

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

To: The Chair and Members of the
Peninsula Transport Shadow
Sub National Transport Body

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

(see below)

Your ref :
Our ref :

Date : 27 November 2020
Please ask for : Hannah Clark 01392 383000

Email: hannah.clark@devon.gov.uk
:

PENINSULA TRANSPORT SHADOW SUB NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY

Friday, 4th December, 2020

A meeting of the Peninsula Transport Shadow Sub National Transport Body is to be held on the above date, at 2.00 pm at Digital Meeting Via Microsoft Teams to consider the following matters.

PHIL NORREY
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART 1 - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2020 (attached).

3 Items requiring urgent attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

STANDING ITEMS

4 Peninsula Transport Update (Pages 7 - 10)

Report and presentation of the Technical Lead Authority on the latest progress and activities of Peninsula Transport, including an update on the progress of the 'WP04 High Level Transport Strategy' and seeking approval for the draft Peninsula Transport Vision statement. It is also recommended that the Board agrees to review and approve the Peninsula Transport Vision document and draft Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Scoping Report via email in advance of a consultation in early 2021.

5 Finance Update (Pages 11 - 14)

Report of the Finance Lead Authority on the latest financial position.

6 Communications and Engagement Update (Pages 15 - 16)

Report of the Communications and Engagement Lead Authority on the latest communications and engagement activity.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

7 Peninsula Rail Task Force Update

Verbal update from the Chair of the Peninsula Rail Task Force (PRTF) on recent activities.

8 Climate Emergency Update

Verbal update on the Climate Emergency from the Chair of Peninsula Transport.

9 Co-Opted Members Update

Co-opted Members to provide updates and feedback from their organisations, including an update from Network Rail on their Strategic Studies.

10 Public Participation

Questions or Representations from Members of the public in line with the Board's Public Participation Scheme.

11 Dates of Future Meetings

All meetings to be held digitally via Microsoft Teams until further notice -

4 March 2021 at 14:00

Please use link below for County Council Calendar of Meetings;

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s).

Members are also reminded of the need to dispose of such reports carefully and are therefore invited to return them to the Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Membership
Councillors A Davis (Devon County Council), G Brown (Cornwall County Council), M Coker (Plymouth City Council), M Morey (Torbay Council), J Woodman (Somerset County Council), G Caplin (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP), A Darley (Highways England), C Dryden (Isles of Scilly), D Glinos (Department for Transport), I Harrison (Heart of the South West LEP), J Jackson (Homes England), I Knight (Homes England), D Northey (Network Rail), D Ralph (Heart of the South West LEP), A Rhind (Department for Transport), D Round (Network Rail), R Stevens (Transport Forum), B Watts (Western Gateway SSTB), J Whaley, B Wills (Department for Transport) and C Turner (Homes England)
Declaration of Interests
Members are reminded that they must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.
Access to Information
Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact Hannah Clark on 01392 383487 Agenda and minutes of the Committee are published on the Council's Website at https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=459
Recording or Reporting of Meetings and Proceedings
Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chair or the Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening. Members of the public may also use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting. An open, publicly available Wi-Fi network (i.e. DCC) is normally available for meetings held in the Committee Suite at County Hall. For information on Wi-Fi availability at other locations, please contact the Officer identified above.
Public Participation
Any member of the public resident in the administrative area of the Peninsula Transport Authorities may submit a formal written question to the Board which relates to the functions of the Board. Questions must be submitted to the officer named above hannah.clark@devon.gov.uk by 12 noon 4 working days before the meeting takes place. The name of the person asking the question will be recorded in the minutes. Alternatively, any member of the public who lives in the area served by the Peninsula Transport Authorities may make oral representations on any matter relating to the functions of the Board. Such representations will be limited to three minutes, within an overall time allowed of 30 minutes. If you wish to make a representation, you should, via email or letter submit a brief outline of the points or issues you wish to raise before 12 noon, 4 working days before the meeting takes place. The name of the person making the representation will be recorded in the minutes. For further information please contact Hannah Clark 01392 383487
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NOTES FOR VISITORS

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The nearest mainline railway stations are Exeter Central (5 minutes from the High Street) and St David's and St Thomas's both of which have regular bus services to the High Street. Bus Service H (which runs from St David's Station to the High Street) continues and stops in Wonford Road (at the top of Matford Lane shown on the map) a 2/3 minute walk from County Hall, en route to the RD&E Hospital (approximately a 10 minutes walk from County Hall, through Gras Lawn on Barrack Road).

