

# Western Gateway - Sub-National Transport Body

## MINUTES

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Shadow Partnership Board	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	14:00-16:30	Kennet room, County Hall, Trowbridge

### Attendance:

Present:	<p>Cllr Bridget Wayman, Wiltshire Council (Chair)</p> <p>Cllr Neil Butters, Bath and North East Somerset Council</p> <p>Cllr Andy Hadley, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP)</p> <p>Cllr James Tonkin, North Somerset Council</p> <p>Cllr Nigel Moor, Gloucestershire County Council</p> <p>Cllr Toby Savage, South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Council</p> <p>Peter Mann, West of England Combined Authority</p> <p>Elizabeth Mills, West of England Combined Authority (minutes)</p> <p>Kelvin Packer, Bath and North East Somerset Council</p> <p>Emma Blackham, South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>Arina Salhotra, South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>Julian McLaughlin, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP)</p> <p>Colin Medus, North Somerset Council</p> <p>Parvis Khansari, Wiltshire Council</p> <p>Allan Creedy, Wiltshire Council</p> <p>Robert Murphy, Wiltshire Council</p> <p>Ben Watts, Gloucestershire County Council</p> <p>Dave Simmons, Gloucestershire County Council</p> <p>Jim Stewart, Chair of Western Gateway Transport and Business Forum, Chair of Dorset LEP.</p> <p>Cllr Geoff Brown, SW Peninsula STB</p> <p>Mike O'Dowd Jones, SW Peninsula STB</p> <p>David Glinos, DfT</p> <p>Alice Darley Highways England</p> <p>Michelle Berrington, Highways England</p> <p>David Tunley, Network Rail</p> <p>Fintan Geraghty, WSP</p>
----------	--

Summary of Actions & Decisions	Allocated to
<p><b>ACTION:</b> As requested by Cllr Wayman, BW to circulated Regional Evidence Base when completed.</p>	<p><b>Ben Watts</b> <b>25/07/2019</b></p>
<p><b>DECISION:</b> all present noted report A as per the recommendation and no further comments made.</p>	<p><b>David G. /</b> <b>Elizabeth M.</b> <b>28/06/2019</b></p>
<p><b>ACTION:</b> DG to forward a transcript of Public Accounts Committee meeting to EM to circulate to Board.</p>	<p><b>Elizabeth Mills</b> <b>28/06/2019</b></p>
<p><b>ACTION:</b> EM to circulate Network Rail presentation to Board following meeting</p>	<p><b>Elizabeth Mills</b> <b>28/06/2019</b></p>
<p><b>DECISION:</b> All present agreed for offices to pursue “production of an area wide rail strategy” and “review of multi-modal access to Airports” but the latter with the addition of “and Ports”.</p>	

<b>Summary of Actions &amp; Decisions</b>	<b>Allocated to</b>
<b>ACTION:</b> BW confirmed officers will return with a scope for chosen strategies to the next Board meeting with the caveat that this is budget dependent.	<b>Ben Watts 20/09/2019</b>
<b>ACTION:</b> BW confirmed that an updated draft Economic Connectivity Study report has been circulated and once Officers have approved it will be shared with Board members.	<b>Ben Watts 25/07/2019</b>
<b>DECISION:</b> All present agreed to the recommendations in paper C.	

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Notes / Actions</b>
1.	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b> Apologies: Cllr Kye Dudd, Mayor Tim Bowles, Cllr Stephen Pearce.</p>
2.	<p><b>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</b> BW reflected that there was a dedicated session arranged with Members to review the prioritisation process and there was methodology for appraisal process which he elaborated on during item 7. All present approved minutes.</p>
3.	<p><b>Update from Accountable Body</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper A</li> </ul> <p>BW confirmed action taken by GCC. He confirmed the technical roles have been filled on an informal basis. In respect of Communications Strategy BW explained it was agreed at a Senior Officer Group meeting in March to scale back actions/marketing. Since then a generic email address and a webpage linked to GCC website have been set up. He confirmed a lead Comms officer has been appointed who designed a logo, in preparation for the Transport and Business Forum, which was agreed by Senior Officers to be used on a temporary basis. BW added the scaling back on comms has led to an underspend.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> As requested by Cllr Wayman, BW to circulate Regional Evidence Base when completed.</p> <p>Cllr Hadley requested more reference to Walking and Cycling in evidence base.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> all present noted report A as per the recommendation and no further comments made.</p>
4.	<p><b>Update from Associate Members</b></p> <p><b>Department for Transport (DfT)</b> DG raised letter from Secretary of State sent to all STB Chairs and summarised that DfT are happy for bodies to continue to work on an informal basis as it stands. He notified members that DfT are due to seek views from STB's ahead of next spending review and anticipated contact would be made in the next couple of weeks. DG shared that on 5<sup>th</sup> June Public Accounts Committee had a hearing regarding transport infrastructure in the South West. <b>ACTION:</b> DG to forward a transcript of Public Accounts Committee meeting to EM to circulate to Board.</p> <p><b>Highways England (HE)</b> AD flagged Clean Air Day taking place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June and confirmed HE will be sharing Comms on how they are supporting air quality. She shared national statistics for MRN/LLM schemes being prioritised and commented on it was anticipated that 80 schemes would be promoted. She</p>

