



Sub Regional Transport Model. Memorandum of Understanding between Solent Transport and Highways England

At the previous Joint Committee in February, approval was given to start work on the 2015 upgrade of the Sub Regional Transport Model (SRTM). I am pleased to report that work on the data collection surveys has been underway over the last month across the Solent area. Solent Transport is still seeking to pull together an overall funding package with key partners to deliver the 2015 SRTM Upgrade and looking forwards, develop a sustainable way of funding future upgrades.

Highways England is an important partner and is making significant use of the SRTM in support of its extensive investment programme in the Solent. Highways England has recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should be established between the key partners. This would primarily define how the SRTM is managed, used and funded. Such an arrangement has worked successfully in support of the SE Dorset Multi Modal Transport Model.

Working through the Strategy Working Group and Senior Management Board, we will therefore investigate the development of a MoU. If this is deemed appropriate for Solent Transport and the SRTM, a proposal will be brought to the next Joint Committee.

Low Emission Bus Scheme

The Department for Transport is currently running a funding competition called the 'Low Emission Bus Scheme'. There is a £30 million fund available nationally for Local Authorities and bus operators to bid for, to assist with the purchase of new, low emission buses. The aims of the fund are:

- to increase the uptake of low-emission buses;
- to support local authorities in tackling local air quality issues; and
- to attract investment in new vehicle technologies to the UK.

Solent Transport is working with its partners to develop a bid to cover the Solent sub-region. The deadline for bids is 31st October 2015. Funding is available from April 2016 to March 2019. A report covering the bid will be brought to the next Solent Transport Joint Committee meeting.

Network Rail Wessex Route Study

The previous Joint Committee meeting received a presentation from Sam McCarthy of the South West Trains/Network Rail Strategic Alliance on Network Rail's Wessex Route Study consultation. The aim of the study is to identify the investment priorities for the rail network up to 2043. The main focus of Solent Transport's response was around improved East-West rail connectivity between Portsmouth and Southampton, improved journey times to and

from London, and the need to secure a long term solution for the Island line. The study is now nearing completion, and later this week officers will attend a meeting with Network Rail to be presented with the outcome, prior to publication. A report will be brought to the next Joint Committee detailing the results of the study and the likely impacts for the Solent sub-region.

Local Growth Deal

The Solent LEP has indicated that the next round of the Local Growth Fund is likely to open for Expressions of Interest during September 2015. As with previous rounds of the Solent Growth Fund, submitted schemes will be prioritised for strategic fit, deliverability, private sector leverage, ability to deliver quickly, job creation, new homes, skills and wider economic and social impacts. The Solent Transport Authorities will need to act quickly to have Expressions of Interest ready for September. Promoters of schemes that are shortlisted will be invited to submit outline business cases in due course.

Solent LEP Logistics Study

The Solent LEP will be inviting tenders to carry out a Logistics and Warehousing Study. This piece of work has come forward through the LEP's Land, Property and Infrastructure Delivery Panel. The main outputs of the study will be to map existing sites, evaluate the impact of the changing nature of logistics demand, and to identify the type and quantum of sites that the Solent area will require over a minimum fifteen year time horizon. Solent Transport officers will be assisting with this work as required.