

**7 March 2017**

**ITEM: 8**

**Planning, Transport, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Stanford-le-Hope Transport Interchange – Scheme Update**

**Wards and communities affected:**

All

**Key Decision:**

Not Applicable

**Report of:** Paul Rogers, Programme Manager Major Schemes

**Accountable Head of Service:** Ann Osola, Head of Transportation & Highways

**Accountable Director:** Steve Cox, Corporate Director Environment & Place

**This report is Public**

**Executive Summary**

This is to update Members about progress on the £12.05M station and bus interchange improvement scheme at Stanford-le-Hope including the proposed design and programme of works. The scheme provides a high quality multi-modal transport interchange, supports the creation of more than 12,000 new jobs at DP World London Gateway and improves access for all. The scheme has been brought forward as a result of the Council working in partnership with c2c, Network Rail and DP World London Gateway to deliver improvements for local communities and businesses.

**1. Recommendation**

**1.1 That the Planning, Transport & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee note the progress of the Stanford-le-Hope scheme together with the proposed design and timescale for delivering the scheme.**

**2. Introduction and Background**

2.1 This report sets out the progress to date in developing the Stanford-le-Hope scheme and seeks Members' comments for feeding into the next stage.

2.2 The Stanford-le-Hope interchange is a vital component in providing access to more than 12,000 jobs at DP World London Gateway Port and Thames Enterprise Park and in supporting local connectivity.

2.3 Bus services are already funded by DP World London Gateway and there is a need to enhance the existing interchange between bus and rail and to improve the existing station to provide sustainable access to the growing

number of jobs at DP World London Gateway Port and DP World Logistics Park and meeting the needs of local communities.

- 2.4 The Stanford-le-Hope project comprises of a multi-modal transport interchange with bus turn-around, enhanced cycling facilities, new footbridge and lifts, enhanced station building with improved accessibility and passenger handling capability and customer information system. This will greatly enhance the arrival experience for people visiting Stanford-le-Hope and/or travelling onward to the Port.
- 2.5 This project is managed by Thurrock Council with input from c2c (National Express), DP World London Gateway and Network Rail.
- 2.6 In 2014, Lambert Smith Hampton undertook a feasibility study on behalf of c2c and Network Rail to explore options for a proposed redevelopment of Stanford-le-Hope Station. The railway station buildings are no longer considered fit for purpose and are unlikely to accommodate the projected growth in passenger traffic and transport interchange requirements demanded by planned and current developments in the area, including the DP World London Gateway Port and Logistics Park, other development projects proposed by Thurrock Council and the projected increase in train passenger growth across the c2c network.
- 2.7 In July 2014, the project received a provisional allocation of £7.5M for delivery in 2016/17, when the Government announced the first round of Local Growth Fund allocations, known as Growth Deal, to the SELEP.
- 2.8 On 3 September 2014, Cabinet approved proposals for the project management and delivery of transport schemes, including Stanford-le-Hope interchange, to be funded from the Government's Local Growth Fund.
- 2.9 On 10 January 2015, Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Planning & Transportation in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways & Transportation, to decide the procurement process for the delivery of the Transportation & Highways services and schemes for the next five years and to award any agreements/contracts necessary for the delivery of the transportation and highways services and schemes listed in the report, including Stanford-le-Hope interchange.
- 2.10 On 9 March 2016, Cabinet confirmed its support for the Stanford-le-Hope scheme and delegated authority to the Head of Transportation and Highways to commission the detailed design and business case.
- 2.11 In November 2016, Morgan Sindall was appointed to design and build the Stanford-le-Hope scheme under the Eastern Highways Alliance Contract. This incorporates the NEC3 conditions of contract, including Option C (target contract with activity schedule). The contract includes a hold point between stage 1 (develop design and produce a target cost for construction) and stage

2 (detailed design and construction). We will only instruct Morgan Sindall to proceed to stage 2 when all funding is guaranteed.

- 2.12 The preliminary design drawings can be found at **Appendix 1**. A1-sized versions of these drawings will also be displayed in Committee Room 1 in advance of the meeting.
- 2.13 In January 2017, officers submitted a business case to SELEP's independent technical evaluator (ITE). The ITE undertook a Gate 2 review and recommended that SELEP's Accountability Board releases funding for the Stanford-le-Hope scheme.
- 2.14 On 24 February 2017, SELEP's Accountability Board approved the release of £7.5M of funding for the Stanford-le-Hope scheme.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 3.1 Until recently, the timing of the £2.0M c2c (NSIP) CP6 allocation was a key risk to this scheme.
- 3.2 As a result of high level intervention by c2c and the Department for Transport, Network Rail has managed to find £2.0M from miscellaneous funding left over from schemes in Control Period 4. The National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP) Board held an emergency meeting a few days ago and unanimously approved the allocation of £2.0M to the Stanford-le-Hope scheme.
- 3.3 This means that the project is again fully funded and that the funding profile aligns with the proposed expenditure profile. The NSIP funds must be spent or irrevocably committed by 31 March 2019.
- 3.4 Consultation with Thurrock Council planning department was undertaken as part of the feasibility study. A pre-application submission was made in February 2017 and a full planning application is due to be submitted in May 2017.
- 3.5 The next steps are as follows:
  - Complete Stage 1: February 2017
  - Authorisation to progress to Stage 2: May 2017
  - Start construction: October 2017
  - Complete construction: December 2018

### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 To comply with the reporting arrangements agreed by Cabinet and ensure democratic scrutiny of the Stanford-le-Hope scheme.

## **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 Stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals as part of the planning process.

## **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 The Stanford-le-Hope scheme supports the following corporate priorities:

- Create a great place for learning and opportunity;
- Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity; and
- Build pride, responsibility and respect

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Carl Tomlinson**  
**Finance Manager – Management Accounting**

The total estimated cost of the scheme is £12.05M, of which £7.5M will be funded by South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), £2.850M will be funded by c2c/Network Rail, £550K will be funded by London Gateway Port and £1.15M is from the Council's Capital Programme. Release of the £7.5M Local Growth Fund contribution is dependent on SELEP approving the Council's business case.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**  
**Monitoring Officer and Deputy Head of Law & Governance**

The improvement works will be carried out within the highway boundary and on land covered by c2c's 99 year lease. C2c and the Council have both signed a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding, setting out their responsibilities and how they will collaborate on this scheme.

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Becky Price**  
**Community Development Officer**

The proposed works will improve connectivity and accessibility at Stanford-le-Hope Station and potentially increase accessibility to facilities outside

Thurrock. Any diversity and equality implications will be addressed during the detailed design phase.

**8. Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

**9. Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1: Preliminary design drawings

**Report Author:**

Paul Rogers

Programme Manager Major Schemes

Transportation & Highways