

## Strategic Transport Forum

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

At

Transport Systems Catapult, Milton Keynes

Present:	Cllr Heather Smith	Northamptonshire County Council (Chairman)
	Cllr Paul Irwin	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Ian Bates	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Nigel Young	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Andrew Moss	Milton Keynes Council
	Hilary Chipping	South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership
	Keith Dove	Luton Borough Council
	Jim Tombe	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Glenn Barcham	Bedford Borough Council
	John Disley	Oxfordshire County Council
	James Gleave	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Rupert Furness	Department for Transport
	Adam Tuke	Civil Engineering Contractors Association
	Simon Amor	Highways England
	Bob Menzies	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Ashley Stower	Network Rail
	Phil Southall	Oxford Bus Company
	Maq Alibhai	Arriva
	Martin Tugwell	Programme Director, Strategic Alliance
	Becca Dengler	Project Lead, Strategic Alliance

## Minutes

		ACTION																				
1.	<p><b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b></p> <p>Chairman, Heather Smith, welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> received in advance were noted:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Cllr Paul Castleman</td> <td>Luton Borough Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Liz Gifford</td> <td>Milton Keynes Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mayor Dave Hodgson</td> <td>Bedford Borough Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mark Kemp</td> <td>Buckinghamshire County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andy Tatt</td> <td>Peterborough City Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graham Botham</td> <td>Network Rail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ann Limb</td> <td>South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bev Hindle</td> <td>Oxfordshire County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duncan Sharkey</td> <td>Milton Keynes Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nick Jones</td> <td>Transport Systems Catapult</td> </tr> </table>	Cllr Paul Castleman	Luton Borough Council	Cllr Liz Gifford	Milton Keynes Council	Mayor Dave Hodgson	Bedford Borough Council	Mark Kemp	Buckinghamshire County Council	Andy Tatt	Peterborough City Council	Graham Botham	Network Rail	Ann Limb	South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership	Bev Hindle	Oxfordshire County Council	Duncan Sharkey	Milton Keynes Council	Nick Jones	Transport Systems Catapult	
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	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>Cllr Heather Smith noted that the East Midlands Rail Franchise was an Agenda item for the meeting and that Stagecoach and Arriva had both successfully pre-qualified to bid for the franchise: the meeting noted that the bus operators who are members of the Forum have no direct linkage with the rail operations of the same companies.</p>	
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed: updates regarding the action points were as follows:</p> <p><b>Luton Airport</b> – Martin Tugwell confirmed that a letter of support was being prepared and would be sent within next few days (Martin to ensure that it is circulated to all).</p> <p><b>National Infrastructure Commission</b> – Martin Tugwell noted that there is ongoing regular dialogue with the NIC and they attended the EEH Regional Conference.</p> <p><b>Strategic Economic Growth Plan</b> – Martin Tugwell stated that the EEH response had been submitted to Highways England and noted a special thanks to Hilary Chipping for her efforts in coordinating the response.</p> <p><b>Work programme, Rail Franchise and Sub-national Transport Body</b> – updates provided later in the meeting agenda.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Agreed</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M Tugwell</b></p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR 2017/18</b></p> <p>Cllr Heather Smith noted that the first Regional Conference held at Silverstone on 9<sup>th</sup> March was an excellent day, with 200 attendees. She highlighted it was positive that the Government Minister attended and had used the event to announce EEH funding: Heather expressed her thanks to the DfT for all of their support. Cllr Paul Irwin and Adam Tuke seconded this.</p> <p>Martin Tugwell advised that a report containing all of the outputs from the workshop sessions was being prepared. This would be circulated to all attendees as well as being made more widely available. Martin confirmed that this report will be discussed with the Officer Group (Becca Dengler to add this as an agenda item for the next Officer Group meeting).</p> <p><b>Work Programme</b></p> <p>Martin Tugwell gave the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are regular discussions with the DfT: the DfT funding contribution means that EEH work programme can be taken forward with confidence.</li> <li>• Regular liaison meetings are also taking place with Highways England and Network Rail.</li> <li>• The Transport Systems Catapult are keen to work with the Alliance to see how information around strategic 'scenario modelling' can be presented to make it more visual (in terms of potential transport measures, impacts and how this might look).</li> <li>• Work on developing the Major Road Network will be taken forward as part</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>B Dengler</b></p>

