

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	28 October 2013
Title:	Update on Transport for South Hampshire & Isle of Wight Business Plan (2013 - 2015) and the proposed ratification of Solent Transport.
Reference:	5323
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek Cabinet's agreement to recommend the Transport for South Hampshire & Isle of Wight (TfSHIoW) Business Plan to the County Council for formal approval.
- 1.2. It also seeks Cabinet's agreement to recommend to the County Council the ratification of the closure of the TfSHIoW Joint Committee and the establishment of a new body known as Solent Transport, which will merge the functions of TfSHIoW with the Solent Local Transport Body (LTB).

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The County Council is a member of TfSHIoW, a Joint Committee comprising the four highway and transport authorities in the Solent area. Terms of membership are similar to PUSH, to which TfSHIoW acts as the transport adviser. The County Council's representative is Councillor Seán Woodward.
- 2.2. The County Council contributes £90,000 per annum to TfSHIoW, but in recent years has received the benefit of significant Government capital funding secured through TfSHIoW as well as excellent access to officials at the Department for Transport.
- 2.3. The TfSHIoW Business Plan, which may be read at <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/transport-for-south-hampshire/tfshiowbusinessplan2013.pdf>, seeks to position the partnership to work within the rapidly changing policy and funding landscape, especially in relation to transport infrastructure funding. In particular, the relationship with Solent LEP is seen by TfSHIoW to be important and consequently a further

increased focus on ensuring transport plays a key role in supporting the economic growth agenda for the Solent area is a recurrent theme of the Plan.

- 2.4. During the current year the Solent Local Transport Body (LTB) has met for the first time. LTBs, which operate on LEP boundaries, were conceived as the Government's vehicle for prioritising major scheme funding. The full (voting) membership is the same as TfSHIoW, plus the Solent LEP and PUSH.
- 2.5. As part of the Government's changes to local growth funding, and in response to the Heseltine report, major transport scheme funding will now in fact be transferred to the Single Local Growth Funds to be allocated by LEPs. This change diminishes the unique role of LTBs and for this reason the merger between the Solent LTB and TfSHIoW is proposed.

3. Finance

- 3.1. Approval of the TfSHIoW Business Plans signifies continuing membership of the partnership and therefore acceptance of the £90k partner contributions required. The County Council also contributes £10k to the Solent LTB.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. That the Cabinet recommends to the County Council that the Transport for South Hampshire and Isle of Wight (TfSHIoW) Business Plan be approved.
- 4.2. That Cabinet also recommends to the County Council ratification of the proposed new Joint Committee, named 'Solent Transport', to replace the existing joint committees of TfSHIoW and the Solent Local Transport Body.