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Bexley to benefit from £5.1m funding for local transport improvements for 2005/06

Mayor of London announces record five-year investment to improve journeys from ‘the moment Londoners leave their front door’

The Mayor of London announced today that the London Borough of Bexley will receive £5.1m of funding from Transport for London (TfL) to tackle a range of issues from reducing road casualties to supporting town centre regeneration.

The grant is part of £155m awarded to London boroughs for transport improvements in 2005/06, the first of five-years of sustained local transport investment totalling a record £758m.

The settlement will include funding for borough-wide improvements to cycling and walking facilities, and safer routes to schools as well as road safety, road renewal, environment and town-centre schemes.

Speaking at City Hall, the Mayor said:

“My aim is to improve the journeys we all make every day, whether it’s a short walk to the local shop or bus stop or a bike ride to local stations and schools. We’re working with the boroughs to provide every Londoner with safer, more accessible trips from the moment they leave their front door”.

“Funding for borough transport schemes has now increased every year since 2000. The ground-breaking funding deal with the Government now means that TfL can provide a sustained package for local transport improvements across London”.

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Based on an annual Borough Spending Plan (BSP) bid submitted by the London Borough of Bexley the 2005/06 settlement will include funding for key local schemes aimed at:

- Reducing social exclusion - over £300,000 allocated to walking and cycling schemes;
- Supporting economic regeneration – £3.1m allocated to improving infrastructure, including £2.4m for road renewal and £700,000 for bridge strengthening;
- Reducing road casualties – £850,000 allocated for road safety schemes;
- Tackling the school run – £200,000 allocated to Safer Routes to Schools projects.

Bob Kiley, London's Transport Commissioner said:

“London thrives because of the diversity and dynamism of its local communities. It is important not to forget that over half of all journeys made in London are local trips and under 2km in length. These local trips are as important, if not more so, than major transport projects that often grab the headlines.

“By making it easier and safer to travel on foot, by bike or by bus, we can make a huge difference to the local environment, to social inclusion, to the vitality of local town centres and perhaps most importantly, reducing the number of deaths and injuries on our roads.

“I am pleased to announce TfL's comprehensive Business Plan means a commitment of over £758m of funding to the Borough Spending Plan programme over the next five years”.

The BSP settlement follows the recent announcement of the TfL 5 Year Investment Programme under which Bexley will also benefit from:

- The proposed Thames Gateway Bridge, connecting Beckton and Thamesmead. This will carry four lanes of traffic as well as separate lanes for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists;
- A major new high quality bus service – the Greenwich Waterfront Transit - will serve areas between North Greenwich and Abbey Wood. It will link residential areas with new development zones and connect other transport services and;
- Improvements to the A206 - the road will be upgraded to a dual carriageway, facilitating regeneration and improving access to the Thames Gateway.

TfL will make a further investment of £239m over the plan period in the Transport for London Principal Road Network (TLRN), the major London roads run by TfL.

Notes to editors

Highlights of the £155m 2005/6 BSP spending allocations include:

- Increased funding for walking from £3m to £4.9m and for cycling from £8.5m to £12.1m;
- Increased road safety funding from £21.2m to £28.7m;
- Increased funding for station access, town centres and Streets for People from £16.8m to £18.7m;
- Increased funding for Safer Routes to School and Travel Awareness from £8.2m to £10.3m;
- Increased funding for mitigating environmental impacts of transport up from £1m to £1.5m.

TABLES

- **Bexley 2005/06 BSP allocations by programme**

Note: boroughs do not automatically apply for funding under every BSP programme whilst TfL does not necessarily award funding under each programme.

BSP programme 2005/06	Allocation (£)
Principal Road Renewal	2,344,000
Bridge strengthening	725,000
Local Safety Schemes	715,000
20mph Zones	130,000
Education, Training and Publicity	-
Walking	100,000
London Cycle Network+	234,000
Non - London Cycle Network+	7,000
Bus Stop Accessibility	125,000
Bus Priority	316,000
Town Centres	-

Streets-for-people	-
Interchanges	-
Safer Routes to School	200,000
Travel Awareness	11,000
Freight	-
Regeneration Area Schemes	115,000
Air Quality	55,000
Controlled Parking Zones	40,000
Local Area Accessibility	30,000
Total	5,147,000

- **Total figures for 2005/06 BSP funding over the term of the TfL 5-Year Investment Programme**

							Total
							05/06-
£m	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	09/10
Total	147	155	150	151	150	152	758

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