

D REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report (APR)

- 1 This report was submitted to the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) on time in July. We will find out the level of funding secured in December, but the recognition of our APR by GOSE as an example of best practice should help to secure a high level of funding.
- 2 The Strategic Rail Authority has decided not to support the East West Rail consortium's bid for Rail Passenger Partnership funding. Although very disappointing, the consortium is keen to press ahead with the scheme and we are carrying out some preliminary survey work during 2001/02 as well as making a supplementary bid for funding through the APR to support highway interchange and access facilities at Winslow.
- 3 The Beaconsfield multi modal transportation study being carried out by Colin Buchanan and Partners has started. The Project Team, chaired by Margaret Dewar, has met. Surveys started in the week commencing 10 September and the Town Consultation Forum (various interest groups) meets for the first time on 17 September. It is expected that a Transport Strategy for the town will be ready in Spring 2002.
- 4 The Transport Strategy group has appointed a Workplace Travel Plan Officer following the successful securing of DTLR 3 year funding for the post. The officer will help us meet a number of our Local Transport Plan targets as well as satisfy the increasing demand from businesses for assistance in setting up their own Travel Plans. In a recent survey, as many as 350 businesses across the County expressed an interest. We aim to roll out our own award winning 'Travel Choice' to as many of these as possible. In particular, Amersham plc, one of the largest employees in the County, is keen to become a 'beacon' workplace for travel planning.

Transportation Schemes

- 5 In preparation for the demolition of the old A418 Oxford Road bridge, the 14 week in-bound only one-way system came into operation early in September. Extensive alternative route signing and temporary junction management works have been introduced. The temporary traffic arrangements seem to be working very well so far.
- 6 A report on the Best Value Review Roads was considered by Cabinet on 10 September. Cabinet approved the report and accepted the Improvement Plan and agreed a number of further actions.

Flooding And Winter Maintenance

- 7 Vale Road, Chesham – the remedial scheme work is currently in hand and should be completed in early October. Berkhamsted Road, Chesham – local identified improvement works will be completed before the winter. B416, Windsor Road – the temporary bridge has been removed and remedial works are in hand but not yet completed. Pound Lane, Marlow – a consultant's study has revealed a potential solution. It is an expensive scheme. For practical and financial reasons it will not be possible to consider undertaking the required work until next summer.

County Structure Plan Review – Public Consultation

- 8 Over the coming months, The Structure Plan Review Joint Panel will meet on two occasions (October and January) to consider a number of alternative options for meeting additional growth requirements in Buckinghamshire to 2016, as imposed by the Government's new Regional Planning Guidance for South East England. Cabinet will then consider those options in February next year, and subject to their agreement, will recommend County Council to approve them for public consultation. If that approval is forthcoming, formal public consultation on the options will take place in April and May next year. Feedback received during that period will help to inform the drafting of the Deposit version of the new Structure Plan which is itself programmed to go out to public consultation at the end of next year.

The Multiple Motorway Service Area (MSA) Inquiry

- 9 A multiple MSA inquiry will open on 26 February 2002 and is scheduled to sit for 32 weeks during the course of next year. The County Council is the Strategic Planning Authority for all of the Bucks MSA sites proposed at Mount Hill Farm, Hedgerley, Burtley Wood, Beaconsfield (both M40) and Warren Farm, Chalfont St Peter (between Junction 16 and 17 on the M25). However, the County is also the Local Planning Authority for the Warren Farm MSA. South Bucks District Council is the Local Planning Authority for the M40 sites.

- 10 Members and officers from the County Council and South Bucks District Council met on Friday 14 September to discuss common issues and ways of cutting costs. The two authorities have agreed to explore sharing the cost of retaining a junior barrister to monitor the whole inquiry. Other steps being considered are joint conferences with respective Counsel, close co-operation on the preparation of the respective cases (particularly on the "need" for an MSA), and joint press releases to keep local residents informed. The County's Statement of Case is to be submitted by 1 December this year. The second pre inquiry meeting is scheduled for 3 December 2001.

RODNEY ROYSTON

CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION