

## Strategic Transport Forum

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016

At

Transport Systems Catapult, Milton Keynes

Present:	Cllr Heather Smith	Northamptonshire County Council (Chairman)
	Cllr Rodney Rose	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr Paul Irwin	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Mayor Dave Hodgson	Bedford Borough Council
	Cllr Tony Brown	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Paul Castleman	Luton Borough Council
	Tom Blackburn-Maze	Milton Keynes Council
	Lewis Banks	Peterborough City Council
	Richard Harrington	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership
	Hilary Chipping	South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership
	Tricia Hayes	Department for Transport
	Erica Blamire	Network Rail
	Simon Amor	Highways England
	Nick Jones	Transport Systems Catapult
	Adam Tuke	Civil Engineering Contractors Association
	Gary Nolan	Stagecoach UK
	Phil Southall	Oxford Bus Company
	Maq Alibhai	Arriva – the Shires
	Tony Ciaburro	Executive Director, Northamptonshire County Council
	Martin Tugwell	Programme Director, Strategic Alliance

Minutes

		ACTION																
<b>1</b>	<p><b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b></p> <p>Heather Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p><b>APOLOGIES:</b> received in advance were noted:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Cllr Mark Shaw</td> <td>Buckinghamshire County Council (Cllr Paul Irwin substituting)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Liz Gifford</td> <td>Milton Keynes Council (Tom Blackburn-Maze substituting)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr James Jamieson</td> <td>Central Bedfordshire Council (Cllr Tony Brown substituting)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Ian Bates</td> <td>Cambridgeshire County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Steve Bowles</td> <td>Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ann Limb</td> <td>South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (Hilary Chipping substituting)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeremy Long</td> <td>Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Markham</td> <td>Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership</td> </tr> </table>	Cllr Mark Shaw	Buckinghamshire County Council (Cllr Paul Irwin substituting)	Cllr Liz Gifford	Milton Keynes Council (Tom Blackburn-Maze substituting)	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council (Cllr Tony Brown substituting)	Cllr Ian Bates	Cambridgeshire County Council	Cllr Steve Bowles	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership	Ann Limb	South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (Hilary Chipping substituting)	Jeremy Long	Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership	John Markham	Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership	
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<b>2</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>INNOVATION IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b></p> <p><b>a) Total Transport: Northamptonshire County Council</b></p> <p>John Sykes and Liam Fassam provided an overview of the Total Transport initiative being led by Northamptonshire County Council and which Buckinghamshire County Council is also participating in – this is one of a number of pilot projects across the country funded by the Department for Transport (copy of presentation available). John explained how the work was laying the foundations for establishing a ‘mobility as a service’ approach and the opportunities for seeking from a variety of sources to support the development of the initiative.</p> <p>Points raised in the ensuing discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Irwin reinforced the importance of the work being taken forward as a means of refocusing services on meeting the needs of customers</li> <li>• Paul Castleman highlighted the importance of ensuring resilience within the service delivery model: John Sykes noted that a number of SMEs were involved in the pilot project offering the opportunity to manage risk: he also highlighted the fact that the approach being developed cloud based</li> <li>• Dave Hodgson expressed the importance of achieving a smart ticketing approach across all modes of transport: Phil Southall updated the meeting on initiatives that were being taken forward by the local operators: John Sykes touched on how the pilot project was working with operators/providers to develop such approaches</li> <li>• Rodney Rose highlighted work underway within Oxfordshire with the health sector, and in particular with non-emergency transfer services: he identified the potential benefit of working at scale as a means of providing operators with the scale of operations that might encourage them to remain active in the market: he also emphasised the importance of focusing on seeing the transport service as a means of providing health outcomes (as opposed to simply providing transport outcomes)</li> <li>• Lewis Banks sought further information on timescales associated with the pilot project: John Sykes advised that the intention was to establish a social enterprise company by April 2017, one involving the County Council, the NHS and University of Northampton</li> <li>• Phil Southall suggested the Forum need to focus on identifying the strategic outcomes required as opposed to necessarily focusing on the means of delivering them.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) One Transport</b></p> <p>Martin Tugwell advised that David Aimson had been taken ill and was unable to provide a briefing on this project: a briefing note would be circulated post-</p>	

	<p>meeting.</p> <p><b>c) Bus Services Bill – An Opportunity</b></p> <p>Martin Tugwell introduced the paper circulated with the agenda for the meeting. This set out the opportunities created by the Bill currently going through Parliament (with Royal Assent anticipated early in 2018). The paper highlighted how the Strategic Transport Forum might build upon the partnership working already taking place across the Heartland area (of which the two projects on the agenda represented a couple of examples).</p> <p>Points raised in the ensuing discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phil Southall reflected on the importance of enabling local operators to have the flexibility to respond to local market needs: the role of the Forum should be to provide the strategic overview/context within which local services can be managed. Phil also touched on the importance of recognising that inter-urban services are also providing local services in some instances. He emphasised the importance of the Forum being clear on identifying the outcome being sought – he cited the need to tackle congestion as an example of the strategic issue that needed to be addressed</li> <li>• Martin Tugwell highlighted the potential benefit of pursuing an ‘enhanced partnership’: an approach that the Forum was supportive of in principle</li> <li>• Patricia Hayes noted that the Bill would be subject of more detailed scrutiny into the autumn, as well as endorsing the importance of the Forum having a clear view on the strategic outcomes being sought.</li> </ul> <p><b>The meeting agreed to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Use the initiatives underway across the Heartland area to develop, in collaboration with public transport operators, a comprehensive approach to realising the potential of bus based services</b></li> <li>b) <b>Adopt the principles of an Enhanced Partnership as the means of embedding collaborative working</b></li> <li>c) <b>Support the need for the proposal for a statutory Sub-national Transport Body to reflect the Enhanced Partnership approach</b></li> </ol>	<p>Martin Tugwell</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Martin Tugwell</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>TRANSPORT STRATEGY – OVERARCHING STRATEGY</b></p> <p>Tony Ciaburro provided the context for this work stream after which Martin Tugwell and Hilary Chipping provided the Forum with a briefing (copy of presentation available) on the work of the Task and Finish Group established to help develop an initial overarching Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Points raised in the ensuing discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the Forum welcomed the direction of travel set out in the briefing: they endorsed the overarching vision and key principles set out in the covering paper and upon which the briefing was based</li> <li>• Members of the Forum also welcomed the emerging strategic priorities</li> </ul>	

