

APPENDIX 4

Report of: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Briefing to: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date of Cabinet Decision: 16th February 2009

Subject: Delivering A Sustainable Transport Strategy– Consultation Response

Introduction

1. “Delivering a Sustainable Transport Strategy” (DaSTS), which was published in November 2008, describes how the Government will take forward the process to identify the priorities for transport investment in England from 2014 across all transport networks. This report outlines the proposed response by the City Council on the Government’s consultation on DaSTS. This is consistent with and supplements the sub-regional response to the consultation by Transport for South Hampshire.

Goals and Challenges

2. DaSTS defines challenges and goals for each of the different transport networks in England. The proposed consultation response to the challenges reflects the overall Partnership for Urban South Hampshire and Transport for South Hampshire objectives for economic growth in the sub-region, whilst fully considering sustainability issues and the need to maintain quality of life.

Networks

3. DaSTS has identified Strategic National Corridors (SNCs) in England and identifies the relevant road and rail infrastructure along these corridors. Southampton is identified as one of country’s largest ports and is connected by two SNCs, London to Southampton and South Coast Ports to West Midlands. In terms of road infrastructure, DaSTS proposes that the routes from London and the West Midlands to Southampton are nationally important. This includes the A33 Western Approach within Southampton, although DaSTS proposes that this would still remain a local road.
4. The consultation response, whilst generally welcoming the addition of the national routes, seeks that Southampton should be also recognised as a large urban area and that the A33 Western Approach within Southampton should become part of the Trunk Road network, maintained and managed by the Highways Agency. The response also seeks clarity on how the decision making process will balance national / international and regional issues and the need to address both of these, when the Government consider investment proposals for strategic infrastructure. In relation to rail services, the consultation response seeks the addition of London to Southampton (passenger) as a strategic service.

Timetable

5. DaSTS outlines the decision making process to develop a transport investment programme for the 2014 to 2019 five year period and beyond. The Government are proposing to take the lead on Cross-Network, National Network and International Network issues, but this will be informed by work taking place in the Cities and Regions, who will be responsible for developing transport packages for the city and regional networks.