



Agenda Item 6

Report to the Solent Local Transport Body

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Report by: Stuart Baker

tel: 01962 846741

email: stuart.baker@hants.gov.uk

Subject: Revisions to the Solent Local Transport Body Assurance Framework

Purpose of the Report

This report recommends for adoption by the board a revised Assurance Framework, which reflects a change in full membership, as well as comments received back from the Department for Transport on the initial draft submission.

Recommendations

- (a) That the Local Transport Body adopts the Assurance Framework (attached in Appendix A) and approves it for publication.
- (b) That the Local Transport Body invites its full members to ratify this adoption, through their own decision-making processes.
- (c) That the Local Transport Body delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to the Local Transport Body and the Local Transport Body Project Manager to finalise Part 3 of the Assurance Framework in discussion with the Department of Transport.

Introduction

1. This report proposes for adoption and publication a revised Assurance Framework for the Solent Local Transport Body (LTB), formalising its governance and prioritisation arrangements. The revised Assurance Framework follows an assessment of the original draft submission by the Department for Transport (DfT) and is reflective of an extension to the full (voting) membership of the LTB.
2. It is a requirement imposed by the DfT that LTBs have in place an approved Assurance Framework to enable devolved decision-making responsibilities for local major transport schemes.

Feedback from the Department for Transport

3. Whilst an initial draft of our Assurance Framework was submitted to the DfT in February, a formal response was only received at the end of June. However, that lengthy period did provide time to respond to some initial comments from DfT and improve our submission over subsequent iterations.
4. In their formal response, the DfT confirmed that Part 1 (Governance arrangements) and Part 2 (Prioritisation) of our Assurance Framework are approved and signed-off. Approval of the latter means that the Solent LTB may proceed with a decision to agree a prioritised scheme programme (Agenda Item 9).
5. Part 3 (Programme Management and Investment Decisions) is not yet approved. DfT advise that they will "*liaise further with [the Solent LTB] over the coming weeks and months.*" This is not a surprise and was expected as it is understood that the vast majority of (if not all) LTBs have not had Part 3 approved. That said, the DfT is content with our proposals within Part 3 for value for money and economic appraisal. DfT has provided some minor advisory comments on this section, which I would expect to be covered-off in discussion with DfT shortly.
6. The DfT has requested that we now provide them with a copy of the final signed-off version (i.e. Parts 1 and 2), and this is attached as Appendix A, and recommended for your approval and adoption by the Board.
7. It is requested that authority is delegated to the Monitoring Officer and the LTB Manager to finalise Part 3 of the Assurance Framework, in discussion with the DfT.

Other Changes

8. It was agreed under agenda Item 6 at the inaugural Solent LTB meeting that Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) would become a full member of the Board, with one vote. The attached Assurance Framework provides for this extension in membership. As a full member, PUSH will be required to contribute £10,000 per annum to the running costs of the LTB.
9. In accordance with guidance to LTBs, the Solent LTB invited a number of organisations to become Associate Members. Responses accepting this invitation have been received from the majority of invitees, and this is reflected in section 1.3 of the Assurance Framework and Appendix 6 of the Joint Agreement (which itself is Appendix 1 of the Assurance Framework).

Conclusion

10. This report proposes for adoption and publication a revised Assurance Framework that brings it up to date following feedback from the DfT and changes to membership. It is a requirement imposed by the DfT for an approved Assurance Framework to be adopted by the LTB and published.

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.