

**Report to the
Transport for South Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Joint Committee**

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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 Transport for South Hampshire and Isle of Wight (TfSHIoW) Joint Committee and transfer the work programme of TfSHIoW to a new Joint Committee named Solent Transport, at the next meeting of this Joint Committee. The new Solent Transport Joint Committee will combine the work programmes of both TfSHIoW and the Solent LTB, provide the Local Transport Body 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

- (a) That the TfSHIoW Joint Committee agrees the intention to close itself and transfer its work programme to a new, yet to be established body, named Solent Transport, at the next meeting of this Joint Committee.**
- (b) That Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, and Southampton City Council, be invited to ratify this, through their own decision-making processes.**

Introduction

1. This report proposes that the Transport for South Hampshire and Isle of Wight Joint Committee 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 Joint Committee. The new partnership will take on the activities of both TfSHIoW and the Solent Local Transport Body (LTB), 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 TfSHIoW

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 TfSHIoW comprises Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, whereas the full membership of the LTB comprises the aforementioned and also the Solent LEP and Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH). 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 Joint Committee and establish a new body to which all TfSHIoW activity would be transferred are set out below:
 - a) This Joint Committee 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 Joint Committee to close itself and transfer activity to the new body is ratified by Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council through their own decision-making processes.
 - c) At the next meeting of the TfSHIoW Joint Committee, the intention to close the TfSHIoW Joint Committee and transfer all activity to Solent Transport is formally approved and the TfSHIoW Joint Committee 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 and Southampton City Council through their own decision-making processes.
8. The Solent LTB will mirror the above process in respect of its activities.

Conclusion

9. This report recommends that the Joint Committee approves an intention to close the TfSHIoW Joint Committee 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 and Southampton City Council.

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