



Hampshire
County Council



Agenda Item 6

Report to the Solent Local Transport Body

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Subject: Future Governance Arrangements for Strategic
Transport Partnership Working

Purpose of the Report

This report seeks approval for the intention to close the Solent Local Transport Body (LTB) Joint Committee and transfer the work programme of the LTB to a new Joint Committee named Solent Transport, at the next meeting of this Board. The new Solent Transport Joint Committee will combine the work programmes of both the Solent LTB and TfSHIoW, provide the LTB for the Solent LEP area, and bring together the key public and private delivery and funding partners in one partnership within which strategic transport planning, funding and operations for the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area will be developed.

The report summarises the reasons for this proposal and the steps required to establish the new body.

Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. **agrees the intention to close itself and transfer its work programme to a new, yet to be established body, named Solent Transport, at its next meeting; and**
2. **invites Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire and the Solent Local Enterprise**

Partnership to ratify this, through their own decision-making processes.

Introduction

1. This report proposes that the Solent Local Transport Body (LTB) Board agrees to close itself and transfer all activity to a, yet to be established, new body, to be named Solent Transport. It is intended that this change will take place at the next meeting of this Board. The new partnership will take on the activities of both the Solent LTB, and TfSHIoW, both of which will, at that time, close. This report summarises the rationale for a single strategic transport partnership and the steps that are necessary to establish the new body.

Rationale for Closure of the Solent LTB

2. In 2012 the Department for Transport (DfT) published guidance on the establishment of Local Transport Bodies (LTBs). These new bodies, covering individual or combinations of LEP areas were to be charged with prioritising transport schemes and managing a programme funded through the DfT's devolved local major transport schemes funding.
3. In February this year, LTBs had to submit an Assurance Framework for DfT approval setting out how they propose to comply with guidance. Following assessment, the Solent LTB Assurance Framework was approved by the DfT and the body was subsequently formally established with a single purpose to prioritise transport schemes for, and manage, a devolved local major transport scheme fund. The Solent LTB is separate and distinct from TfSHIoW, which has been in existence since 2007 and has a wider remit covering strategic transport planning, evidence base development, bidding, programme management, and public transport operations in partnership with the South Hampshire Bus Operators Association (SHBOA).
4. The full membership of the Solent LTB comprises Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, whereas the full membership of TfSHIoW the four Local Transport Authorities only. In both partnerships, each member organisation has a single vote.
5. The 2013 Spending Review set out plans to devolve a range of funding sources, including the local major transport schemes fund within a single, un-ring-fenced, Local Growth Fund (LGF). The LGF will be distributed via Local Enterprise Partnerships who will determine how funding is invested.

6. Whilst the wider activities of TfSHIoW and the single function of the Solent LTB are separated out, it is felt that there are good reasons for combining the two bodies to provide a single strategic transport partnership interface for the area, to synergise work programmes, and to realise efficiencies.

Steps Required to Establish Solent Transport

7. The steps required to formally close this Board and establish a new body to which all Solent LTV activity would be transferred are set out below:
 - (a) This Board agrees an intention to close itself and transfer all activities to a new, yet to be established body, to be named Solent Transport
 - (b) The intention of this Board to close itself and transfer activity to the new body is ratified by Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership through their own decision-making processes.
 - (c) At the next meeting of the Solent LTB Board, the intention to close the Solent LTB and transfer all activity to Solent Transport is formally approved and the Solent LTB will close
 - (d) A Joint Agreement for the new body is produced and a taken to the inaugural meeting of Solent Transport for adoption.
 - (e) The decision of the Solent Transport Joint Committee to adopt the Joint Agreement is ratified by Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership through their own decision-making processes.
8. TfSHIoW will mirror the above process in respect of its activities.

Conclusion

9. This report recommends that the Board approves an intention to close the Solent LTB Board at it's next meeting and that in advance of that, this intention is ratified through the decision making processes of Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership.

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.