

---

## **ORBIT - TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS AROUND LONDON - CONSULTATION)**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' comments on three possible approaches to long-term solutions to orbital travel problems around London.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Orbit is a study commissioned by the Government to look at existing and future problems of orbital travel around London and to recommend what can be done to address them.
- 2.2 Key points that have arisen from discussions to date include:
- reliability of journey times is of more concern than congestion
  - public transport is perceived as too slow, too expensive and unreliable
  - orbital rail movements often need to be made through London
  - the amount of freight on roads is a concern
  - public transport does not cater for shift workers
  - new developments are rarely linked with the public transport network.
- 2.3 The study team have now concluded that there are three main approaches that are appropriate for consideration to see how well they achieve a broad range of objectives and targets, mainly based on those contained in the Sustainable Development and Integrated Transport White Papers, 10 years Transport Plan and Regional Planning Guidance.

### **3 THREE APPROACHES**

- 3.1 The objectives against which each approach must be assessed include:
- making best use of existing networks
  - increase rail use
  - reduce road congestion
  - reduce road freight
  - reduce accidents
  - increase bus use
  - promote regeneration of Thames Gateway
  - promote urban renaissance
  - improve access to employment.

3.2 The key elements of the three approaches are as follows:-

**APPROACH A**

Core measures may include:-

- improve and expand the public transport system for intercity movements, local journeys to work and rail capacity into London
- make areas targeted for development highly accessible
- additional Thames crossings required for Thames Gateway
- congestion charging or tolling could be introduced as part of an area strategy
- encourage different Working Parties to alleviate the commuter rush hour.

**APPROACH B**

- heavy emphasis on better management of freight
- cleaner technology and quieter road surfaces
- encourage use of public transport through subsidies
- manage the demand for travel to reduce the desire to make trips in the future
- introduce tolling and variable speed limits on motorways.

**APPROACH C**

- improve local public transport services
- expand the bus network
- integrate ticketing and information
- make public transport more accessible
- encourage different working practices
- concentrate improvements in areas of need.

**4. COMMENT**

- 4.1 This study of traffic and transport movements around London is one of a number of such studies planned for the South East. Others relevant to South East Essex are studies of the M11 corridor and the A13/A127 corridor.
- 4.2 The intention of the Orbit Study is to bring in schemes and measures, both within London and at the four points of the compass around the City. Therefore, any measures considered for the area East of London will have the potential to influence the situation in Rochford.
- 4.3 However, the three approaches outlined do not really provide much of an impression of the type of schemes that might be introduced in due

---

course. Whilst there is some difference in the emphasis of each approach, with A reflecting an economic focus, B an environmental and C a social one, many of the ideas are interchangeable.

- 4.4 At this stage, Members may like to make some suggestions of the core measures they would favour to tackle the traffic problems between South East Essex and London.

## **5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 One of the key strands of the Orbit Study is to seek environmental improvements through reductions in private transport, reduced congestion and pollution, etc.

## **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That progress on the Study be noted and that specific comments from Members be fed back to the Orbit Study Team. (HPS)

Shaun Scrutton  
Head of Planning Services

---

For further information please contact Shaun Scrutton on:-

Tel:- 01702 318100  
E-Mail:- shaun.scrutton@rochford.gov.uk