

Report to the Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee

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Subject: Governance Agreement: Variation to allow for the inclusion of the Isle of Wight Council as a full member of Transport for South Hampshire.

Purpose of the Report

To update the Governance agreement establishing Transport for South Hampshire (TfSH) to allow for the inclusion of the Isle of Wight Council, along with Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council.

Recommendations

- (a) That the Joint Committee formally accepts the Isle of Wight Council's request to become a full member of the Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee.**
- (b) That Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council be invited to ratify this, through their own decision-making processes.**
- (c) To approve in principle the revised Joint Agreement attached in Appendix 1, and delegate to the Monitoring Officer to Transport for South Hampshire authority to finalise the revised joint agreement so that it can be approved by all four member authorities.**

Introduction

1. The TfSH Agreement was approved in June 2008, by the (at that time) three constituent highway authorities of Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council. The TfSH Agreement formalises the governance arrangements for TfSH and records the intentions of these three authorities to work together.

2. At the May 2012 TfSH Joint Committee the Isle of Wight Council (IoWC) formally confirmed their desire to join TfSH as a full member. This was accepted by the Joint Committee and the Monitoring Officer was tasked with updating the TfSH Agreement.
3. The IoWC were part of Solent Transport, which was the precursor to TfSH. However, when TfSH was established in 2007, IoWC decided against joining TfSH at that time. TfSH has maintained an open invitation to IoWC joining.

Rationale for Expansion of the TfSH Partnership

4. Since taking office two years ago, the coalition Government has set out its agenda on public sector funding, local governance and transport policy through a series of statements, policy documents and funding decisions. Of particular significance has been the Local Growth White Paper (2010), which set out the Government's intention to introduce a number of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). In South Hampshire the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership has been established and includes amongst its board membership representatives of the four Local Highway Authorities of Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, and Portsmouth and Southampton City Council's.
5. More recently, the DfT consultation on devolving local major transport schemes seeks to establish Local Transport Bodies who will be responsible for the local prioritisation of devolved major scheme funding. TfSH is in an ideal position to provide the Local Transport Body covering the Solent LEP area as it has the necessary governance, accountability and stakeholder relationships in place and provides the strategic transport partnership for South Hampshire.
6. The Isle of Wight has a strategic transport relationship with the current TfSH area through the impact on mainland transport networks (and gateways) associated with significant and often irregular levels of travel between the Island and mainland employment, health, education and leisure facilities; as well as essential commercial travel needed to service the Island. Including the Isle of Wight Council in TfSH would enable the benefits associated with better integration of transport services and information to be available for a wider range of journeys, opening up opportunities to better manage the impacts of Island journeys, both on the mainland and the Isle of Wight.

Changes to The Transport for South Hampshire Agreement

7. The joint agreement, setting up TfSH and the Joint Committee, provides that that agreement may be at any time varied or amended by a deed executed by all the parties (i.e. Hampshire County Council,

Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council). Therefore, adding the Isle of Wight Council to TfSH will be a variation to the joint agreement and as a result of that, all three constituent authorities will need to pass resolutions of their Executives agreeing to this.

8. The Joint Committee is, therefore, requested to recommend to the constituent authorities that the Isle of Wight Council should become a member of the Joint Committee and that the joint agreement should be amended. This report (or a report in very similar terms) will be considered by Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council and, subject then to the Isle of Wight Council also formally resolving to join TfSH and paying a contribution of £20,000 for the 2012-13 year. The Monitoring Officer to TfSH will amend the joint agreement and thereby give effect to the resolutions of the three constituent authorities.
9. It is also, therefore, recommended that the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority, subject to the recommendations in this report being carried, and that the Executives of Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton respectively also endorse the recommendations of the Joint Committee, to amend the joint agreement so as to enable the Isle of Wight to become a full member and also a member of the Joint Committee. It is also recommended that the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to amend the joint agreement to refresh it.
10. This report has set out the background to the recent request from the Isle of Wight Council to become a full member of TfSH. The TfSH Agreement has been updated by the Monitoring Officer and is provided as Appendix 1. Changes include:
 - (i) an updated map showing the boundary of TfSH;
 - (ii) an update to the Vision and Objectives, to provide consistency with the TfSH Business Plan;
 - (iii) revisions to clauses 16 (Liability of the Parties) and 18 (Variations).
11. The TfSH Business Plan (2011-13) will be updated to reflect the expansion of the Partnership (Agenda Item 8).

Conclusion

12. In consideration of the proposed changes to major scheme funding and the need to establish a Local Transport Body consistent with the geography of the Solent LEP, the Isle of Wight Council has formally confirmed its desire to join TfSH as a full member. The TfSH Agreement has been revised accordingly, and is provided in Appendix 1.

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.