

Agenda Item No. 7(h)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

14 March 2017

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

**FUNDING FOR INNOVATION: COOPERATIVE INTELLIGENT
TRANSPORT SYSTEMS – ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT (HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE)**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To note the Chief Executive's use of his urgent powers to accept a grant of £237,500 for the Council's successful Pre-emptive Traffic Management bid submitted as part of the Department for Transport's (DfT) Funding for Innovation: Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) programme, and to add the scheme to the 2017-18 Capital Programme.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The DfT created the C-ITS funding competition to promote the use of innovative technology applied to transport, with the key aim being to provide systems that are deliverable and can be readily implemented on the local highway network.

The successful proposal submitted to the DfT sought funding for a 'prototype' traffic management system. Its key aim is to create a tool to help with the management of congestion on Derbyshire's transport network through the provision of real-time driver information that will influence en-route journey decisions. It will help provide early warning of congestion at choke points on the network and generate information enabling drivers (including connected and future autonomous vehicles) to make journey decisions that prevent further congestion.

In order to accept the grant the Council was required to sign and return the grant acceptance letter by 17 February 2017 and be prepared to accept the full grant of £237,500 by 28 February 2017. However, as the grant letter was only sent by the DfT on 8 February 2017 and the next available Cabinet was not until 13 March 2017, the Chief Executive agreed to use his urgent powers provided for in the County Council's constitution to accept the grant.

The prototype will use commercially available congestion and incident data i.e Tom Tom data. A central control system will be established that will generate

driver information from this data that, together with local network information, will, over time, be able to help to predict and manage congestion events.

The project will demonstrate the effect on driver decision-making by displaying the information on mobile Variable Message Signs at strategic locations and via in-vehicle devices. This opens up a rich source of real-time information regarding vehicle journeys and may preclude the need for Derbyshire to deploy additional roadside infrastructure thereby potentially reducing future costs.

The area selected for the trial includes the network surrounding Derby, extending northwest to Buxton with links to Greater Manchester, north to Chesterfield and east up to and including the M1 junctions. This area contains a mix of rural and inter-urban routes, including strategic corridors and is considered ideal for testing the system. Given the need to work with cross boundary partners, agreement to work with Derby City, Transport for Greater Manchester and Highways England was a part of the project proposal.

Even though this is a demonstrator project, the authority will retain the use of the two mobile vehicle messaging signs and all associated back office systems that have been developed. There is an option to continue to support the project beyond March 2018 subject to available funding. Should this be beneficial any such extension would be the subject of a future report.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The total cost for the project will be £250,000. The grant from the Department for Transport will total £237,500 with the remaining project costs of £12,500 (5% match funding) being met from within the approved the 2016-17 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme. The risks associated with the finance and delivery of the project will lie with the approved specialist contractor.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The County Council's constitution provides for the Chief Executive, after discussion, if practical, with the Leader of the Council or the relevant Cabinet Member to make urgent decisions on matters which because of the timescales involved cannot wait until the next Cabinet or Cabinet Member meeting

(5) **Social Value Considerations** This demonstrator project will provide a tool for the authority to be more proactive in managing the highways network, resulting in a network that is less congested with all the associated benefits, including reduced and more reliable journey times, reduced health impacts that in turn have positive economic benefits. The Council is working with its currently contracted consultant, Aecom, based in Chesterfield and it is proposed that local companies will be employed, where possible, to support this project.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(6) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Neill Bennett, extension 38659.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet:

- 7.1 Notes the decision of the Chief Executive, using his urgent powers to accept a £237,500 grant from the Department for Transport.
- 7.2 Approves the addition of the £237,500 grant to the 2017-18 Capital Programme.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities