



Local Growth Deal

Solent Transport welcomes the recent invitation by the Solent LEP for Expressions of Interest for the next Local Growth Deal. We understand that the individual Solent Transport authorities are looking to submit Expressions of Interest for a range of schemes. Following the resolution made at June's Joint Committee, Solent Transport is also intending to submit a Solent wide Expression of Interest for a package of sustainable transport measures, including a behavioural change programme, developing further the successes of the Better Connected South Hampshire Local Sustainable Transport Fund project.

Rail issues

In August, Network Rail published its final Wessex Route Study, which identifies the necessary rail investment priorities for the Wessex network over the period to 2043. Further work is required to develop more detailed rail proposals for the Solent, particularly to help support growth in the area. Network Rail has made a clear commitment in the Route Study to work closely on this with partners, including Solent Transport. Initial discussions have already taken place and we look forward to working with Network Rail on this.

In July, the Department for Transport announced that the South West Trains franchise will not now be extended to 2019. Work will progress to award a new franchise from 2017 and a consultation on the specification for the new franchise is expected to start soon.

It is anticipated that a report will be taken to the next Joint Committee, to approve a consultation response to the South West Trains franchise specification and provide an update on work with Network Rail.

Website

Finally, Solent Transport's new website solent-transport.com is just going live. The website outlines all the work of the Partnership and we welcome any comments you have on its content.