



## Weston Package News

Issue 1: September 2011

### Thanks for supporting the bid

The Highways Team was delighted with the support received for the Weston Package bid from national and local businesses in Weston-super-Mare.

North Somerset Council was able to include 42 letters of support with its bid sent to the Department for Transport (DfT). These included letters and emails from key players in the town such as First Bus, the Avon and Somerset Constabulary, GKN Aerospace, Mead Realisations, Arcadia Housing, Alliance Homes and the Weston Area Health Trust. Weston College, Priory School and the Hans Price Academy, all affected by the transport challenges in Weston, were all supportive.



### Business, trade and tourism

Particularly important was the support of our local trade and business organisations that brought influence and weight of numbers: the Weston-super-Mare Chamber of Trade (91 members), the North Somerset Industrial Association (25 members), the Weston Town Centre Partnership (700 members), the Weston-super-Mare Senior Citizens Forum (2000 members) and the Sovereign Centre representing 39 national retailers.

The tourism industry rallied with support from the Weston-super Mare Hotels and Restaurants Association with its 120 members, the Grand Pier and the new LeisureDome. Minister for Tourism and MP for Weston-super-Mare John Penrose is also supportive.

### What happens next?

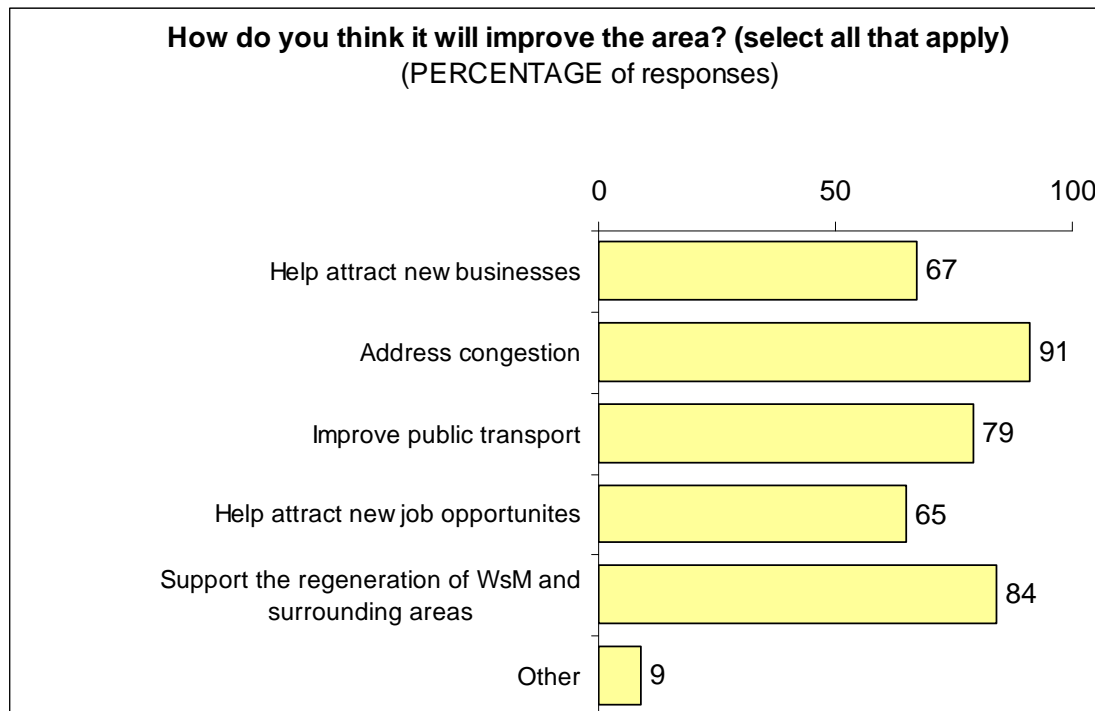
The bid has now been submitted to the DfT and will be evaluated along with the other competitive bids. Engineering and Design Manager for the council is Alex Fear who's overseeing the bid. He said:

*"We should know by the end of December 2011 whether or not we have been successful. We believe we have a very good chance and the team has put together a strong bid that shows how much residents and businesses would benefit from the proposed improvements."*

We will send out another issue of Weston Package News to keep you fully updated – whether the news is good or bad.

## Online survey results

An online survey resulted in 372 members of the public commenting on the Weston Package. It is interesting to note that 93% of people who responded support the proposals. The most common reason for their support was that the schemes would address congestion (91%) and support the regeneration of Weston-super-Mare and surrounding areas (84%).



## Social media

During the period of the consultation over 36,000 members of the public were able to see information about the Weston Package on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

## More information

Don't forget that you can find out more information including preliminary plans for the schemes at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/westonpackage](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/westonpackage)

## A last word

*"I'd like to thank every single business and member of the public that wrote in giving us comments or support for the Weston Package. It gives us a much better chance of impressing the DfT by showing the strength of feeling locally and the need for transport improvements,"* said Colin Medus, Head of Highways and Transport, North Somerset Council.