Item No	Notes / Actions
	<p>confirmed HE will do their own triage of these by cross referencing with the SRN and their own prioritisation process.</p> <p>AC addressed DfT and HE and asked as they have been given early sight of schemes through the submission of Appraisal Summary Reports, will the Western Gateway receive any feedback ahead of the July submission. DG confirmed no detailed feedback will be available until after the submission and they hope to announce some funding decisions by the end of this year.</p> <p><b>Network Rail</b>  DT confirmed that NR has scheduled a workshop for 22<sup>nd</sup> July to scope potential studies to take forward and noted representatives from the Western Gateway have already confirmed attendance. Cllr Butters asked whether Control Periods (CP) are still running and DT explained enhancements go through the DfT rail enhancement pipeline so are not restricted by CP.  <b>ACTION:</b> EM to circulate presentation to Board following meeting.</p> <p><b>Peninsula</b>  MODJ noted their budget will be used by the end of the year and so they will seek further funding. He confirmed his attendance at the Transport and Business Forum and assessed that the Peninsula and Western Gateway have positive joint working which Cllr Brown seconded. MODJ added specific joint interests in Bristol South West economic link and A38 corridor.</p> <p><b>Transport and Business Forum Chair</b>  JS affirmed that there was good attendance but recognised more businesses need to be encouraged to attend. He summarised the key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showed support for MRN and LLM scheme priorities.</li> <li>• Key Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Resilience on the network</li> <li>○ North-South Connectivity</li> <li>○ Congestion</li> <li>○ Rail frequency and quality of rolling stock</li> <li>○ Connectivity to airport and ports</li> <li>○ Clean Air</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Broad support for programme</li> <li>• Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More connectivity</li> <li>○ Multi-modal</li> <li>○ Digital connectivity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Future strategy areas for development for prioritisation from September 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper B</li> </ul> <p>BW reflected that so far, the Western Gateway has focussed on Highways in line with the submission for MRN/LLM schemes. He raised that the Board need to consider priorities after the submission and provided options to be narrowed down to 2.</p> <p>AD shared that the route strategies for SRN are due to be shared next year – RIS3.</p> <p>Cllr Moor selected area wide Rail Strategy, he expanded this for Mass Transit, noting GCC are not going to meet travel requirements for population growth without a modal change.</p> <p>Cllr Hadley selected multi-modal access. BW flagged on this option that as a strategic body the Western Gateway need to ensure they leave local issues with the LA's.</p>

