



Item 6

Report to the Solent Local Transport Body

Date: 8 October 2014

Report by: Stuart Baker and Mark Heath

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Subject: Closure of Solent Local Transport Body and Update on Status of Prioritised Schemes

1. Summary

This report seeks agreement from Board members on the closure of the Solent LTB, following the central government decision to route major transport scheme funding through the Local Growth Fund. The report also updates Board Members on the current status of the four LTB prioritised schemes within the Local Growth Deal process.

1.1 The following decisions are sought:

That:

- LTB Board Members agree to close the Solent LTB and delegate authority to the LTB Manager and the Monitoring Officer to finalise the closure with the Department for Transport (DfT); and
- LTB Board Members note the current status of the four LTB prioritised schemes within the Local Growth Deal process.

2. Reason

2.1 Local Transport Bodies (LTBs) were established with a single function, that being to prioritise and allocate a devolved local major transport scheme budget. However, this funding now forms part of the Local

Growth Fund, which is channelled through Local Enterprise Partnerships.

- 3. **Other Options Considered and Rejected**
 - 3.1 Taking no action
- 4. **Conflicts of Interest Declared by the Decision Maker or Other Executive Member Consulted – None.**
- 5. **Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel – None.**
- 6. **Reason(s) for the Matter being dealt with if Urgent – None.**

Approved by: **Date:**

**Russell Kew - Chairman
Solent Local Transport Body**



Agenda Item 6

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Purpose of the Report

This report seeks agreement from Board members on the closure of the Solent LTB, following the central government decision to route major transport scheme funding through the Local Growth Fund. The report also updates Board Members on the current status of the four LTB prioritised schemes within the Local Growth Deal process.

Recommendations

The following decisions are sought:

That:

- (a) LTB Board Members agree to close the Solent LTB and delegate authority to the LTB Manager and the Monitoring Officer to finalise the closure with the Department for Transport (DfT); and
- (b) LTB Board Members note the current status of the four LTB prioritised schemes within the Local Growth Deal process.

Introduction

1. Local Transport Bodies (LTBs) were established early in 2013 and charged with allocating devolved funding to prioritised transport schemes for the period 2015-16 – 2018-19. However, in the June 2013 Spending Review, the funding expected to be allocated to LTBs was diverted to form part of the £2billion per annum Local Growth Fund (LGF), to be channelled through Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), with LEPs given the lead role for economic development in their areas.
2. The Solent LTB undertook a thorough and detailed assessment process to prioritise transport schemes in accordance with the Solent LTB Assurance Framework. These schemes were subsequently included within the Solent LEP Local Growth Deal submission.

Recommendation to Close the Solent LTB

3. From the outset, LTB Board members have been clear that the Solent LTB was to have a single purpose - that being to prioritise and allocate funding from a devolved local major transport schemes fund. This reflected that the area already benefited from a mature and successful transport partnership arrangement, in Solent Transport, which has a wider remit.
4. In its letter dated 23 December 2013 on LTB Assurance Frameworks, DfT advised that "*The Government does not have a view on the future role, or indeed the continued existence, of LTBs within the new arrangements once the transition is complete.*"
5. In recognition of the above it is recommended that the Board Members agree to close the Solent LTB, and delegate authority to the LTB Manager and the Monitoring Officer to finalise the closure with the DfT.

Update on Status of LTB Prioritised Schemes within the Local Growth Deal Process

6. As previously reported to Members, the LTB prioritised the four transport schemes set out in table 1 and these have subsequently been taken forward through the Local Growth Deal process.

Table 1: Solent LTB Prioritised Schemes Included within the Solent Growth Deal¹

Scheme Name	LGD Funding Request			Total Scheme Cost
	Total	2015-16	2016-17	
Dunsbury Hill Farm Link Road, Havant	£ 4.540m	£ 4.540m	-	£ 8.480m
Station Quarter North, Southampton	£ 4.185m	£ 4.185m	-	£ 5.543m
The Hard Interchange, Portsmouth	£ 4.832m	£ 4.832m	-	£ 8.300m
A27 Improvements, Fareham	£ 4.958m	£ 0.565m	£ 4.393m	£ 6.611m
Total	£18.515m	£14.122m	£ 4.393m	£28.934m

7. The LTB prioritisation process pre-dated the Local Growth Deal process, but as this Board, through the Assurance Framework, agreed to prioritise transport schemes that had tangible economic outputs in terms of job creation, new housing, new employment floorspace, and local funding leverage, there was a strategic fit with the Solent Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and consequently the projects are expected to support progress against the core economic targets for the Solent area.
8. Full transport business cases have been prepared by scheme proposers and assessed by an independent Investment Panel. The advice of the Investment Panel was reported to the Solent LEP Board meeting in July, and the LEP Board agreed to co-invest in the four schemes subject to satisfactory conclusion of the Solent Local Growth Funding Agreement, and the outcome of the consultation process.
9. The 12 week consultation process closed on 19 August 2014. Just one consultation response was received. The comments within the response have been passed to the scheme promoters, who will ensure that these comments will be reflected in the approach to delivery of each scheme.
10. Funding for these projects was included within the Solent Growth Deal that was published on 7 July 2014, subject to finalisation of the Solent Growth Deal Agreement. Scheme proposers are presently developing implementation plans that are expected to form part of the funding agreement the Solent LEP signs with Government. It is expected that the Solent Growth Deal will be concluded in late October, after which the LEP expects to be in a position to commence contracting arrangements with delivery bodies.

Conclusion

11. In consideration of the above, it is recommended that Members agree that the LTB Board closes.

¹ Subject to finalisation of the Solent Growth Deal with Government.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background papers

The following documents disclose facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

NB the list excludes:

1. Published works.
2. Documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.

TITLE

LOCATION

None.