

**Luton & South Bedfordshire  
Joint Planning and Transportation Committee  
15 June 2007**

**Agenda Item No. 11**

<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Joint Officer Team (Richard Watts BCC and Keith Dove LBC)</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Major Transport Schemes Update</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>To brief the Joint Committee on the latest position on the major transport schemes</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>The Joint Committee is recommended to note the report.</b>
<b>REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>The Joint Committee receives regular reports on the progress of the major transport schemes, which are crucial to the housing and economic growth of the area. Reports enable the Committee to identify any actions required to ensure schemes are progressed as rapidly as possible.</b>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report summarises the latest position on the major transport schemes. Given the significance of the consultation on the M1 Widening Junction 10 to 13 and Woodside Connection Feasibility Study, reports on these schemes are considered under separate agenda items.

## **2. A5 to M1 link (Dunstable northern bypass)/M1 Junction 11a local connections.**

- 2.1 At meeting on 2 March 2007 Members instructed officers to continue to put pressure on the Highways Agency and the Secretary of State for Transport to bring forward the construction of the A5 to M1 link. Members also instructed officers to make representations to the Highways Agency and Department of Transport to seek connection to local roads at the new Junction 11a.
- 2.2 Since the last Joint Committee meeting, officer discussions have taken place with the Highways Agency and the Government Regional Office about these two issues. In addition Andrew Selous MP met the Prime Minister on 11 May, with the leaders of South Bedfordshire District and Bedfordshire County Councils, to press the case for early delivery of the A5 to M1 link, construction of new J11a as part of the M1 widening scheme and local road connection to the new junction. Following the meeting a response is expected from the Departments for Transport and Communities and Local Government. If a response is received it will be reported orally to the meeting.

### **3. Translink**

- 3.1 On 2 April 2007, Grant Thornton and Jacobs presented the results of their Financial Appraisal of the scheme to Luton Borough Council's Scrutiny Committee. Since that time the Borough and County Council have commenced development of robust project management arrangements to progress the development of the scheme to implementation. These project management arrangements, which are based on the model currently being used for the East Luton Corridor scheme, include a number of sub-groups to progress various aspects of the scheme that are necessary for its successful implementation
- 3.2 Discussions have also been held with the Department for Transport [DfT] and Go-East to progress the scheme to Conditional Approval, the second of three stages of the Governments approvals process for the implementation of major transport schemes, following the granting of Provisional Approval in December 2003. It was agreed that, following the Financial Review, the main areas of work to update the scheme's Business Case were a review of the economic case for the scheme and the associated modelling inputs. The Councils have recently appointed consultants to carry out this work.
- 3.3 The "Translink" name has been used under licence from Ulsterbus Limited during the development of the scheme, but this licence has now been terminated. As part of the project management arrangements referred to above, a sub-group has been set up to advise on marketing and communications/publicity issues as the scheme progresses towards implementation. An early task that this sub-group needs to consider relates to the re-branding of the scheme. Until that work has been completed the scheme will be referred to as the Luton Dunstable Busway.

### **4. Other major transport schemes**

- 4.1 A4146 Leighton Linlade Western Bypass  
The scheme is currently under construction with works anticipated to be complete in the autumn of 2007.
- 4.2 East Luton Corridor M1 Junction 10a to Airport  
The scheme is currently under construction. Bridge beams have been placed over the Midland Main Line and the road bridges between Christmas and the end of February. It is anticipated the road will be open in December 2007.
- 4.3 Luton Northern Bypass  
Route options will be the subject of a public consultation as part of the development of the Core Strategy for the LDF.
- 4.4 Luton Town Centre Transport Scheme  
The GAF2 bid for the Luton Gateway area has now been approved. This includes a multi-storey car park, to be completed by 2008, to provide replacement parking at Luton Station. Design work on the multi-storey car park has commenced, and a planning application is expected to be submitted this month. Luton Borough Council has also recently appointed Llewellyn Davis Yeang to progress the production of a development brief for the Luton Gateway area, which incorporates the wider area around the Luton station
- 4.5 Consultants Pell Frischmann have been appointed to progress the engineering and environmental design for the Town Centre Transport Scheme. It is anticipated that public consultation on the proposals will take place this autumn. Subject to completion of the statutory procedures and full approval of the scheme, works are expected to start in early 2010.