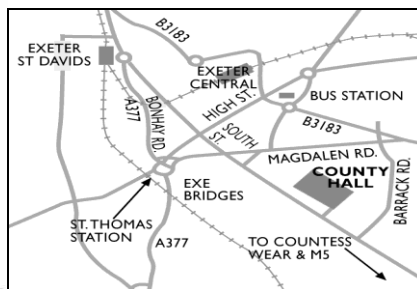
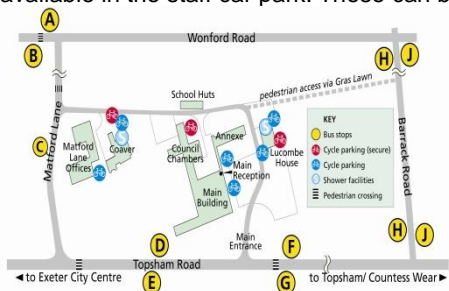
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NB   Denotes bus stops

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First Aid

Contact Main Reception (extension 2504) for a trained first aider.

PENINSULA TRANSPORT SHADOW SUB NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY

3 SEPTEMBER 2020

Present:-

County Councillors

Councillors A Davis (Devon County Council), G Brown (Cornwall Council), M Coker (Plymouth City Council), M Morey (Torbay Council), J Woodman (Somerset County Council)

Co-opted Members:-

A Darley (Highways England), D Glinos (Department for Transport), I Harrison (Heart of the South West LEP), D Round (Network Rail) and R Stevens (Transport Forum)

Apologies:-

K Bourner, G Caplin, D Northey, D Ralph, B Watts and J Whaley

45 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Davis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Coker, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2020 be approved as a true record.

46 **Items requiring urgent attention**

There were no matters raised as urgent items.

47 **Chair and Vice-Chair Arrangements**

The Board received the Report of the Governance Lead Authority on the Chair and Vice-Chair arrangements.

The Board noted that normally the Chair and Vice-Chair would rotate annually. However, there have been exceptional circumstances this financial year due to the COVID-19 situation. In addition, there are local elections planned for May 2021 which may result in a change in local authority Cabinet Member representation.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Davis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Woodman and

RESOLVED that

- (a) The current Chair and Vice-Chair retain their roles until the first Board meeting following the 2021 local elections.

48 **Finance Update**

The Board received the Report of the Finance Lead Authority on the latest financial position.

The Board noted that the Department for Transport have recently announced a financial offer of £425,000 to Peninsula Transport for the current financial year. The revised budget is therefore £647,343. A revised work plan has also been developed, taking note of the requirements of the Department for Transport funding. This indicates an expected expenditure of £622,264.

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The Board were advised that this results in a headroom of approximately £25,000. The risk of over-spend can be controlled by postponing work packages, should this be required.

Members discussed and asked questions relating to the certainty of future funding. It was noted that the current Department for Transport funding is only for the current financial year.

The Members acknowledged the ongoing support from the Department for Transport, and expressed their thanks for the current funding allocation whilst looking forward to continued partnership working in the future.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Davis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Brown and

RESOLVED that

- (a) The revised financial information for 2020/21 is noted
- (b) The revised budget for 2020/21 of £647,343 be approved

49 Communications and Engagement Update

The Board received the Report of the Communications and Engagement Lead Authority on the latest communications and engagement activity.

The Board noted that work has continued on developing the Peninsula Transport social media platforms, utilising these to reinforce central Government messaging during the pandemic response and recovery. In addition, the Economic Connectivity Study was published, with the summary and full versions of the report being made available on the website.

Stakeholders have continued to be engaged, culminating in a Transport Forum meeting on 25 August 2020. It was noted by the Chair that the Transport Forum event was well attended and provided positive input from the stakeholders.

The Board noted that the Communications and Engagements activities continue to be undertaken within the agreed financial envelope.

Members discussed and asked questions on the pandemic recovery messaging relating to public transport use. It was suggested that a campaign encouraging travelling with confidence could be beneficial.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Davis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Coker and

RESOLVED that

- (a) The Communications and Engagement report is noted
- (b) Peninsula Transport's Communication Lead will liaise with the Department for Transport to explore options for public transport messaging

50 Peninsula Rail Task Force Update

The Board received the Peninsula Rail Task Force update from Councillor Andrea Davis, Chair of the Peninsula Rail Task Force (PRTF).

The Chair shared the news that Teignbridge District Council have granted planning approval for the second phase of the Dawlish sea wall project. It was also noted that works on the first phase will continue once the summer season concludes.

It has also been announced that the Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund selected the proposals for new stations at Wellington and Cullompton to progress to the next stage. The

Bere Alston to Tavistock rail reopening is a priority for PRTF and is awaiting further announcements. There have also been submissions across the South West Peninsula, including for the northern rail route between Tavistock and Okehampton. Network Rail and Great Western Railway are continuing to progress the Okehampton – Exeter project.

