

## **Report to the Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee**

**Date:** 20 April 2011

**Report by:** Heather Walmsley, Transport for South Hampshire

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**Subject:** South East Hampshire Bus Rapid Transit Scheme Update  
and Development of Wider Network

### **1. Summary**

1.1 This report:

- (i) provides a progress update regarding: legal issues; construction and the draft Voluntary Partnership Agreement for the South East Hampshire Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Phase 1 and recommends that the draft Voluntary Partnership Agreement for BRT Phase 1 should form the basis for similar agreements covering the wider network; and
- (ii) identifies a prioritised work programme and proposed delivery strategy for the wider BRT network for which approval is sought.

1.2 The following decisions are sought, that:

- (i) The progress regarding legal issues, construction and the draft voluntary partnership with the bus operators for the South East Hampshire Bus Rapid Transit Phase 1 Redlands Lane in Fareham to Tichborne Way in Gosport be noted and that the draft Voluntary Partnership Agreement for Bus Rapid Transit Phase 1 should form the basis for similar agreements covering the wider network.
- (ii) the prioritised work programme and delivery strategy for the wider Bus Rapid Transit network be approved as a way forward.

## 2. **Reasons**

- 2.1 Building upon the successful £20 million funding bid and ongoing construction of BRT Phase 1 Redlands Lane in Fareham to Tichborne Way in Gosport, it is now vitally important to consider and agree a prioritised work programme for the sub-regionally significant wider BRT network. The development of the wider BRT network will add significant value to the first phase being set within the context of the aims and objectives of Transport for South Hampshire and the Long Term Strategic Implementation Plan which is to be prepared, following approval by the TfSH Joint Committee on 22 November 2010.
- 2.2 In order to ensure the wider scheme potential is fully realised, the operational context and marketing and branding of the scheme are vitally important. A draft voluntary partnership with the bus operators has been prepared and is outlined in this report. The marketing and branding issues are covered in a separate but linked report to this committee at agenda item 6.
- 2.3 BRT will improve travel choices in the Gosport Peninsula and wider network area, providing a sustainable, viable alternative transport system to the private car. The scheme will help remove barriers to travel by providing more reliable journey times. It will be high specification and will help improve the quality of place and life in the area. Provision of an alternative form of transport is planning proactively for the future.

## 3. **Other Options Considered and Rejected**

- 3.1 The option of not developing a work strategy for BRT was considered and rejected. Due to recent changes in the economic climate and associated public and private sector funding shortages it is appropriate and timely to fully re-evaluate the approach to delivering the wider BRT scheme both in light of the changed economic circumstances and in order to seek to take advantage of all forthcoming, available, potential funding opportunities as and when they might arise. This report prioritises each phase of BRT in terms of a range of criteria; and suggests a planned approach to securing funding and scheme delivery.
- 3.2 Not preparing an operational agreement was not an option. A voluntary partnership agreement needs to be in place to ensure that both the services provided and the individual buses using the dedicated busway meet an agreed high quality standard and also fit with the scheme objectives to deliver a high specification viable alternative to the car.

## 4. **Conflicts of Interest Declared by the Decision Maker or Other Executive Member Consulted – None.**

## 5. **Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee – None.**

6. Reason(s) for the Matter being dealt with if Urgent – None.

Approved by: ..... Date: .....

**Councillor M J Kendal - Chairman  
Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee**