

AT A MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Tuesday, 12 June 2012.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Ian Beagley	p Rupert Kyrle
a Adam Carew	p Steve Rippon-Swaine
p Vaughan Clarke	p Elaine Still
p Mark Cooper	p Marilyn Tucker
p Edward Heron	p Alan Weeks

116. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Adam Carew and Councillor Mel Kendal, Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

117. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

Councillor Edward Heron declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest following discussion under Agenda Item 6, as he is a Member of the Project Integra Strategic Board.

118. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 3 April 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman raised a matter arising from Minute 113,

informing the Committee that the 'Code of Conduct' for road works in Hampshire had been circulated prior to the meeting.

119. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman did not make any announcements.

120. **A3 ZIP BUS PRIORITY CORRIDOR REVIEW**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on the A3 ZIP Bus Priority Corridor Review. Members heard:

(Take in reports)

- That an internally commissioned review of the A3 Zip Bus Priority Corridor took place as part of the usual gateway process following a large transport project with considerable local impact.
- That the scheme was originally included as part of the first Local Transport Plan for Hampshire, in order to help mitigate the impact of future development in the Havant and East Hampshire areas.
- That the A3 ZIP Bus Priority Corridor project had been a partnership effort between Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and First Bus company.
- That the review has aimed to look at two aspects of the scheme: a retrospective look at the actual delivering of the project and what lessons could be learned for inclusion in future schemes, and a measure of the performance of the scheme in relation to its targets.
- That a passenger perception survey of the A3 ZIP Bus Priority Corridor, and the First Bus number 41 service using it, was undertaken in November 2010. The results of the survey showed that there had been a perceived improvement to the reliability, speed and quality of the bus service.
- That an increase in passenger numbers of approximately 4.7% had been recorded on the 41 bus service, although the addition of bus passengers on newly introduced routes using the A3 ZIP Bus Priority Corridor would in total mean that the 18% target for passenger growth had been met.
- That a major driver for the scheme was the announcement of a proposed major development area west of Waterlooville which formed a proposal in the approved Structure Plan. As this development has not yet come to fruition, the number of passengers expected to travel on bus services using the A3 ZIP Bus Priority Corridor was lower than originally planned for by this stage.
- That a wide scale change in the economy of the country had occurred since the scheme completed in 2009. With this in mind, it had been encouraging that both First Bus

That an action plan resulting from the 'next steps' of the review report, and the results of the next 'public perception survey', are brought back to the Select Committee when available.

That the Chairman holds a meeting with the Department regarding the issues raised within the review report that require future capital programme funding. That the issue of post implementation snagging funding is explored as part of these discussions.

That the Chairman forms a small working group with the County Councillor for Cowplain and Hart Plain, the relevant Department officers and the local highways area office, in order to discuss actions to be agreed following the Havant and

and Stagecoach had introduced brand new services that partially utilised the Corridor.

- That during and following the completion of the project, a number of snagging issues have been raised by local MPs, councillors and members of the public. Further traffic analysis and surveys have been completed, and some scheme elements have been refined accordingly. The Department understood the need to work in partnership with local members and councils, and would continue to do this going forward.
- That one of the post implementation snags had been the failure of the 'Real Time Passenger Information' system, which had been de-commissioned by Portsmouth City Council. The withdrawal of this system had led to a lower quality of service being offered to service users travelling in and from Portsmouth than those in Hampshire, and work was ongoing through the Transport for South Hampshire partnership to provide funding for procurement of a new trial 'Real Time Passenger Information' system for Portsmouth.
- That a number of items for action had arisen following the review of the scheme. These included:
 - Monitoring of the scheme in able to examine, in detail, how the service is progressing against its targets.
 - Completion of off-road pedestrian and cyclist routes through Havant Borough Council's successful bid for SUSTRAINS funding.
 - Piloting of a new 'Real Time Passenger Information' system for Portsmouth through the Transport for South Hampshire partnership, noted above.
 - Possible further junction works, subject to identified capital programme or community infrastructure levy funding.
 - Learning of lessons for future Bus Rapid Transit schemes. It was noted that the Bus Rapid Transit route in Gosport has already benefitted from some of the lessons learnt from the A3 ZIP Bus Priority Corridor scheme.
- That it was appreciated that the scheme still had some way to go in meeting all of the targets set, but given that the life of the project would be 25 – 30 years, and the scheme had only been operational for three years, the Department were satisfied that good progress had already been made.

Councillor Rupert Kyrle joined the Committee at this point in the meeting.

