

Chairmanship

As a consequence of a change in Executive Member at Southampton City Council, the post of Chairman of this Joint Committee is vacant. And as you will see from one of the reports on today's agenda, plans are in train to merge this Joint Committee with the Solent Local Transport Body Board, to provide a single strategic transport partnership for this area. Mindful of this imminent change, we have decided to continue with myself as Vice Chairman and to not elect a new Chairman at this stage. A Chairperson for the merged body will be elected at the first meeting of the new body, which is expected to sit in January.

Local Pinch Point Success

Hampshire County Council has been awarded £3.7 million to help reduce congestion at the roundabout south of the proposed Dunsbury Hill Farm Business Park in Havant (locally known as the Asda roundabout).

The funding comes from a Government fund designed to target key bottlenecks around the country and make life easier for the thousands of motorists and businesses who use the local road network every day. The recent announcement relates to the third tranche of funding from the £190 million Local Pinch Point Fund.

Asda roundabout currently experiences significant congestion, particularly in peak times, impacting on the effective operation and performance of local businesses in the area. With the proposed new employment development at Dunsbury Hill Farm and major mixed use development underway at Waterlooville, traffic is set to increase. The roundabout would provide one of the main junctions on the road network facilitating traffic movements to these new development sites.

The scheme aims to reduce the impacts of the increased traffic volume and involves significantly increasing the size of the junction along with the introduction of traffic signal control on two approach roads to the roundabout. The Purbrook Way approach from the A3(M) will be upgraded to a dual carriageway which will link into wider traffic capacity improvements planned as part of the West of Waterlooville Major Development Area. The scheme also includes the provision of safe pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities and improvements at the Park House Farm Way junction.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund Opportunity

We'll hear today a progress update on our £31m Local Sustainable Transport Programme. This is an important programme that aims to improve sustainable access to and between our urban areas, with the outcomes of a greater spread of network demand and lower emissions. This programme concludes in March 2015, but I was encouraged to read that a new LSTF revenue fund is expected to be announced by the Department for Transport in December. I feel this provides us with an opportunity to bid for revenue funding to continue the marketing and promotion work that is so important in helping people make informed decisions about how they travel.

We were one of just 13 areas awarded funding in the LSTF large project category and received the sixth highest allocation, and were one of just two projects to be fully funded. To date we have demonstrated strong programme delivery, and I am sure this places us well to bid for a proportion of the £78.5m revenue DfT is making available in 2015-16. Officers are in the process of pulling together options for a TfSHIoW application to this fund.

Freight Study

In recognition of the key role that the transport and logistics sectors plays in the local economy, we are speaking with the freight industry in the area and national hauliers who travel through this area to understand the key transport and non-transport issues currently affecting their business operations. This is covering areas such as congestion, accommodation and skills availability. The work will help identify a number of actions to support and develop this key sector in the future. The outcomes of the work will be presented early in the New Year.

Public Transport Delivery Plan

TfSHIoW is working with Peter Brett Associates) to prepare a delivery plan and high level strategy statement on the development of public transport in the area over the next 13 years to 2026, and beyond. The strategy is intended to grow public transport patronage and encourage mode shift from the private car to support the overriding aims of maintaining economic growth and reducing carbon. Outputs from the study will identify public transport solutions, both infrastructure and service quality, in partnership with operators and consider options for improved efficiency of service delivery on the local authority side.

We are working closely with public transport operators to discuss how public transport networks can meet future aspirations, and identify future priorities for action and funding.

National Transport Awards

Southampton City Council has been nominated for City of the Year and Frontline Employee of the Year at the National Transport Awards which will be announced this evening at an event in London. The City of the Year short-listing is in recognition of the work done in the city to encourage modal shift including the MyJourney project, improvements in walking and cycling networks, real time bus information and bus priority improvements. The Frontline Employee nomination is for Jess Eden for her work on Independent Travel Training with Children with Special Educational Needs, enabling them to develop the confidence and independence to use the transport network on their own.

In addition, Hampshire County Council has been shortlisted in two categories. Its [Streetsense](#) campaign, aimed at reducing the number of casualties among secondary school aged students by highlighting the dangers of being distracted at the roadside, has been shortlisted for excellence in Road Safety, Traffic Management & Enforcement and the [Eclipse BRT](#) has made the shortlist for the second year running, this time in the Transport Team/Partnership of the Year category with First Hampshire & Dorset.

Finally, Southampton City Council has also been shortlisted in partnership with Maynard design for the Southampton Bus and Cycle maps for an International Award run by The Sign Design Society (SDS). The purpose of the awards is to recognise excellence in signing, systems and wayfinding, around the world, in whatever form and irrespective of size and scale. It seeks to give prominence to companies and individuals who are proving their competence and originality. Southampton has been entered into the "The Information Design for Navigation" category and the winner will be announced on 21st November.