

## **CABINET - 26 FEBRUARY 2013**

### **FUTURE DEVOLVED GOVERNANCE: LOCAL TRANSPORT BOARD CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

#### **Report by Director for Environment and Economy**

#### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of the report is to detail the responses received from partner organisations to the proposals to establish a Local Transport Board (LTB) to receive the devolution of local major scheme funding from the Department of Transport, in accordance with the Draft Assurance Framework approved at the Cabinet meeting on 29 January 2013.

#### **Background**

2. To recap - in response to the Coalition Government's commitment to localism the Department of Transport (DfT) has announced its firm intention to devolve funding for local major transport schemes to Local Transport Bodies (LTBs) from 2015. LTBs will be voluntary partnerships between Local Authorities (LAs), Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and other stakeholder organisations. In order to ensure that the devolved system provides appropriate safeguards for the use of public funds and is able to deliver value for money it will need to have an Assurance Framework in place.
3. The DfT has asked that local partners submit their draft Assurance Framework by the end of February 2013 and an indicative list of prioritised local major schemes by the end of July 2013. Local partners will need to be consulted in order to provide evidence of agreement to the Assurance Framework.
4. Following approval by Cabinet to the draft Assurance Framework at it the previous meeting, the Director of Environment and Economy wrote to 25 partner organisations setting out the details of the proposals to establish Local Transport Board and seeking comments. The list of consultees is detailed in the Annexe to the report. The proposals were also presented to the Oxfordshire LEP Board at its meeting on 8 February.
5. The following organisations responded by the deadline for consultation returns and all offered their support for the proposals: Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council, Network Rail, Highways Agency, SEMLEP (South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership - overlapping the Cherwell District) and Oxfordshire LEP.
6. The Oxfordshire LEP, while supporting the proposals has requested that they be allowed to have two representatives in order to cover the extent of

knowledge and input that will required to feed into the Local Transport Board deliberations and to provide support in reporting back to the LEP Board.

7. Cabinet are asked to consider this request and form a view. Should the request be allowed then the following amendment would be made to the draft Assurance Framework to accommodate a second representative from the Oxfordshire LEP.

8.

**Membership**

9. The following table details the membership of the Oxfordshire LTB, those organisations that will be invited to participate in its proceedings with voting rights and those organisations that would have a standing invitation to attend as observers without voting rights.

<b>Members</b>	<p>The following organisations have an automatic right to full LTB membership with voting rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Oxfordshire County Council as the Local Transport Authority represented by the Leader of Council (or the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport)</li> <li>•<b>Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership represented by the Chairman and the nominated Board Member with responsibility for Transport (two representatives)</b></li> <li>•The following District Councils represented by their nominated Leader(s) of Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cherwell District Council</li> <li>Oxford City Council</li> <li>South Oxfordshire District Council</li> <li>Vale of White Horse District Council</li> <li>West Oxfordshire District Council</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Observers with Standing Invitation</b>	<p>The following organisations will have a standing invitation to attend the LTB with non-voting observer status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Highways Agency represented by the Regional Director (or their nominee)</li> <li>•Network Rail represented by the Regional Director (or their nominee)</li> </ul>

**Corporate Policy, Financial and Other Implications**

10. There are no further implications beyond those detailed in the previous report considered by Cabinet on 29 January 2013.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

11. **Cabinet is RECOMMENDED** to approve the following:
- (a) That the consultation responses from partner agencies are noted.
  - (b) That the request from Oxfordshire LEP for two representatives on the Local Transport Board is approved and the Draft Assurance Framework is amended accordingly.
  - (c) That the Director of Environment & Economy be authorised to develop the Scheme Prioritisation Process and progress the Assurance Framework to completion for submission to the Department of Transport in accordance with their timetable in consultation with the Section 151 and Monitoring Officer.

**HUW JONES**

**Director for Environment and Economy**

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