Following receipt of the report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on the A3 ZIP Bus Priority Corridor Review, Members heard from the County Councillor for

Cowplain and Hart Plain, Councillor David Keast. Councillor Keast highlighted to the Committee some of the locations where he felt there were still technical issues that required further measures, and brought Members' attention to the scrutiny inquiry held by Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council. Appendix Two to the report relates to this work.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That a Fareham to Queen Alexandra Hospital (Portsmouth) Bus Rapid Transit route was still in the preparatory stage, and would be considered as a candidate for a future phase, subject to funding being identified. Existing bus routes already connect these two areas.
- That the targets for the project were ambitious when set, and are more so without the major development at Waterlooville being completed, but the Department still believed them to be deliverable. The targets had not been reviewed since the original business case to the Department for Transport was agreed over 10 years previously.
- That it was originally expected that First Bus would put all of their resources into the promoted 41 'ZIP' service, but since the opening of the scheme, the company had created several other routes that also use the Bus Priority Corridor in part. This may have resulted in those passengers who may have originally used the 41 service instead now using an alternative route which suited their needs better.
- That First Bus make the operational decisions as to where their services make stops and collect passengers, and when making these decisions would balance the need to collect passengers in residential areas against the requirement for a regular and quick service.
- That First Bus still continue to run a commercial weekend service on the A3 ZIP Bus Priority Corridor without subsidisation, a rarity in the County in the current economic climate.
- That concerns were expressed that not all of the partners had contributed an equal amount to the project, and had not rectified some outstanding snagging issues. Members were informed that the partnership was not underpinned by a legal agreement, and therefore partners were not obliged to undertake further works following the completion of the project. An important lesson had been learnt from this, and future Bus Rapid Transit schemes would be underpinned by appropriate agreements, where necessary.
- That the A3 ZIP Bus Priority Corridor would be a likely early candidate to be converted into an Eclipse Bus Rapid Transit route.

- That it was reported that some business traders in the Waterlooville area had felt that the Bus Priority Corridor had reduced the amount of on road customer parking available in the shopping precinct.

RESOLVED:

That:

1. An action plan resulting from the 'next steps' of the review report, and the results of the next 'public perception survey', are brought back to the Select Committee when available.
2. The Chairman holds a meeting with the Department regarding the issues raised within the review report that require future capital programme funding. That the issue of post implementation snagging funding is explored as part of these discussions.
3. The Chairman forms a small working group with the County Councillor for Cowplain and Hart Plain, the relevant Department officers and the local highways area office, in order to discuss actions to be agreed following the Havant and East Hampshire joint scrutiny review of the A3 Zip Bus Priority Corridor Review.

121. **PROJECT INTEGRA ACTION PLAN**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on the proposed Project Integra Action Plan 2012/13. Members heard:

(Take in report)

- That this was the 11th action plan of the Project Integra partnership, and had been written and agreed in accordance with the partnership's constitution.
- That the plan spanned the next 12 months, a shorter timescale than usually planned for, as the partnership was undergoing significant transformations in strategic approach and governance.
- That two of the priorities for the partnership over the next year would be to decrease the contamination of recyclable materials, and to increase the quantity of materials collected for recycling. For the former, it was planned that a compact agreement would be signed by the partner waste disposal authorities in order to tackle the long term issue of contamination, and for the latter, a targeted campaign around metals in Portsmouth and paper materials in the New Forest would be actioned.
- That work would also be undertaken which would aim to continue to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, most of which originates from Household Waste

Recycling Centres. It was hoped that more can be done to harness energy from materials already collected by adopting suitable pre-treatment.

- That the monitoring programme at the materials analysis facility would continue, as will the education programme in schools across the area.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That Project Integra will continue to publish an annual report.
- That the commodity price for textiles had increased significantly in recent years, and therefore the recycling of this material had become a priority for Project Integra. Discussions were ongoing regarding how this area could provide further future income for those within the partnership.
- That the collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles was currently a cost neutral responsibility to the partnership, owing to the increase in value of scrap metal. A trend had been noted that as the cost of scrap metal had increased, the number of abandoned vehicles had decreased, and therefore this was not an area of significant work for the partnership at present.
- That there will be a drafted plan which focuses on commercial waste, but as this falls out of the statutory duty for the waste disposal authority, it had not been included as part of the Project Integra action plan.

Councillor Edward Heron abstained from agreeing the proposed recommendation, following his previous declaration of interest..

RESOLVED:

That the Project Integra Action Plan 2012-13 is commended to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport for approval.

122. **ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT EFFICIENCIES UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on progress with efficiency saving following the agreed January 2012 budget.

Members heard:

- That the Department were on track to make a second year of 8% efficiency saving following the programme agreed at the January 2012 meeting.
- That 81% of the second year savings would be delivered from actions undertaken in 2011/12.
- That the remaining 19% of savings would be delivered by:
 - the completion of the reduction of senior staffing

- through voluntary redundancies and vacancy management;
- the transfer of funding responsibility for the Safer Roads Partnership;
- a review of Household Waste Recycling Centres which would deliver savings through the renegotiation of several contracts; and,
- a planned reduction on the contingency for the street lighting private finance initiative
- That the Department were confident that the efficiency programme for 2012/13 would be delivered without impacting on frontline services.

RESOLVED:

That the next Economy, Transportation and Environment Department efficiencies update is given as part of the revenue and capital programme budget reports in January 2013.

123. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the work programme is agreed.

Chairman, 6 November 2012