The Board noted that CrossCountry have withdrawn services to a number of stations in Cornwall with no plans to reinstate these.

The Board also received the report seeking the integration of PRTF into the Peninsula Transport governance arrangements. The Board discussed the importance of ensuring that the PRTF identity is retained, whilst simplifying and formalising the current arrangements. The Chair of the Transport Forum noted the importance of ensuring the existing stakeholder groups for PRTF and Peninsula Transport provide opportunities for different audiences to solve different issues and that this is not lost through the rationalisation of the groups. It was agreed that this would be discussed further between the Chair of PRTF and the Chair of the stakeholder groups.

It was clarified that it is not proposed to have a PRTF board meeting in addition to a Peninsula Transport board meeting. Instead, the Chair of PRTF will provide a report to the Peninsula Transport board meetings.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Coker, **SECONDED** by Councillor Woodman and

RESOLVED that

- (a) PRTF becomes an integrated part of the Peninsula Transport governance arrangements
- (b) The amended PRTF terms of reference are approved
- (c) The functions and roles of the stakeholder groups will be discussed

51 Climate Emergency Update

The Board received the Climate Change Emergency update from Councillor Geoff Brown, Chair of Peninsula Transport.

During August, Peninsula Transport provided a response to the Department for Transport's 'Transport Decarbonisation Plan' consultation, noting in particular the importance of demand management as a strategic priority as well as rural mobility solutions.

The Board heard that the Government published new statutory guidance for highway authorities, recognising the pandemic recovery as a once in a generation opportunity to deliver lasting transformative change in how short journeys are made. Tranche 1 of the Emergency Active Travel Fund allocated £900,000 across the South West Peninsula to delivery temporary measures. It is hoped that allocations of the second tranche of funding will enable the delivery of some permanent measures supporting long-term sustainable travel habits.

It was noted that the Peninsula Transport Board Members met with local representatives of Extinction Rebellion on 4 June 2020 to discuss the climate emergency. It was suggested that in order to engage more community and campaign groups across the wide geographical area of Peninsula Transport, some local events are held to gather community views.

It was agreed that the Communications & Engagement Lead would explore opportunities to tie-in community events with the wider stakeholder engagement.

52 Co-Opted Members Update

The Board received verbal Reports from the Co-opted Members on matters of interest arising from their respective organisations.

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Highways England reported that the Strategic Business Plan and Delivery Plan were published in August 2020. These documents set out how the Government's Road Investment Strategy (RIS) will be delivered over the next 5 years. Following the £15.2bn investment of the first RIS, the £27.4bn investment plan for RIS2 represents a significant increase and demonstrates Government's commitment to rebuilding the economy.

The Board received a presentation from Highways England providing an update on 'Unlocking Economic Growth on the A303/A358/A30 Corridor'. The Board heard that the A303 / A358 corridor and the A30 in Cornwall are key priorities that are currently identified in the Road Investment Strategy and there is an aim to get the current schemes through the planning process and starting construction during this roads period. The Board heard an update on the progress of the schemes and expressed their support of the whole corridor upgrade, including the A30 through the Blackdown Hills.

The Board emphasised the importance of this whole route approach to ensure the South West Peninsula has two strategic road corridors connecting to the rest of the country. It was agreed that the Board would respond to the DCO consultations as well as issuing a letter detailing the importance of a whole route corridor approach between London and Cornwall.

The Department for Transport advised that regular COVID-19 related updates have been provided to the key Local Authority contacts and that the current focus is on the school return. In addition, an 'acceleration unit' has been announced by the Secretary of State to bring forward road and rail upgrades. However, the scope of the unit has not yet been confirmed. There is also a consultation currently live on proposals to ban antisocial parking.

The Board sought clarification regarding the announcement of allocations for the Emergency Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 and also sought Department for Transport support for the Tamar Crossings. The Board were pleased to receive the offer of STB funding for the current financial year and reiterated their appreciation to the Department for Transport.

Network Rail provided an update on the Restoring Your Railway Fund with announcements due on the second round of the Ideas Fund soon. It was also reported that the first section of Dawlish promenade is now open, Intercity House works have started in Plymouth and Network Rail are continuing to work with Great Western Railway to investigate the reintroduction of passenger services between Okehampton and Exeter. The Bristol – Exeter strategic study has recently had a kick-off meeting and technical work is now underway. There are also a number of planned rail works in the South West in the coming months: Tiverton Parkway track renewals (5 days – 28 September to 2 October), Exmouth Junction renewal (6 days – 25 October to 31 October), platform extension work at Lypstone and Exeter St James Park during Exmouth Junction block and Looe bridge deck replacement (5 days in November). These will be publicised by Network Rail and Great Western Railway and travel arrangements made nearer the time of each works commencing.

