

AT A MEETING of SOLENT TRANSPORT held on 30 October 2015 at Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, Hampshire County Council, WINCHESTER

Voting Members Present:

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

Councillor Paul Fuller, Executive Member for Planning, Licensing, Public Realm and Local Engagement, Isle of Wight Council

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

Councillor Seán Woodward, Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, Hampshire County Council

Solent Transport Officers

Phil Marshall – Principal Transport Planner

Andrew Wilson – Manager

Hampshire County Council Officers

Keith Wilcox – Assistant Director – Strategic Transport

Jackie Taylor - Democratic and Member Services

Sue Lapham – Economy, Transport and Environment Finance Business Partner, Corporate Services

Isle of Wight Officer

No representative in attendance at this meeting

Portsmouth City Council Officer

Alan Cufley – Director of Transport, Environment and Business Services

Southampton City Council Officers

Iain Steane – Strategic Transport Planner

Mike Harris – Head of Culture and Planning

Pete Boustred – Transport Policy and Sustainable Travel Team Leader

PUSH

Cllr Tony Briggs, Deputy Leader, Havant Borough Council

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership

No representative in attendance at this meeting

Interested Parties

South West Trains – Richard Kempton

South Hampshire Bus Operators Association – Richard Soper

Stagecoach – Michael Watson

Department for Transport – Maureen Pullen

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Business Alliance – Graham Ellis

Observers

Federation of Small Business and Railfuture Wessex - Charles Burns

Eastleigh Borough Council – Cllr David Airey and Ed Vokes

Gosport Borough Council – Cllr Peter Langdon and David Duckett

Havant Borough Council – Stuart Wood

Fareham Borough Council – Cllr Keith Evans

Test Valley Borough Council - Vivien Messenger

83. 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.

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Shirley Smart, Executive Member for Economy and Tourism at Isle of Wight Council. Cllr Paul Fuller was in attendance in her place.

85. 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.

86. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2015 AND MATTERS ARISING

Members agreed the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 June 2015 were a correct record and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

87. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

88. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that following the resolution agreed at the last meeting, Solent Transport would soon be submitting a Solent wide Expression of Interest for a package of sustainable transport measures, including a behavioural change programme following the invitation by the Solent LEP for the next Local Growth Deal.

The Chairman reported that Network Rail had recently published its final Wessex Route Study, which identified necessary rail investment priorities for the Wessex network, and Solent Transport would be working closely with Network Rail in the future in developing more detailed rail proposals for the Solent area. The Chairman also reported that the Department for Transport had announced that the South West Trains franchise would not now be extended to 2019, and the Joint Committee would approve a consultation response to the new franchise specification at the next meeting.

The Chairman highlighted that the new website for Solent Transport which outlined the work of the Partnership had recently gone live, and welcomed feedback.

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

89. SOLENT TRANSPORT FINANCE UPDATE

Members received a report on the financial position of Solent Transport (Item 6 in the Minute Book), notifying the Joint Committee of the outcome of the external audit on the Statement of Accounts for 2014/15. The legislative changes affecting the requirement for external audit of Joint Committees from 2015/16 were presented to Members.

The Joint Committee received the full external audit report for the year ending 31 March 2015 and noted the recommendation to ensure all subsequent audit reports would be reported and minuted as received by the Joint Committee. This recommendation followed the 2013/14 external auditor's report which was not referenced in the minutes of the October 2013 Joint Committee. Members noted that an action plan would be formulated for all external audit recommendations.

Members noted the proposed increase in budget allocation to the original 2015/16 budget agreed at the 24 June 2015 Joint Committee. The breakdown of this additional money was summarised to Members and detailed in Table 2 of the report.

Members of the Joint Committee welcomed the report and the external audit report recommendation.

Members **RESOLVED:**

That the Joint Committee:

- (a) Notes the outcome of Solent Transport's external audit for the year ending 31 March 2015 and accepts the external audit report.
- (b) Notes the change in external audit requirement resulting from the implementation of the Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and agrees to place reliance on the external audit review of the accounts of the four member Councils from 2015/16.
- (c) Approves the revised carry forward balance from 2014/15 to the 2015/16 budget.
- (d) Approves the revised 2015/16 revenue budget.
- (e) Notes the initial revenue forecast for 2015/16.

90. **HIGHWAYS ENGLAND INVESTMENT – M27 SOUTHAMPTON JUNCTIONS PROJECT**

Members received a report on the progress of the M27 Southampton Junctions Project (Item 8 in the Minute Book), which was brought forward on the agenda with the agreement of the Chairman. It was noted that the establishment of a Project Board was proposed to support and provide direction for the client project team working on the project. The terms of reference for the Board (at appendix B of the report) were highlighted. It was noted that there would be input to the Board from Members and key stakeholders, and Members of the Solent Transport Committee were mindful of being formally informed of progress.

The projects were outlined to Members and it was heard that the indicative budget was £100 - £250 million. The majority of the projects were forecast to be delivered in 2019/20 with the exception of M27 Junction 8 and Windhover, which were due to be completed by 2018. The importance of a close working relationship with Highways England was highlighted as the projects developed in more detail. The benefit to the strategic and local road network was also noted. Councillor David Airey, of Eastleigh Borough Council who was observing the meeting, praised the projects, and welcomed the confirmation of completion dates.

Queries relating to the possibility of proposals to improve capacity on Junction 9 of the M27 were raised, and the representative from Highways England explained that preparatory work had been done but confirmation of funding was awaited. It was noted that a number of other schemes around the country were competing for funding, and there was no guarantee that money would be awarded this financial year.

Members supported the projects and looked forward to receiving further updates at future meetings of the Joint Committee.