	<p>of the transport strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A small working group will be established to drive forward the transport strategy; this will need to include representatives from the Local Planning Authorities.</li> </ul> <p>Rupert Furness highlighted the positive news that DfT funding has been allocated to the Alliance, which will enable the work to shift up a gear. He noted that the DfT is very interested in the work programme and is keen to see EEH playing a key role in shaping transport infrastructure as a means of unlocking housing and economic growth. He emphasised that he looks forward to working closely with the Alliance going forward.</p> <p>Cllr Heather Smith noted that the DfT funding allocation match funding: with Alliance partners collectively making a significant contribution.</p> <p>Bob Menzies advised that following the Cambridgeshire/Peterborough devolution deal; there will be a Mayor elected this May: the Forum will need to engage with the Mayor once appointed.</p> <p><b>The meeting AGREED the work programme for 2017/18</b></p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>EAST MIDLANDS FRANCHISE</b></p> <p>Becca Dengler provided an overview of the paper and noted that a working group of officers has been established to ensure that the EEH's strategic requirements are fed to the DfT ahead of issuing the Invitation to Tender.</p> <p>She noted that the first working group meeting had taken place earlier that morning. A brief summary of the key discussion points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All agreed with the principles previously agreed by the Forum, however amended one principle to the following: 'Improved connectivity to London and the East Midlands/South Yorkshire, particularly from Bedford and Luton'.</li> <li>• There was a general agreement that the following should be considered as potential Hubs: Bedford (East West Rail connections); Luton centre (links to Milton Keynes); and Luton airport. However further investigatory work is needed for all stations in order to understand onward connectivity, links to proposed growth, economic/growth potential etc. so that they can all be assessed in terms of suitability.</li> <li>• It was generally felt that whatever connectivity (or network) serves the EEH, the key is that there are frequent services of around 2 (or so) per hour, particularly connecting south to London and north to the East Midlands/ South Yorkshire.</li> <li>• All felt that consideration should be given to freight and the impacts this might have on passenger services (in relation to all franchises).</li> <li>• All attendees were keen to have a wider discussion around strategic rail planning (not just focussing on individual franchises).</li> </ul> <p>Martin Tugwell noted that the East Midlands Councils have offered to work with the EEH in order to ensure that there is regional input into the franchise, which is really positive. Becca Dengler is collating information from Alliance partners to feed into this work.</p> <p>Glenn Barcham asked whether DfT would be holding a formal consultation for</p>	



	<p>development.</p> <p>Simon Amor noted that they are aware of the pressures (particularly around Sandy), but could not currently confirm routes. Simon emphasised that the consultation was the perfect opportunity to influence the final decision.</p> <p>Cllr Ian Bates noted that a joint response is essential (and welcomed), and that Cambridgeshire also have the same views on the Black Cat roundabout and need for improvement. He stated that Caxton Gibbet congestion is a concern and would want to see significant improvements as the A428 corridor is essential to development of Cambridge (i.e. public transport improvements are planned as part of the City Deal (Park and Ride), and there will be 47,000 jobs through the development of the University).</p> <p>Jim Tombe highlighted that highway land needs to be protected at the interchange in order to future proof the Expressway.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire and Bedford will be submitting individual responses, but all welcomed a strategic response from the Forum. All to share their individual responses by 23<sup>rd</sup> April for EEH to coordinate a response. Glenn Barcham noted that he will share Bedford's officer meeting comments to feed into the wider response.</p> <p>Martin Tugwell noted the working relationship between Highways England and the Alliance on their Route Strategies. Simon Amor highlighted that there are workshops planned and encouraged all to attend – 12<sup>th</sup> May (London), 16<sup>th</sup> May (Peterborough). Martin confirmed that EEH would be attending both events.</p> <p>Simon noted that the <a href="#">Strategic Growth Plan</a> has also been published.</p> <p><b>The meeting AGREED:</b></p> <p>a) To note the arrangements in place to prepare a consultation response</p> <p>b) That the Chairman be authorised to agree the consultation response on behalf of England's Economic Heartland</p>	<p><b>ALL G Barcham</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY</b></p> <p>Martin Tugwell gave an overview of information published to date.</p> <p>He noted that funding has been allocated to develop the work (part of the Autumn Statement), and that as part of the Forum's work programme the DfT was looking to agree the governance arrangements with it. Martin suggested that the current East West Rail working arrangement might act as a template.</p> <p>The EWR arrangement works well - with good principles of shared responsibility for work in terms of the Local Transport Authorities, Planning Authorities and LEPs – and suggested that this would be a good format to follow for the Expressway.</p> <p>Cllr Nigel Young stated that there is a lack of E-W routes, highlighting the section from Wing - western Linslade – Brill, continuing on to the A6 (which has been discussed with Aylesbury Vale District Council).</p> <p>He highlighted that there is a lot of growth proposed (i.e. up to 4,000 houses for the Aspley Triangle); therefore it is important to know the location of the proposed Expressway routes so that the land can be protected from development.</p>	



	<p>with the intention of identifying a preferred route at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Cllr Nigel Young noted that he has concerns whether enough notice is being taken of local people (i.e. there are concerns that Ridgemont is the only Central Bedfordshire stop and that the Liddington level crossing is being closed). Central Bedfordshire have written to Rodney Rose to state their concerns, they are fully supportive of East West Rail and don't want to be in a position of needing to object to the TWAO.</p> <p>Cllr Paul Irwin noted that Charndon residents are not happy with the location of the proposed compound at Charndon. He highlighted the importance of working together to ensure that small changes can be made to resolve local issues.</p> <p>Cllr Heather Smith highlighted that it will never be possible to please everyone, therefore people need to accept that compromises will be required – the key thing is to ensure proper engagement. She emphasised that the more detail that members can provide in terms of concerns and opportunities so that there can be proper joined up thinking and a strong, coordinated influence.</p> <p>Martin Tugwell noted that the consultation for the Western Section TWAO begins on 5<sup>th</sup> May. The Forum will consider its response at the next meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>Cllr Ian Bates stated that coordination was needed between the Expressway and East West Rail to enable a collaborative approach (connectivity etc.)</p> <p><b>The meeting REAFFIRMED the expectations of local partners as set out in section 4 of the report</b></p> <p>Martin Tugwell noted that EEH had attended a roundtable chaired by the Secretary of State that had considered the future for rail.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>SUB-NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY</b></p> <p>Becca Dengler gave an overview of the work to date and the programme for the coming year. Becca noted that the next step is to commission an initial concept report which will set out the issues and options that the Strategic Transport Forum (STF) will need to consider in developing the proposal for a STB, and that a draft report will be presented to the STF on 9<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p><b>The meeting ENDORSED the approach for Stage 2 (wider stakeholder engagement)</b></p> <p>Rupert Furness drew attention to section 2.3 in the paper, noting that they will be extremely important considerations in terms of shaping the STB.</p> <p>Cllr Heather Smith noted the importance of the Alliance learning from the experience of Transport for the North/ Midlands Connect as much as possible.</p> <p>Hilary Chipping summarised initial discussions on the Transport Strategy, highlighting that an initial meeting had been held with the DfT to gain their advice on the content, approach etc. She stated that there is a lot of work to do, and requested commitment from officers within the Alliance to assist.</p> <p>Cllr Paul Irwin emphasised the importance of collating all existing information in the first place, not duplicating.</p>	

