

Local Transport Bodies

I understand that discussions are on-going in Whitehall as to the future of Local Transport Bodies, given that devolved local major transport scheme funding will no longer flow through bodies such as this, but instead form part of an unringfenced and wider Local Growth Fund, controlled by Local Enterprise partnerships.

I think it's worth recalling that LTBs were charged with a specific purpose – that being to prioritise and award funding for local major transport schemes. However, as the ability to award funding will now pass to LEPs from 2015-16, the single function of this Board is to prioritise transport schemes to inform the development of the Solent Strategic Economic Plan.

Unlike other LEP areas, we have a strong and successful history of partnership working on transport matters, with TfSHIoW having been in existence since 2007. In recognition of the changing role of LTBs and in recognition of the wider strategic transport planning function performed by TfSHIoW, I'm pleased to see a report on today's agenda that seeks to put in train a process for merging TfSHIoW with this Board.

Working with the LEP

Following on from this, it is clear that the Solent Strategic Economic Plan, which the Solent LEP is developing, will be an important document in making the case to central government for investment in our area. There is a particular focus on delivery in 2015-16 and we will see today the work that promoting authorities are putting in place to ensure key transport projects are shovel-ready for delivery in 2015-16 and to support the emerging objectives of the Solent Strategic Economic Plan. The promoting authorities are also working on a pipeline of transport projects that will support objectives around housing, jobs and skills.