Members **RESOLVED**:

That the Joint Committee:

- (a) Agree to the establishment of the Southampton M27 Junctions Project Board;
- (b) i) Consider and approve the draft Terms of Reference for the Project Board, as outlined in Appendix A, and
ii) delegate set up and operation to officers;
- (c) Note the progress to date on the M27 Southampton Junctions Project.

91. **BUS RAPID TRANSIT – THREE YEARS OF OPERATION**

Members received a presentation regarding the South East Hampshire Bus Rapid Transit Eclipse Service, three years into the commencement of the high frequency service which started in April 2012 between Fareham and Gosport (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The Business Performance Director of Eclipse reported that there had been an increase of 12% in passenger numbers using the Eclipse Service compared with usage prior to the Service, and it was anticipated that this number would continue to increase. The high-specification of the buses was noted, as well as the set criteria which would need to be met by those wishing to join the Eclipse team.

Members attention was drawn to Partnership working and regular meetings of a Partnership Board that were held to review performance.

In order to gather feedback on the Eclipse Services, it was highlighted that passenger interviews had taken place in Spring 2015. This had resulted in 500 interviews over a seven day period, and the results were noted by Members. In particular it was noted that 28% of passengers interviewed didn't use bus services between Gosport and Fareham prior to the Eclipse Service, and passengers interviewed acknowledged the frequency and reliability of the service as well as the comfort of the journey.

Connections between the Eclipse Service and rail travel, to enable multi-modal journeys for passengers were questioned. It was confirmed that this was an area which was anticipated to grow, as passengers would be encouraged to interchange as part of their journey.

The evolving nature of the Service was highlighted with attention drawn to the future possibilities for the Service, including ticketless travel and possible linking of Bus Rapid Transit to new developments

Members **RESOLVED:**

That the Joint Committee notes the presentation.

92. **TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN THE SOLENT UPDATE**

Members received a presentation providing an update on recently completed projects and projects being delivered in the Solent area (Item 9 in the Minute Book). Members were shown slides of recently completed projects which included Tipner Park and Ride, Newgate Lane North in Fareham, Junctions 3 and 5 of the M27 and the Southampton to Nuneaton freight upgrade which provided extra freight capacity. It was highlighted that the M27 Junction 5 project included full signalisation and widening of the approach.

Members noted improvements made to buses in the Solent area through the Better Bus Area Fund including free internet fitted to over 500 buses, and the bus fleet replacement scheme which had improved the quality of buses.

Other projects which were to be delivered were outlined to the Joint Committee, and it was noted that the Southampton Station Quarter improvements to include a new bus interchange were progressing well. Improvements to The Hard Interchange and Havant Asda Roundabout were also discussed, and it was noted that growth deal money had contributed to the Dunsbury Hill Farm development.

Members **RESOLVED:**

That the Joint Committee notes the presentation.

93. **SUB REGIONAL TRANSPORT MODEL GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT**

Members received a report on the Sub Regional Transport Model (SRTM) and appropriate arrangements to manage and maintain the Model to ensure that it remained fit for purpose as a comprehensive transport and land use evidence base for the area (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The report was outlined to the Members and the background to the SRTM was detailed as providing a comprehensive transport and land use evidence base for the Solent area, as well as bringing in investment. The cost of upgrading the model was estimated to be £452,000, and a funding shortfall of £267,000 had been identified in order for the project to proceed. The options for bridging this funding gap were explored and these included; increasing partner contributions on a one-off basis, seeking external contributions and reviewing the current SRTM charging policy. Members agreed on the importance of updating the SRTM once additional funding had been identified. Therefore, it was proposed and agreed that authority should be delegated to the Senior Management Board

to progress the upgrade on the basis of additional funding that could be secured.

Members **RESOLVED:**

That the Joint Committee:

- a) Delegates authority to the Senior Management Board to amend and apply appropriate charging mechanisms for Sub Regional Transport Model (SRTM) commissions to secure additional funding for the 2015 SRTM Upgrade and requests that Hampshire County Council, as Lead Authority for the SRTM, takes the necessary decisions to apply these charging mechanisms to SRTM commissions; and
- b) Delegates authority to the Senior Management Board to provide the SRTM contract through Hampshire County Council's Partnership Framework Contract; and
- c) Delegates authority to the Senior Management Board to commission work required to progress the upgrade of SRTM up to the value of any additional funding secured towards the total upgrade cost of £452,000 prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

94. **LOW EMISSION BUS SCHEME BID**

Members received a report regarding a bid to be submitted by Solent Transport in partnership with the South Hampshire Bus Operators Association to the Department for Transport's Low Emission Bus Scheme for funding towards the purchase of new low-emission buses for the Solent area between 2016 and 2019 (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

The report was detailed to Members, who noted that £30 million had been made available for local authorities and bus operators through a competitive bidding process, to increase the uptake of low emission buses, in support of the improvements to air quality.

The technology behind low emission buses was explained and it was noted that this also assisted in the reduction of fuel consumption. The range of electric, gas and hybrid models and the 'stop-start' technology were also detailed. The representative from South Hampshire Bus Operators Association reinforced the commitment to providing low emission buses in the area. Questions relating to the reliability of vehicles were answered and it was heard that while there could be a financial risk to operators in using vehicles with new technologies with uncertainties around long term operating costs, there would be a supplement to the bus grant of 6p per kilometre if using low emission buses.

The Joint Committee noted the details of the exempt appendix (Item 13 in the Minute Book) without formally moving into exempt session, and was supportive of the recommendation.

Members **RESOLVED:**

That the Joint Committee notes that Solent Transport will be submitting a funding bid to the Department for Transport's Low Emission Bus Scheme, in co-ordination with the South Hampshire Bus Operators Association.

Meeting closed at 3.50 pm