

Transport for Lancashire Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 1st December, 2014 at 10.00 am at the Former County Mess - The John of Gaunt Room, County Hall, Preston

Present

County Councillor Jennifer Mein (Chair)

Councillor Maureen Bateson
Edwin Booth

Councillor John Jones
Owen McLaughlin

Observers

Tom Carbery
Graham Cowley

Bruce Parker
Richard Perry

In Attendance

Brian Bailey
Phil Barrett
Alan Cavill
Dave Colbert

Martin Kelly
Andy Milroy
Tony Moreton

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair, County Councillor Jennifer Mein, welcomed all to the meeting.
Apologies for absence were noted from Steve Browne.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2014

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th September 2014 be approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. Lancashire Growth Deal Update

Martin Kelly, Director of Economic Development, Lancashire County Council gave a verbal update on the Lancashire Growth Deal. Martin reported that there is a prospect of more resources, but this will not be known until after the Autumn Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the meantime, work is continuing to develop Growth Deal 2 bids, and further bids will be presented to the next Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board meeting with a suggestion that the Board holds a special meeting in January 2015 to review and rank all prospective bids.

Resolved: That the Transport for Lancashire Committee noted the progress made regarding the Lancashire Growth Deal.

6. Transport Investment Programme Update

Dave Colbert, Specialist Advisor Transport Planning, Lancashire County Council presented a report (circulated) which updated the Committee on progress with Transport for Lancashire's approved local major transport scheme investment programme and other transport commitments within the Lancashire Growth Deal.

Dave highlighted that the most advance scheme is the Clitheroe to Manchester Rail Corridor Capacity Enhancements scheme which is likely to come to the Transport for Lancashire Committee for consideration in January 2015 and move towards conditional approval by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership in February 2015. It was reported that the information presented will be updated continually and will be presented to the Committee for monitoring at each meeting.

Resolved: The Transport for Lancashire Committee noted the report and the current position of each scheme.

7. Procurement and Independent Business Case Advice

Dave Colbert presented a report (circulated) which updated the Committee on the procurement of independent business case advice for those transport schemes receiving funding from Lancashire's Growth Deal and where Lancashire County Council is the scheme sponsor.

The Committee was reminded that at its last meeting, TfL received a report which recommended the allocation of £500k of the LEP's core funding resources to undertake independent business case scrutiny for Growth Deal transport schemes, the LEP Board approved this allocation at its meeting held on 9th September 2014.

County Council officer have identified the most appropriate option to procure such services, and have identified a Department for Transport (DfT) Framework specifically for the provision of transport related technical / engineering advice, research and consultancy which contains a number of reputable firms. This could

involve splitting the work and holding several mini competitions to procure services.

The Committee sought clarification on the allocation of the £500k resources and if this was allocated to just to County Council schemes, it was confirmed that the £500k was for all schemes.

Finally, it was reported that County Council officers are currently preparing the brief for the required services, this will be submitted to the DfT in December and, subject to the view of the Framework Board, it is anticipated that the independent consultancy support will be in place by January 2015.

Resolved: The Transport for Lancashire Committee noted the report and endorsed the suggested procurement process as set out.

8. 'The Connected North': A Lancashire perspective

Dave Colbert presented a report (circulated) which highlighted a Lancashire perspective on the 'Connected North' agenda.

The report set out potential implications for Lancashire of the 'Connected North' agenda, and proposed a way forward to enable Lancashire to align its own strategic transport priorities alongside those emerging from the High Speed 2 (HS2) reports to Government prepared by Sir David Higgins and the five regions in the North (Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Tyne & Wear) that have set out 'One North' proposals for a pan-Northern multi-modal investment programme.

The main objectives of 'Connected North' are to accelerate the process of connecting the North to HS2, emphasising the need for HS2 to not only extend to Crewe, but beyond Crewe to Wigan. In addition, new rail connections across the Pennines linking Manchester and Sheffield are being explored.

A number of emerging strategic transport priorities across Lancashire were presented to the Committee as set out in Appendix 'A' to the report.

It was suggested that officers from the three local transport authorities in Lancashire produce a Strategic Transport Prospectus for Lancashire in a similar vein to that prepared by One North and based on the strategic transport priorities set out at Appendix 'A' to the report, to promote the strategic transport priorities of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.

Resolved: The Committee approved that:

- (i) The contents of the report be noted.

- (ii) Officers be requested from the three local transport authorities (Lancashire County Council, Blackburn Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council) to produce a Strategic Transport Prospectus for Lancashire; and

- (iii) A draft of the Strategic Transport Prospectus for Lancashire be prepared and presented to the next TfL Committee meeting to be held on 29th January 2015 for recommendation to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board on 10th February 2015.

9. Public Transport: Issues and Opportunities

Phil Barrett, Director Lancashire Highway Services and Tony Moreton, Assistant Director Sustainable Transport (both Lancashire County Council) presented a report (circulated) regarding Public Transport Issues and Opportunities.

It was highlighted to the Committee the benefits that a well-developed public transport network can bring, but also highlighted a number of challenges facing local authorities. It was reported that 80% of Public Transport provision is market driven. A detailed breakdown of how public transport is provided currently was presented to the Committee, including a number of subsidised services.

In discussing the issues raised in the report regarding the sustainability of local authorities providing support to subsidise services, the Committee requested that further work be undertaken by officers to produce a report to outline how improvements can be made, linked to the new Strategic Transport Prospectus.

Resolved: The Committee resolved that:

- (i) The report, as presented, be noted; and
- (ii) Officers be requested to produce a report to outline how improvements can be made regarding Public Transport Issues and Opportunities, linked to the new Strategic Transport Prospectus.

10. Any Other Business

None

11. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on 29th January 2015, 2pm, at County Hall, Preston.