	<p>set out in the briefing, in particular the themes around strategic rail and road priorities – themes that will form the basis for developing the Strategic Alliance’s input into the next round of investment strategies prepared by Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martin Tugwell emphasised the importance of setting strategic priorities within a funding envelope: a reason for seeking indicative funding from the Government</li> <li>• Paul Irwin supported the need to make the case for investment in strategic infrastructure in order to accommodate the impact of planned levels of growth.</li> <li>• Dave Hodgson emphasised the importance of having a programme of infrastructure investment that is delivered in a timely manner to support planned levels of growth.</li> <li>• Patricia Hayes offered her reflection that this represented a good piece of work. She acknowledged the importance of having a programme that set out the sequencing of infrastructure investment identified as being of importance – she suggested this might benefit from being shown on a map.</li> <li>• Patricia went on to offer a few additional observations: the position statements would be a helpful input into processes that would start later in the year: the approach to buses needs to be developed further; the input of the Strategic Alliance would be helpful to the National infrastructure Commission as it undertakes its work.</li> <li>• Tony Ciaburro highlighted the proposal to develop a co-ordinated approach to looking at the issue of transport safety (treating the transport as a single system as opposed to a series of individual networks)</li> </ul> <p><b>The meeting agreed to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Adopts the vision and the key principles for the Transport Strategy as set out in this paper, supported by the overview set out in the accompanying presentation.</b></li> <li>b) <b>Agrees that this forms the basis for completing the work on the overarching Transport Strategy document with appropriate resources.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Note</p> <p>Hilary Chipping</p>
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<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>LOCAL AUTHORITY LARGE MAJOR SCHEMES</b></p> <p>Further to the discussion at the previous meeting Martin Tugwell gave the Forum a briefing on the schemes being put forward to the Department for Transport in response to the opportunity to submit proposals for funding as large major schemes (copy of presentation available).</p> <p>Martin Tugwell highlighted that the level of investment sought – totalling some £650m – exceeded the amount allocated to the fund by a factor of two. He advised the Forum that the proposals were all consistent with the emerging overarching Transport Strategy. He went on to comment that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scale of the proposals was a reflection of the extent to which infrastructure investment was required in order to support the ambition to realise the full economic potential of the Heartland area</li> <li>• The number of proposals put forward reflected the lack of opportunities that previously existed to secure funding for 'large major schemes': in that regard the process had confirmed the need to take a long term perspective in identifying and then funding investment in large major schemes</li> <li>• The list of proposals would be built upon as work on developing the overarching Transport Strategy progressed.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting agreed that it would be appropriate to include the following note to the proposals being put forward for funding:</p> <p><i>The Strategic Transport Forum of England's Economic Heartland at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July discussed the proposals for Local Authority Large Major Schemes being put forward by Local Enterprise Partnerships.</i></p> <p><i>The Forum concluded that all of the proposals were consistent with the emerging overarching Transport Strategy for the Heartland area. In particular that the proposals were consistent with the overarching principles for the Strategy, namely the need for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Improved physical connectivity between larger urban centres, and in particular the need for improved east-west connectivity</i></li> <li>• <i>Improved access into and within larger urban centres that is consistent with the place shaping agenda</i></li> <li>• <i>A transport system that supports economic initiatives and potential in adjoining areas, including the need to improve access to Enterprise Zones</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Whilst work on the Transport Strategy for the Heartland area is on-going, the Strategic Transport Forum agreed that all of the schemes put forward would reasonably be expected to be identified as priorities for England's Economic Heartland.</i></p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>DELIVERY PARTNERS UPDATE</b></p> <p>Tony Ciaburro provided a verbal update on the discussions with the current delivery partners: a follow-up meeting with the partners had been scheduled for early in August.</p>	

<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>SUB-NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY</b></p> <p>Martin Tugwell referred to the short written update circulated with the agenda for the meeting.</p> <p>Patricia Hayes commented that the timetable for the STB proposal was ambitious but welcomed the initiative: she commented that the new Secretary of State had recently visited Midlands Connect.</p> <p><b>The Forum noted the update on the work to develop the proposal for a Sub-national Transport Body</b></p>	<p>Note</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>WORK PROGRAMME</b></p> <p>The Forum noted the progress with the work programme as set out in the paper circulated with the agenda.</p>	<p>Note</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Friday 20<sup>TH</sup> January</b></li> <li>• <b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b></li> <li>• <b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June (to be confirmed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September</b></li> <li>• <b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b></li> </ul>	

Also in attendance:

Mark Kemp  
Mike Freestone  
Joan Hancox  
Glenn Barcham  
Keith Dove  
Jim Tombe  
Lee Sambrook  
Ron Henry  
Matthew Lugg  
Aidan Shutter

Oxfordshire County Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Bedford Borough Council  
Luton Borough Council  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Department for Transport  
Peter Brett Associates  
Mouchel  
England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance