

AT A MEETING of SOLENT TRANSPORT held on 24 June 2015 at Northwood House, Cowes ISLE OF WIGHT

Voting Members Present:

Councillor Peter Edgar, Executive Member for Education, Hampshire County Council

Councillor Ken Ellcome, Executive Member for Traffic & Transportation, Portsmouth City Council

Councillor Jacqui Rayment, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Southampton City Council

Councillor Shirley Smart, Executive Member for Economy and Tourism, Isle of Wight Council

Solent Transport Officers

Phil Marshall – Principal Transport Planner

John Rider – LSTF Programme Manager

Andrew Wilson – Manager

Hampshire County Council Officers

Dominic McGrath – Strategic Transport Manager

Marie Mannveille - Democratic & Member Services

Sue Lapham – ETE Finance Business Partner, Corporate Services

Isle of Wight Officer

Chris Wells – Principal Officer, Transport Policy and Strategy

Portsmouth City Council Officer

Pam Turton – Assistant Head of Service: Transport, Environment & Business Support

Southampton City Council Officers

Mark Heath – Monitoring Officer for Solent Transport

Paul Walker – Acting Head of Transport, Highways & Parking

PUSH

No representative in attendance at this meeting

Local Enterprise Partnerships

No representative in attendance at this meeting

Interested Parties

Department of Transport – Maureen Pullen and James Sharples

Go South Coast – Andrew Wickham

Stagecoach – Mark Turner

First Group - Marc Reddy

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Business Alliance – Graham Ellis

Red Funnel – Murray Carter

Hovertravel – Neil Chapman

Isle of Wight Council – A Jenkins
Parose Projects – John Roseveare
CycleWight – Tim Thorne

Observers

Eastleigh Borough Council – Cllr David Airey

Gosport Borough Council – Cllr Peter Langdon

71. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Seán Woodward, Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment at Hampshire County Council. Cllr Peter Edgar was in attendance in his place.

73. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 6 of the City Council's Members' Code of Conduct leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 6(4) of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 4 Paragraph 13 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

There were no declarations made by Members.

74. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2015 AND MATTERS ARISING

Members agreed the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2015 were a correct record and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

75. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

76. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that work had begun on data collection to upgrade the Sub Regional Transport Model (SRTM), as agreed at the last meeting. Following advice from Highways England, consideration would be given to development of a Memorandum of Understanding between partners regarding the SRTM, in order to agree how the SRTM is managed, used and funded.

The Chairman highlighted that the Department for Transport was running a funding competition for Local Authorities and bus operators to bid for, to assist with the purchase of low emission buses. Solent Transport would be developing a bid, to be brought to the next meeting ahead of the deadline of 31 October 2015.

The Chairman announced that Network Rail's Wessex Route Study was nearing completion, and a report would be brought to the next Joint Committee meeting on the results of the study and the likely impacts for the Solent sub-region.

The Chairman reported that the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had indicated that the next round of Local Growth Fund was likely to open for Expressions of Interest during September 2015, and therefore the Solent Transport Authorities would need to act quickly to have Expressions of Interest ready for September.

The Chairman highlighted that the Solent LEP would be inviting tenders to carry out a Logistics and Warehousing Study, to identify the type and quantum of sites that the Solent area will require over a minimum fifteen year time horizon. Solent Transport officers would be assisting with this work as required.

The full Chairman's Announcements are appended to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

77. SOLENT TRANSPORT BUSINESS PLAN 2015-16

Members received a report on the Solent Transport Business Plan for 2015-16 (Item 6 in the Minute Book). It was noted that the previous plan covered up to May 2015, therefore a new Business Plan was required. It was highlighted that while previously plans had been prepared for a two year period, in this case the proposed plan covers one year. This was in response to the current fluidity of the funding environment for transport infrastructure. It was planned to return to a two year plan in future.

The proposed areas of focus for the coming year were summarised, including preparation of a bid under the low emission bus scheme and updating the Sub-Regional Transport Model (SRTM). It was noted that the Plan included a Risk Register, which identified funding for the SRTM upgrade and the East-West rail enhancements as medium risks.

Members of the Joint Committee and invited interested parties asked questions on the report and commented on the proposed Plan. Cllr Rayment commented

that it would be good to see progress on further development of Solent Go with other public transport operators over the coming year.

Members **RESOLVED**:

- (a) That the Joint Committee approves the Solent Transport Business Plan 2015-16.
- (b) That Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council be invited to ratify this adoption, through their own decision making processes.

78. **SOLENT TRANSPORT BUDGET AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members received a report on the Solent Transport Budget and Statement of Accounts (Item 7 in the Minute Book). It was highlighted that the proposed budget for 2015/16 was a baseline position and other funding may be added. Regarding the 2014/15 accounts, a member queried the stated overspend on the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). It was confirmed that the LSTF was grant funding, and that a subsequent claim submitted to the Department for Transport had been agreed and paid and that this resolved the position.

The Joint Committee was required to submit a Small Bodies Annual Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2015 and the Committee was invited to authorise the Chairman to sign the Return on their behalf. It was noted that section two of the form had not printed correctly in the papers circulated, and the Chairman read out the wording from the original copy of the form. It was confirmed that a complete copy would be placed in the minute book and online with the papers for the meeting, and circulated to members following the meeting.

Members **RESOLVED**:

That the Joint Committee:

- (a) Notes the 2014/15 budget position for revenue and capital.
- (b) Approves the Annual Return of the Statement of Accounts for 2014/15 and accepts Section 1 - Accounting Statements and Section 2 Annual Governance and authorises the Chairman to sign the Annual Return Sections 1 and 2.
- (c) Approves the carry forward from 2014/15 of balances to the 2015/16 budget.
- (d) Approves the 2015/16 revenue budget.

79. **SOLENT STRATEGIC LAND AND INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD**

Members received a report regarding the Solent Strategic Land and Infrastructure Board (Item 8 in the Minute Book). It was noted that the Solent

Strategic Land and Infrastructure Board involves a range of public sector bodies and private sector bodies. A workshop had been held in May 2015 to discuss the development of a Joint Land Asset Strategy, including a joint database of sites in public ownership. This would tie in with work undertaken by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire which included private land development opportunities.

Based on the assets identified, the Transport Sub Group would be developing short term and longer term plans for the infrastructure required to support releasing sites for development. It was intended that identification of short term measures would be completed by September 2015, with longer term options to be developed by Spring 2016. The aim of this work was to have options in place ready for any funding opportunities arising from the Governments Spending Review in Autumn 2015, and to focus on one 'ask' of Government from the range of bodies in the Solent region.

Regarding transport options in the region, Cllr Edgar requested consideration be given to a ferry link between Gosport/Portsmouth and Southampton, as an alternative to the car that could be quicker at peak times. It was responded that previously this had been found not to be commercially viable, however as the sub group was looking at infrastructure options up to 2036 it would be considered if this changed in future.

Members **RESOLVED:**

That Members note the progress of the work of the Solent Strategic Land and Infrastructure Board and the Solent Transport Investment Plan sub-group.

80. **LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE**

Members received a report providing an update on the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (Item 9 in the Minute Book). It was reported that actual spend had been close to plan, with an underspend in smart ticketing costs redirected to pay for additional physical measures than planned. A lessons learned report had been written, and it was planned to produce an evaluation of the impact next March, with input from follow up telephone surveys due to be undertaken later in 2015.

Members commented on the success of the project, including coming in on time and on budget, and that it was a demonstration of the success of partnership working in the Solent area. Members also commented on how useful the lessons learned report was for future funding bids. Members commented that it had been difficult to respond quickly to the Department for Transport funding bid deadline.

It was noted that there would be further opportunities for Growth Deal funding and members were mindful of the need to be in a position to bid when the time came. Therefore, an additional recommendation was proposed in addition to those contained in the report (recommendation e).

Members **RESOLVED:**

That the Joint Committee:

- a) Notes the final outturn expenditure for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme, in particular the fact that Solent Transport was successful in claiming all the available grant;
- b) Notes the final position with regards delivery and the comparison between the original and outturn programmes;
- c) Commends the partner authorities in managing and delivering a £17million programme within 0.5% of the original budget;
- d) Encourages the Solent Transport Senior Management Board to take action in discussion with the Programme Manager to identify the necessary resources to undertake a final set of telephone interviews in Autumn 2015 to complete the monitoring programme; and
- e) That the Joint Committee instructs the Solent Transport Senior Management Board to develop a package of sustainable transport measures, including a behavioural change programme, for submission to the Solent LEP for future Growth Deal funding, developing further the successes of the Better Connected South Hampshire Local Sustainable Transport Fund project.

81. **BETTER BUS AREA FUND UPDATE**

Members received a report providing an update on the Better Bus Area Fund (Item 10 in the Minute Book). It was noted that there had been a small underspend on the project, however this represented 0.2% of the total budget. A range of bus improvements had been delivered as part of the project, as detailed in section 5 of the report, including Wi-Fi on 571 buses and next stop audio visual equipment in 526 buses.

It was highlighted that the project had been particularly successful in creating apprenticeships. The bid had anticipated 16 new apprentices but the project had achieved 90 apprentices being recruited by bus operators in the area. It was noted that the infrastructure enhancements to the Bus Rapid Transit corridor had helped enhance reliability and journey times. It was reported that groups representing the visually impaired welcomed the next stop audio announcements. The member from the Isle of Wight commented that it would be good to see next stop announcements on Isle of Wight buses. It was responded that the Local Enterprise Partnership could be approached regarding funding for that, through the Local Growth Deal.

Members commented that the project was a good example of successful delivery in partnership with the bus operators. Passenger satisfaction with bus services was at 90% and there was evidence of passenger growth of 3% year on year.

Members **RESOLVED:**

That the Joint Committee notes:

- a) The final outturn expenditure for the Better Bus Area Fund programme, in particular that Solent Transport was successful in spending 99.8% of the available grant; and
- b) Notes the final position with regards to delivery and the comparison between the original and outturn programmes.

82. **CROSS SOLENT CONNECTIVITY PROJECT**

Members received a presentation regarding the cross solent connectivity project; a £500 million plus programme of transport and enabling infrastructure projects aimed at regenerating Southampton's water front and East Cowes and improving connectivity across the Solent (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

A representative from Southampton City Council reported that the proposed works in Southampton would include land reclamation from the sea which would add complexity, and a planning application to develop this area to become Royal Pier Waterfront would be lodged later in 2015.

A representative from Red Funnel ferries reported that they plan to undertake works on both the Southampton and Cowes side of the journey to improve the facilities available at each ferry terminal, which in both cases would mean re-location of the terminal building.

A representative from Isle of Wight Council reported that tourism was a critical industry for the Island, and therefore it was important to update the look of East Cowes as a gateway to the Isle of Wight. It was noted that members of the committee had the option to visit the regeneration area in East Cowes following the meeting.

It was noted that bids had been made to the Local Enterprise Partnership for funding, for which a decision was due on 10 July. Members welcomed the proposals, and thanked the officers involved for the work undertaken to get the project to this point and maintain momentum.

Members **RESOLVED:**

That the Joint Committee notes the presentation

Meeting closed at 12.50pm