

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

21 February 2012

Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 MEDWAY VALLEY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Summary

This report gives Members the opportunity to consider a draft strategy recently considered by the Joint Transportation Board.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 In November KCC's Director of Highways and Transportation and I presented a draft fresh transportation strategy for the Medway Valley to the Joint Transportation Board (JTB). This was accepted by the Board. The strategy is closely linked to the major development proposals that the Borough Council has promoted in the Medway Gap area.

1.1.2 The paper focuses on the public transport aspects of the strategy on the A20 corridor and the A228 and the three principal inter-urban bus routes currently serving the area. It was proposed that the funding available for bus priority measures be allocated to smaller scale and smarter improvement schemes throughout the corridor to add maximum value to the new and enhanced bus services to be provided.

1.1.3 Particular reference was made to the planned remodelling of West Malling Station forecourt which forms a distinct but complementary component of the strategy and progress on this is reported separately in the Borough Transportation paper on the agenda.

1.1.4 The general approach to bus service provision was also explained.

1.1.5 The report to the JTB is reproduced for reference in **Annex 1**.

1.2 Green Bus Fund for Low Carbon Emission Buses

1.2.1 As this report was being written we learnt that Arriva were intending to submit a bid to the Green Bus Fund for Low Carbon Emission Buses (LCEB's) to operate on the route 71, between Maidstone and Holborough on the A20 corridor. The

Green Bus Fund is a Department for Transport (DfT) funding pot which allows bus companies and local authorities in England to compete for funds to help them buy new LCEB's. An LCEB achieves a 30% reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions compared to an equivalent standard diesel bus.

- 1.2.2 Arriva is intending to submit a bid for 11 LCEB's to operate on the service 71 on the A20 London Road corridor between Maidstone and the West Malling/Larkfield area. This route passes through four Air Quality Management Areas (3 in Tonbridge & Malling and one in Maidstone). The objectives of the policy are fully in line with TMBC's Air Quality Action Plan and KCC transport policy in reducing carbon and improving air quality.
- 1.2.3 The impact of new LCEB's on the corridor would hopefully increase patronage, thereby reducing congestion and carbon and improving air quality and potential for economic growth. We were asked to provide a letter of support and this can be found in **Annex 2**.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None at this stage.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 None directly

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 Not applicable

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.7 Policy Considerations

- 1.7.1 Community

1.8 Recommendations

- 1.8.1 That the Cabinet be recommended **TO ENDORSE** the approach set out in the revised draft strategy

The Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Mike O'Brien

Nil

Steve Humphrey
 Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The proposed strategy seeks to enhance inclusive access to high-quality public transport services throughout the Medway Valley area.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	As above
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		n/a

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.