



Hampshire  
County Council



## Agenda Item 6

### Report to the Solent Local Transport Body

**Date:** 7 June 2013

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**Subject:** Extension of Full Membership of the Solent Local Transport Body

#### Purpose of the Report

This report seeks approval from the Board for officers to discuss with all District/Borough Councils of the Solent Local Transport Body (LTB) area and Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) how District Councils wish to be represented on the Solent LTB. The report also seeks approval for a range of options to be considered.

#### Recommendations

- (a) That Local Transport Body officers engage with all District/Borough Councils of the Solent Local Transport Body area and Partnership for Urban South Hampshire to understand how district councils wish to be represented on the Solent Local Transport Body Board.
- (b) That the range of options presented in this report are considered in discussions with all District/Borough Councils of the Solent Local Transport Body area and Partnership for Urban South Hampshire.

#### Introduction

1. Agenda Item 5 provided details of the current membership arrangements of the Solent LTB. Current full membership is made up of the four Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) of the LTB area (Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City

Council, and Southampton City Council) and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

2. The Assurance Framework (Agenda Item 5) states in section 1.4 that, “*LTB Membership arrangements will be kept under review.*” Indeed it is a requirement of the guidance on establishing LTBs that membership must be kept under review. This is also provided for in clauses 8.4 and 17 of the Agreement Relating to the Solent LTB (Appendix 1 of Agenda Item 5).
3. The four LTAs of the LTB agreed at the Transport for South Hampshire and Isle of Wight (TfSHIoW) Joint Committee in February 2013 that “*The LTB will engage with district and borough Councils of the LTB area with regard to their level of involvement in LTB matters.*” It was also acknowledged at that meeting that this process would take place within six months. Following on from this there has been a request to review the level of borough/district representation on the Solent LTB Board.

### **Present Arrangements**

4. As noted in Agenda Item 5, other than LTAs and LEPS, there is no requirement for other groups to be represented on LTBs. However, transport, the economy and land-use planning are inextricably linked with decisions and investment in one area having implications for the others. Therefore, those in a key influencing position in these areas should be engaged in the decision-making process of this LTB.
5. Three of the LTAs on the LTB Board are unitary councils and are therefore the Local Planning Authorities (LPA) for their respective areas. Whilst Hampshire County Council is the LTA for the Hampshire part of the of Solent LTB, it is not the LPA (other than for minerals and waste). Instead, the LPA function is provided by eight Borough/District Councils. Of these four (Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, and Havant Borough Council) are fully contained within the Solent LTB area and four (East Hampshire District Council, New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council, and Winchester City Council) are partly within the Solent LTB area.
6. All District/Borough Councils of the Solent LTB area and PUSH have been invited to become Associate Members of the LTB, which provides them each with an opportunity to influence investment decisions of the Board.

### **Reviewing Representation on the LTB of Borough/District Councils**

7. As noted in paragraph three, above, there is commitment to “*engage with district and borough Councils of the LTB area with regard to their*

*level of involvement in LTB matters”* and this reports seeks the formal approval of the LTB Board to take this work forward.

8. PUSH is a body that brings together many of the local authorities (upper tier, lower tier and unitary) of the Solent LTB area. However, the boundary and membership of PUSH is not consistent with the LTB, with the Isle of Wight and New Forest district not forming part of PUSH. Engagement with the Borough/District Councils on their level of membership of the LTB has previously taken place, initiated by the County Council. Some districts responded individually on the issue, while PUSH as a group supported the proposal for a single district voting representative. However, as PUSH is not precisely coterminous with all boroughs/boroughs in the LTB area there is a need for a wider engagement, which will include PUSH, before making a formal recommendation.

### **Options for Discussion with the Borough/District Councils of the LTB Area**

9. This section proposes options on the level of membership for discussion with the Borough/District Councils of the LTB Area and PUSH.

#### **Option A – Retain Existing Arrangement**

10. This option would see no change to the present arrangement. PUSH would continue to be an Associate Member, as would each of the Borough/District Councils in their own right. Boroughs/Districts would continue to have the opportunity to influence LTB decisions and promote particular transport schemes through the LTA.

#### **Option B – Collective representation through a single body**

11. Within this option, boroughs/districts would collectively have a single voting representative who would be designated to act on behalf of all. PUSH may be well placed to provide this representative, although, as noted above, New Forest District Council is not a member of PUSH, and a single representative would need to be able to represent all districts.

#### **Option C – Collective representation through two sub-area representatives**

12. This option would see two new full (voting) members join the LTB, one drawn from the boroughs/districts of the east and one from the boroughs/districts of the west. This option may better reflect the geography of the boroughs/districts in the Solent LTB area.

### **Option Considered and Rejected**

13. A fourth option of a vote for each borough/district has been considered and rejected, as in this option they would outnumber those who have been identified by the Department for Transport (DfT) as required members of LTBs, unless the voting weight of the required members was substantially changed.

### **Conclusion**

14. This report seeks approval from the LTB to take forward the previously agreed (TfSHIoW) commitment to commence discussions with the borough/district councils and PUSH on the level of involvement district councils would wish to have on the Solent LTB. It is intended that a report on the outcome of these discussions will be presented to the next meeting of the LTB on 24 July (if diaries permit). If it is resolved by the LTB at its next meeting that full (voting) membership of the LTB is extended, this may have implications for the voting at that meeting, when the prioritised list of transport schemes for submission to DfT will be finalised.

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.