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Notes / Actions</b>
	<p>Cllr Butters suggested adding a reference to “light rail” as well as rail.</p> <p>AC pointed out the resource will continue to be needed for MRN/LLM even after the submission.</p> <p>MODJ shared that the rail industry has supported the Peninsula with technical work to inform their rail strategy. DT added that the purpose of their upcoming workshop is to support such joint working.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> All present agreed for offices to pursue “production of an area wide rail strategy” and “review of multi-modal access to Airports” but the latter with the addition of “and Ports”.</p> <p>DG suggested with the latter task taking a light touch approach and BW agreed that initially it would be appropriate to find out what the Airports/Ports are considering themselves.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> BW confirmed officers will return with a scope for these strategies to the next Board meeting with the caveat that this is budget dependent.</p> <p>Cllr Savage made the point that low carbon solutions should not be a separate consideration but instead integral in all the strategies.</p>
6.	<p><b>Completion of Regional Evidence Base (REB)</b> Presented by Fintan Geraghty.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> BW confirmed that an updated draft Economic Connectivity Study report has been circulated and once Officers have approved it will be shared with Board members.</p> <p>BW confirmed the study will inform the REB and be submitted with the MRN/LLM schemes. He explained the study reflects the current policy / local plans which will be reviewed so this would be revised accordingly. It was pointed out that local plan reviews run in cycles and timings will vary between authorities. BW confirmed that the model has been developed in a way that it should be straight forward to update.</p>
7.	<p><b>Agree Major Road Network (MRN) and Local Large Major (LLM) scheme priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper C</li> </ul> <p>BW explained the scheme submission is to request funding from the National Roads Fund, Highways England receive a proportion of this for the SRN but 88% is available for Local Authorities. He confirmed the Western Gateway will submit the bid on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019.</p> <p>BW referenced the Council Members meeting that took place in March 2019 where the appraisal process was discussed and Members decided to put greater weight on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alleviating Congestion</li> <li>• Supporting Economic Growth</li> <li>• Supporting Housing Delivery</li> </ul> <p>He confirmed the schemes are categorised under the following policy area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving urban travel</li> <li>• Improving North-South connectivity</li> <li>• Improving international connectivity</li> </ul> <p>Each promoting authorities were given the opportunity to present their prioritised scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SGC – led by EB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>A4174 (ring road)</b> scheme - confirmed have already discussed options for improvements with Highways England to cut congestion including the potential for</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Item No	Notes / Actions
	<p>a new motorway junction (J18a) for which an SOBC has been completed. Aiming to build on information already produced and prepare a FOBC. EB confirmed that this scheme compliments the case for J18a but does not rely on it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>A4174 (MOD junction)</b> scheme - aiming for SOBC. Information so far suggests this can be delivered within the highway boundary.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BCP – led by JM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Wessex fields phase 2 scheme</b> - JM explained this scheme looks to unlock site next to Royal Bournemouth hospital as well as improve multi-modal travel. It would include a second access to Hospital. It would safeguard 10k jobs and unlock 2k more. He confirmed both phases have planning permission and phase 1 is already under construction. Aiming for OBC.</li> <li>○ Cllr Ray Bryan added the improved access to hospital is essential for the CCG programme.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● GCC – led by DS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>M5 J9 to A46 scheme</b> - an alternative to M5-M42 routes. DS explained currently there are inconsistent carriageway standards. He shared a proposal DfT previously consulted on back in 1993 which covers a similar route. He noted Midlands Connect have also done a number of studies on this route. He pointed out 40% of the aviation sector falls along this route (Cheltenham and Bristol).</li> <li>○ AD queried whether this is an additional junction or a supporting junction and DS confirmed this is still to be determined through SOBC.</li> <li>○ Cllr Moor raised the rail link at Ashchurch and DS shared the ambition is to increase rail service and make Ashchurch a multi-modal hub.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wiltshire Council - led by RM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>M4 J17 scheme</b> - RM noted work to date considered short term growth not long term. Noted there is a Site of Special Scientific Interest around this scheme so will mitigate against this.</li> <li>○ <b>A350 Chippenham bypass scheme</b> - RM confirmed confidence the scheme will produce a BCR between 3-4.</li> <li>○ <b>A350 Melksham bypass scheme</b> - RM explained a SOBC was informally submitted to DfT in Dec 2017 and plan to update this. He noted the North-South and East-West movements all converge in Melksham which has a significant impact. RM shared the Options Assessment and identified the 3<sup>rd</sup> bypass option as having a significant journey time saving (highest BCR).</li> <li>○ <b>A338/A3094 scheme</b> – RM explained this was identified through the Salisbury Transport Strategy. He noted they would liaise with Highways England to deliver scheme as it is close to A36.</li> <li>○ Cllr Moor noted this is an ambitious programme and queried whether Wiltshire have the capacity to deliver in the timescales. RM noted the success of previous improvements undertaken and AC outlined the advantages in being able to approach these improvements at the same time.</li> <li>○ DG asked whether Wiltshire Council would prioritise these schemes internally if given the funding and PK confirmed the programme has been identified.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● NSC – led by CM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>A38 scheme</b> - route past Bristol Airport and continuing into Somerset. CM confirmed this is a joint scheme with Peninsula STB / Somerset County Council. Confirmed it is currently a single carriageway and noted it is an alternative route to SRN. Aiming for SOBC 2019, OBC within following 6 months.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Notes / Actions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ JS asked about the impact of the airport expansion. CM confirmed the airports current planning application is for 12 million passengers per annum (mppa) and have outlined Master Plan to expand up to 20mppa. He confirmed this scheme considers the 12mppa growth. PK suggested raising the airport expansion at the next Transport and Business Forum.</li> <li>○ Cllr Butters raised that the airport has suggested a rail link by 2020 and wondered whether this compliments this corridor scheme. CM acknowledged this and confirmed it is being considered within the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) and early stage Mass Transit work.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Wayman raised the schemes not prioritised and BW confirmed these are listed in the pipeline and those identified by stakeholders will be added for consideration.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> All present agreed to the recommendations in paper C.</p>
8.	<p><b>Presentation by Local Authority</b></p> <p>PM confirmed the Joint Local Transport Plan 4 covers all 4 authorities in the WofE. He explained the aim is to get the infrastructure to fit the growth in the region, namely the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP), as well as tackle congestion and improve connectivity. The plan sets out a vision up until 2036. He confirmed the proposals will be taken to Joint Committee the end of 2019-early 2020.</p>
9.	<p><b>AOB</b> – no items raised</p>
	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 11:00-13:30 in Kennet Room, County Hall, Trowbridge.</p>