

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>28 FEBRUARY 2011</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED HEREFORD TRANSPORT HUB</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

Hereford – Central Ward

### **Purpose**

To update the Committee on progress in respect of the Transport Hub concept being explored by Hereford Futures in association with the redevelopment within the Edgar Street Grid area of Hereford.

### **Recommendation**

**THAT: the contents of the report are noted.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- The Transport Hub is a concept for integrating access at Hereford Rail Station which forms part of a wider set of proposals for the Edgar Street Grid area.
- Delivery of the Hub is contingent on progress made in re-developing the Edgar Street Grid and implementation of the link road.
- A Regional Growth Fund bid has been submitted to government to secure funding to deliver the link road.
- Development of the Hub concept is being led by the Hereford Futures team and progress has been made in terms of discussions with Network Rail and Arriva Trains which own and manage the rail station and key areas of land to the front of the station forming the existing forecourt area.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
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## Introduction and Background

- 1 The proposals for a sustainable transport hub, located at Hereford Rail Station first emerged during consultation on the draft Edgar Street Grid Masterplan and were incorporated in the final Masterplan endorsed by Cabinet on 11 September 2008. The Masterplan indicates that the hub will “incorporate multi-modal forms of transport including cycle hire and opportunities for other green travel options”.
- 2 The transport hub is located in an area identified as Station Square in the Masterplan and development of this area is closely related to the construction of the link road and includes improved pedestrian connectivity with the existing city centre and the ESG area via a new pedestrian link to be provided between the rail station and Blackfriars. The Masterplan is included at Appendix 1 and helps set the hub in the wider context.

## Key Considerations

### Relationship to the Link Road

- 3 Development of the transport hub is currently linked to the delivery of the Link Road. The plan at Appendix 1 indicates the relationship between the hub and the alignment of the new road. The Link Road provides a number of opportunities to improve access to the rail station and enable greater integration with pedestrian links, cycle links and bus services.
- 4 A bid has been submitted by Hereford Futures to the Regional Growth Fund to secure funding required to construct the link road. The bid has been endorsed by the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership. It is anticipated that Government will determine the bid by the end of April 2011.

### Progress on Transport Hub

- 5 Preliminary designs of a hub were developed during late 2008. This was followed by a major public consultation event in the TGS Bowling Centre on 29 January 2009, which was attended by representatives of Hereford’s transportation organisations (rail, bus, taxi, cycle), special user groups (including the Royal National College for the Blind), as well as the wider general public.
- 6 Discussions on identifying options for a Transport Hub around the Railway Station resumed during the summer and autumn of 2010. These were, and continue to be, based on opportunities for joint development with Network Rail and Arriva Trains (Wales). Additionally consideration has also been given to assisting with land and business requirements that will arise from the construction of the Link Road.
- 7 The main features of these discussions have been:
  - Exploiting earlier design work of a hub arrangement, and its aspirations for facilities including buildings to ‘frame’ the new ‘station square’ area.
  - Enabling retail to retain a presence east of the station.
  - Ensuring that the current and future needs of Network Rail and Arriva Trains (Wales), principally access and increased parking to meet forecast growth, are incorporated.

- Identifying opportunities for joint development. An example could be between Sanctuary Group and Network Rail/Arriva Trains (Wales) in the development, west of the Station, of a multi-story station car park faced on the southern, Link Road side with housing units.
- 8 Responses from both Network Rail and Arriva Trains (Wales) have been very encouraging indicating a willingness to enter into more detailed discussions when the outcome of the bid for the Link Road funding is known.
  - 9 Further more detailed work to progress the transport hub is currently on hold pending the outcome of the Regional Growth Fund bid for the Link Road and subsequent programme of delivery of that scheme should the bid be successful.

## **Community Impact**

- 10 None as a result of this report.

## **Financial Implications**

- 11 None as a result of this report

## **Legal Implications**

- 12 None as a result of this report.

## **Risk Management**

- 13 None as a result of this report.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: ESG Masterplan

## **Background Papers**

None