

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

Date: 21 June 2010

Report by: Pete Brunskill

tel: 01962 846787 **email:** pete.brunskill@hants.gov.uk

Subject: Multi Area Agreement, South Hampshire Bus Operators Association and Network Rail

Purpose of the Report

The Joint Committee has previously considered reports on The South Hampshire Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) which was refreshed and submitted to Government by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) in March 2010.

This report seeks Joint Committee approval for two new formal agreements to be signed with key partners in the rail industry and local bus operators.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Joint Committee approves the Rail Communications Protocol attached as Appendix 1.**
- 2. That the Joint Committee approves the South Hampshire Bus Partnership Agreement attached as Appendix 2.**

Introduction

1. At the last Joint Committee meeting on the 22 January 2010, approval was given to finalise the new transport chapter of the refreshed MAA and the Project Director was delegated to undertake work on key outcomes arising from this.
2. Three key outcomes form actions in the new transport chapter, focussing on delivering substantial improvements to and increases in patronage for public transport. These involve formalising the existing, good working relationships with Network Rail (NR), South West Trains (SWT) and the South Hampshire Bus Operators Association (SHBOA) and progressing Smartcards (a report on the latter will be put before the Joint Committee at their meeting scheduled to be held in September 2010).

3. The original intention was that both the Rail Communications Protocol and South Hampshire Bus Partnership Agreement would be co-signed by the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Government Office for the South East (GOSE). However, following the formation of a National Coalition Government in May, the future direction of policy and availability of funding streams is yet to be clarified. In this situation, neither DfT nor GOSE is able to commit to signing at this time.

The Rail Communications Protocol

4. A Rail Communications Protocol has been drafted with substantial involvement from relevant staff at NR and SWT. This establishes a formal framework within which the parties will operate and develop their approaches to the rail network throughout South Hampshire.
5. The Rail Communications Protocol set outs methods of working, including information sharing, data exchange and enhanced communication and proposes a series of regular meetings to assist with this. It also sets out (from a TfSH perspective) four key priorities for joint working in the short to medium term, consistent with the challenges and issues identified in the 'Rail Vision for South Hampshire' prepared by TfSH in July 2009.

The South Hampshire Bus Partnership Agreement

6. Extensive discussion has taken place with SHBOA members on how best to drive forward a step change in the perception and use of the bus as a key mode of travel that will help deliver the sub-regional growth agenda.
7. SHBOA constituent operators are enthusiastic about proactively working with TfSH, the three Highway Authorities it represents and the District and Borough Councils to deliver an improved service for passengers. The agreement sets out clear responsibilities of the different parties to deliver change.

Conclusion

8. The Joint Committee is invited to approve the Rail Communications Protocol and South Hampshire Bus Partnership Agreement for formal signing by senior representatives from Network Rail, South West Trains and the South Hampshire Bus Operators Association.

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

South Hampshire Multi Area
Agreement

TfSH File 115, Southside Offices