



Solent Go

In early August, the Solent Go multi-modal and multi-operator travel smartcard was launched. The scheme allows people to conveniently purchase a range of different tickets on a single smartcard for bus, ferry and hovercraft travel across the Solent area. Initial products available through Solent Go include a mainland Solent wide multi-operator bus ticket and tickets for Hovertravel from Ryde to Portsmouth and the Gosport and Hythe Ferries. The Solent Go card can also be used with the City Car Club scheme in Southampton.

A number of additional products will be launched soon, including City Zone multi-operator bus tickets in Portsmouth and Southampton and ferry tickets for Wightlink and Red Funnel services. Looking further into the future, there are aspirations to extend Solent Go to include rail ticketing options.

Solent Go was funded through the *Better Connected South Hampshire* Local Sustainable Transport Fund project.

Portsmouth to Southampton Connectivity – Rail Services

Improving Portsmouth to Southampton connectivity is a key priority for both Solent Transport and the Solent LEP in order to improve accessibility and support economic growth. Improving the quality of cross Solent rail services will be a key part of this, alongside improvements to the Strategic Road Network and other complimentary interventions.

Solent Transport's response to the proposed South West Trains franchise, which will be considered in today's agenda, includes suggestions for improved service frequency between Portsmouth and Southampton.

I also understand that Govia Thameslink Railway will be undertaking a consultation this autumn on their timetable proposals for the Brighton main line. This includes their services from London Victoria and Brighton to Southampton. Whilst these services are on the extremity of their network, they provide an essential part of the cross Solent rail offer and we look forward to this consultation with interest.

Solent Transport is keen to work with all relevant parties in order to improve the cross Solent rail offer.