

5) Question asked by Councillor Neil Garratt to Councillor Jill Whitehead, Chair of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee

London Mayor Sadiq Khan has just announced the first round of Liveable Neighbourhood funding with seven London Boroughs each receiving £1.25 million. This is for long term transport projects aimed at increasing walking, cycling, and public transport, reducing local car trips, and improving air quality and public health. This is all firmly in line with One Planet Sutton's aims.

I was disappointed to learn that Sutton is not among the 7 winners, and astonished to discover that Sutton was not even among the 28 bids submitted. The majority of London boroughs submitted a Liveable Neighbourhood bid, so why didn't Sutton? Does Sutton have so much money that we don't need an additional £1.25 million? Has the One Planet Sutton agenda been abandoned?

Reply by Councillor Jill Whitehead

The borough has identified a potential scheme for submission as part of the Liveable Neighbourhoods bid process which will be focused on improvements to and around the Sutton Town Centre (STC) gyratory. It is considered essential for the borough to change the nature of the gyratory to improve pedestrian and cycle flows. Otherwise this will restrict our ability to fulfil our regeneration potential and could limit the delivery of homes and jobs outlined in the Sutton Town Centre Masterplan.

The scope of the bid area covers the pedestrian and cycle links across the gyratory, providing improved accessibility and permeability for STC. This project also includes an assessment of the positioning and access arrangements to the numerous bus stops around the gyratory. The borough has recently been working very closely with TfL to review and identify the traffic and highway pressures and issues facing us, in terms of accommodating the significant growth agenda planned for STC. Through these meetings, a transport analysis has identified a number of key issues, including that significant investigations are required across all modes of travel, including trams, buses, cycling, walking as well as vehicular traffic, to determine a baseline from which to consider the growth implications.

During this review, it became clear that significant additional investigations and data gathering would be required to allow the borough to submit an appropriate bid that would meet the various criteria set by TfL and be likely to succeed. There was insufficient time for this to be completed in advance of the last submission date for that round of bids.

This joint analysis with TfL is ongoing and it was considered that the close working relationship Sutton has with TfL will allow the borough to develop a suitably detailed submission for consideration as part of the Liveable Neighbourhoods bid process in 2018, which will have a better possibility of securing funding.

TfL have agreed to fund the Beddington Major Scheme, which is a significant local contribution to the Liveable Neighbourhoods agenda and other key strategies, with works to progress in the coming months.

It should be mentioned, however, that TfL have very recently informed boroughs of major reductions in funding, both for existing and future schemes, so it is currently unclear exactly what funding may become available for both routine works and other projects. It is not thought that these reductions will affect the Beddington scheme.