

## **APPENDIX 2 – UPDATE ON POSITION OF CHESHIRE EAST'S REGIONALLY FUNDED MAJOR SCHEMES**

- **Alderley Edge and Nether Alderley Bypass**

The scheme has now secured final approval and construction work has started.

- **SEMMMS Major Schemes**

Following an announcement from the Secretary of State (SoS), in June 2007 (outlining the unaffordability of the recommended SEMMMS Major Scheme linking between the M60 and Manchester Airport from a single funding source) a process was set up for the DfT to work with the three Highway Authorities (Cheshire County Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and Manchester City Council) to seek possible ways of taking the scheme forward.

The DfT's clear intention was to identify sections of the whole scheme that could be afforded from various funding streams. The DfT clearly identified three separate scheme elements: Major Scheme (southern section) between the Airport and the A6; Major Scheme (northern section) between the A6 and the M60; and the southern leg of the Poynton Bypass - between the southern section of the Major Scheme and the A523 south of Poynton.

The three authorities provided various technical/economic assessments that have culminated in the Secretary of State for Transport announcing (on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008) that the DfT would be prepared to contribute up to £165m (50%) towards the SEMMMS Relief Road to enhance access between the M56, Manchester Airport and the A6 at Hazel Grove. The DfT considers that this is a scheme that offers strong international and national productivity benefits. The additional funding is, however, subject to support from regional and local partners through the RFA programme. The implication is that if this scheme is to proceed a further £125m will need to be allocated from the current RFA programme.

Clearly, the announcement is to be welcomed but significant aspects of the funding package remain to be explored, principally the Regional commitment required, the financial implications for all three Highway Authorities (perhaps most significantly Cheshire East) and consideration of the DfT's normal capital funding principles.

A further significant element will be to explore the onward funding implications of both the remaining section of the Poynton Bypass and northern Major Scheme section (entirely within Stockport MBC's boundary), as well as the detailed environmental and traffic impacts of a staged implementation of the scheme that was recommended, in its

entirety, by the SEMMMS Study. These considerations are at an initial stage given the limited time since the SoS's announcement.

- **Crewe Rail Gateway** – Work has been undertaken to refine the costs of the scheme. Network rail is currently examining options to relocate the current station. It is understood that further information will be made available in early 2009. Work on the Gateway will proceed once Network Rail has made a decision.
- **Crewe Green Link Road (Southern Section)** – Considerable progress has been made to develop a business case for this scheme. It is anticipated that this will be submitted in early Spring 2009 to secure Programme Entry status. The route is of strategic importance to access the proposed Basford Regional Investment Site. It would also improve access to the Rail Gateway proposal. The scheme is therefore linked Network Rail's decision concerning the future location of the railway station.
- **A556 (M6 to M56) improvement** – Following a programme of public consultation a preferred route (option B) has been identified. This will be the subject of further consultation and design work. Once completed, draft Highways Statutory Orders and an Environmental Statement will be published. The public will then have an opportunity to consider the proposals and make representations and objections to the scheme. If objections to the Draft Order are received a public Inquiry may be held. Discussions at the Regional Transport Advisory Group meeting on 9 December 2008, suggested that this scheme may be accelerated in order to support the DfT's Managed Motorway Initiative for the M6.