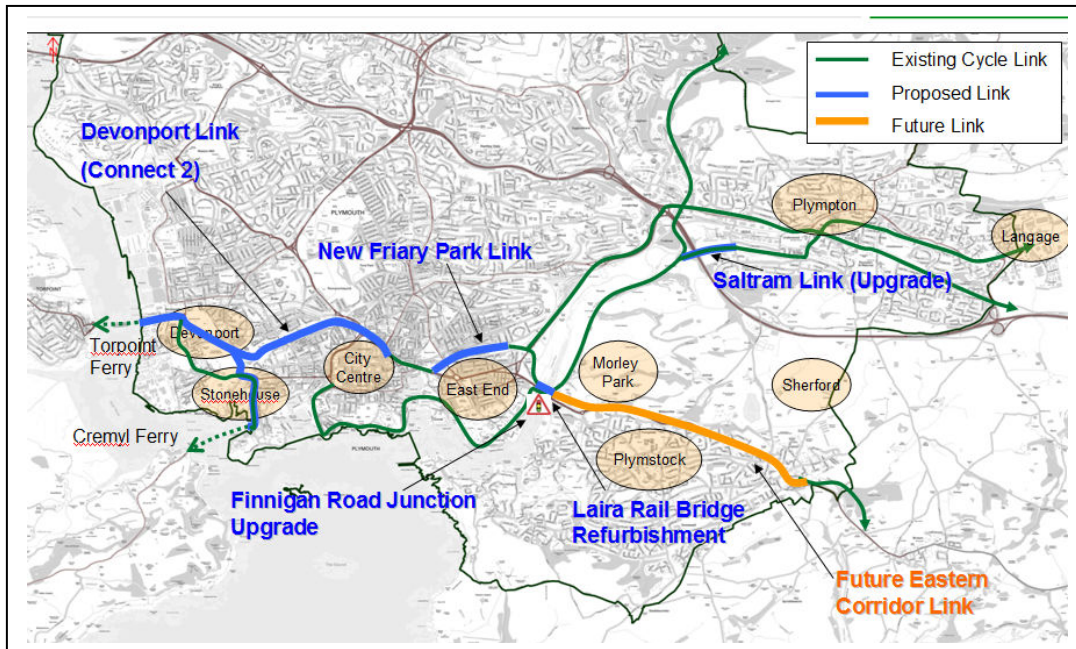
1.4 The Department for Transport (DfT) has stated that in the first years of the funding programme £25.25m is already pre-allocated to specific national projects.

1.5 A total of £80M, which includes ring fenced funding for existing national funding, is available to bid for in 2011/12.

2.0 Plymouth's LSTF Project Proposals

2.1 Plymouth Transport and Highways has developed a package of measures to form a bid for submission to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). The proposals seek to help build a stronger local economy and address the challenges of climate change and are illustrated in figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: The LSTF bid corridor and proposed capital elements of the bid.



2.2 This project consists of a package of walking and cycling infrastructure along the Eastern Corridor, linking to the Waterfront and to Devonport. The project will provide new walking and cycling paths, upgrades to existing facilities and include the restoration of the iconic Laura Rail Bridge enabling its conversion to a pedestrian and cycle link. The cycle facilities will link together areas of Devonport, City Centre, Plymstock, Plympton and Langage. The package also includes potential junction improvements at Finnigan Road incorporating better pedestrian crossing facilities and improving operational efficiency at this location.

2.3 These infrastructure proposals link residential areas to employment, education and services.

2.4 The capital elements of the bid are to be complemented by targeted 'smarter choice' measures aimed at helping to influence people's travel behaviour and providing better information of the transport choices available.

The 'smarter choices' measures being considered include:-

- Personalised Travel Planning (PTP), in the East End, Plympton, Plymstock, Stonehouse, and City Centre
- A package of cycling measures including adult cycle training, expansion of the Wheels to Work scheme and the establishment of the SkyRide Event in Plymouth.
- Upgrades to the Authority's PlymGo Travel information/Planning website and the development of a Smartphone Application for local travel information.
- Bus service kick-start funding

2.5 These proposals support the local economy and facilitate economic development through enhancing access to employment and other essential services. The scheme helps to tackle the problems of congestion by encouraging modal shift towards walking, cycling and public transport as well as improving the reliability and predictability of journey times for all users.

The scheme directly seeks to reduce carbon emissions by encouraging modal shift towards more sustainable low carbon modes.

3.0 Project Benefits & Outcomes

3.1 The scheme will deliver significant benefits to the City and provide the opportunity for people to travel by more sustainable modes. Key benefits include:

- Provision of part of the active travel infrastructure required to support the delivery of the new developments in the City.
- Increased walking and cycle usage through improved cycle link connectivity, providing safer on and off-line routes and reduced journey times;
- Encourage physical fitness of users
- Improved air quality in AQMA and residential areas;
- Reduced congestion and improved journey times;
- Improved network management;

4.0 Recommendation

The LAAF is commended to:

- (i) Note this report.
- (ii) Provide a letter of support to Plymouth Transport and Highways - for inclusion in the bid to the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund.