

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Communities

Report to:	County Council
Date:	12 April 2013
Subject:	Lincolnshire Strategic Transport Board Governance

Summary:

From 2015/16 onwards, funding from the Department of Transport for major schemes will be devolved down to new Local Transport Boards. This report sets out the proposed governance arrangements of the Lincolnshire Strategic Transport Board in line with with the requirements of the Department of Transport.

Recommendation(s):

That :

- (i) the proposals for the setting up of the Lincolnshire Strategic Transport Board be approved, and
- (ii) the Executive Director for Communities, in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways and Transport, be authorised to make any further changes required in response to comments awaited from the Department of Transport.

1. Background

- 1.1 From 2015/16 onwards, funding from central government for major (typically over £5m) local authority transport schemes will be devolved down to new Local Transport Boards (LTBs). The primary role of the LTBs will be to decide which transport schemes should be prioritised (within the funding allocations provided by the Department of Transport), to review and approve individual business cases, and to ensure effective delivery of the agreed programme.
- 1.2 To ensure that LTBs are “fit for purpose”, the Department for Transport (DfT) has issued guidance setting out minimum requirements in terms of structure, operating principals, prioritisation and programme management. Based upon this guidance, each LTB is required to prepare an Assurance

Framework setting out the arrangements and processes to be followed. The Assurance Frameworks have to be agreed with, and signed off by, the DfT.

Funding

- 1.3 Funding is to be devolved down based upon Local Enterprise Partnership (LEPs) geography. However, where local authorities sit within two LEPs (as in the case with North and North East Lincolnshire who fall within both the Greater Lincolnshire and Humber LEP areas), then they must decide which LTB to join. Both North and North East Lincolnshire have decided to join the LTB based upon the Humber LEP. Consequently Lincolnshire will form a single authority LTB based upon the County Council boundary.
- 1.4 For planning purposes, DfT have produced indicative funding allocations for the 4-year period 2015/16 to 2018/19 on a per capita basis using current spending levels. However, final allocations will not be determined until further national spending reviews have concluded, the timescales for which are unclear. In the meantime, LTBs are being asked to plan for one third higher and one third lower than their indicative figure.
- 1.5 For the Greater Lincolnshire LTB, the indicative 4-year allocation is £17.9m.

Membership

- 1.6 As a minimum requirement, LTB membership must include all local transport authorities within the LTB area and the LEP on whose geography the LTB is based. Wider membership (either full or non-voting) is at the discretion of the LTB. In addition, the majority of voting members must be democratically elected councillors.
- 1.7 The proposed membership of the Lincolnshire Strategic Transport Board is shown in the draft Assurance Framework attached at Appendix A. It is proposed that the Board will be a non-incorporated public-private partnership, with the County Council acting as accountable body.

Timetable

- 1.8 Following initial discussions with DfT, a proposed Governance Assurance Framework was submitted at the end of February in line with the required timetable. A copy of the document is attached at Appendix A. At the time of writing, a formal response from DfT as to its suitability is awaited. Depending on their reaction, further changes may need to be made to the document.
- 1.9 An initial prioritised list of schemes has to be submitted to DfT by the end of July 2013.

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 Funding for major schemes from 2015/16 onwards will be devolved down to new Local Transport Boards. Proposed arrangements for the Lincolnshire Strategic Transport Board are outlined in the attached Governance Assurance Framework for approval.

3. Legal Comments:

The Legal Comment on the 5 March 2013 Report to the Executive confirmed that the Executive Councillor has the remit to approve the proposals for the setting up of the Lincolnshire Local Transport Board subject to final approval by the Full Council provided he has the delegated authority of the Leader. Approval was given by the Executive on 5 March 2013 and this report seeks the next step – approval by the Full Council.

4. Resource Comments:

Approval of this report does not commit the Council to any financial expenditure. The report describes the governance arrangements for a Local Transport Board in Lincolnshire that potentially will be responsible for spending circa £18m of Government funding over a four year period up to 2018/19 together with any match funding this will generate.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes.

c) Scrutiny Comments

This issue has not been considered by a scrutiny committee. It has been considered by the Executive at their meeting on 5 March 2013 where the proposals were recommended to Full Council for approval.

The Assistant Director Highways and Transportation presented the report to the Executive and in doing so advised Members that from 2015/16 the Department for Transport was intending to devolve funding for local major transport schemes to new Local Transport Bodies. Those new bodies would comprise of representatives from the Local Transport Authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnerships.

It was resolved that the proposals for the setting up of the Lincolnshire Local Transport Board be recommended to Council for approval.

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	LSTB Governance Assurance Framework

7. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Local Framework for Funding Major Transport Schemes - Guidance for Local Transport Bodies	www.dft.uk/dft

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