Heart of the South West LEP reported that it has been successful in securing £35.4m of the £900m Getting Building Fund. This funding must be spent by March 2022. The Heart of the South West LEP successful projects include 3 transport schemes: Concourse Phase 2, Brunel Plaza, Plymouth (£4.17m), Firepool and Taunton Station Access (£0.4m) and Exeter Bus Station (£0.8m).

53 Public Participation

There was no question from a Member of the public.

54 Dates of Future Meetings

Board Members noted the dates of future meetings as:

4 December 2020 at 14:00

All meetings to be held digitally via Microsoft Teams until further notice.

Please use link below for County Council Calendar of Meetings;
<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

55 **Peninsula Transport Update**

The Chair exercised his discretion in varying the order of business at the meeting and pushed this agenda item back to be taken immediately before the Part II item.

The Board considered the report and presentation of the Technical Lead Authority on the latest progress and activities of Peninsula Transport.

The Board heard an overview of the Economic Connectivity Study, which was published in August 2020. It was noted that the analysis was completed in 2019 and that although it is recognised that transport has changed since COVID-19, the themes and conclusions of the study remain relevant.

It was also reported that work is underway on the High-Level Transport Strategy for Peninsula Transport. There is an aspiration to ensure this is revolutionary rather than evolutionary.

The Board received the report on the 'Department for Transport Funding Allocation 2020/2021'. It was noted that longer term funding is hoped for but that the Board are very appreciative of the funding allocation for this financial year, enabling a number of work packages to be commissioned. However, there are some conditions associated with the Department for Transport's funding which will need to be adhered to. In particular, it is important that the scope of the Carbon Transition Strategy and Technology and Electric Vehicle Strategy are discussed with other STBs to ensure that there is collaboration across similar studies and avoidance of duplication.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Davis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Brown and

RESOLVED that

- (a) The £425,000 funding allocation, and its associated principles of agreement, from the Department for Transport is approved
- (b) The updated work plan will be circulated to Members for approval
- (c) The 'Funding and Governance Agreement', subject to minor changes, between Peninsula Transport and the Department for Transport is approved
- (d) The Board notes that the agreement will be formalised between Plymouth City Council, as Peninsula Transport's accountable body, and the Department for Transport
- (e) The risk register will be shared with Peninsula Transport Board Members

56 **Exclusion of the Press & Public**

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Woodman, **SECONDED** by Councillor Davis and

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act namely the financial or business affairs of persons tendering for the provision of council goods or services and of the County Council, in both cases, and in accordance with

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Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

57 Department for Transport Funding Allocation & Work Plan 2020/2021

(An item taken under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during which the press and public were excluded)

The Board received the Report of the Technical Lead Authority on the itemised work plan subject to receiving the Department for Transport funding allocation for 2020/2021.

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 1.40 pm

WP04 HIGH LEVEL STRATEGY

WP04 High Level Transport Strategy Update

4 December 2020

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Board before taking effect.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The draft Peninsula Transport Vision statement is approved;
- (b) The Board agrees to review and approve the draft Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Scoping Report via email before circulating to Statutory Consultees and wider stakeholders for a minimum 5-week consultation in early 2021; and
- (c) The Board agrees to review and sign-off a draft of the Peninsula Transport Vision document for consultation ahead of the next Peninsula Transport Board meeting on 4th March 2021.

1. Background/Introduction

Peninsula Transport Sub-national Transport Body (STB) is drafting a high-level vision document in preparation for the development and publication of a full Peninsula Transport Strategy in 2021. This builds on the analysis and engagement presented in the Regional Evidence Base (REB), published in 2019, and the Economic Connectivity Study (ECS), published earlier in 2020.

Work Package 4 (WP04) High Level Transport Strategy, and WP05 Economic Corridor Studies, are the first of the strategic work areas to receive local funding from the local authorities to progress development of the Transport Strategy prior to receiving STB funding from the Department for Transport (DfT).

Peninsula Transport STB Board Members received an overview presentation of the emerging vision statement, the development of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) and proposed consultation arrangements at a workshop held on 22nd October 2020. These have been developed further, alongside the preparation of an IIA Scoping Report, with an update and decisions required set out below.

2. The high-level vision statement

The vision statement sets the purpose and overall intention of how transport and mobility will look in the South West Peninsula in the future. The vision will be underpinned by goals (defining the ambition for what we are trying to achieve in the region) and objectives (setting out how this will be achieved) and will be used as the basis for developing the full Peninsula Transport Strategy.

Following engagement by our consultant support team with Board Members, officers and stakeholders from the Peninsula Transport Forum, it was agreed that the vision for transport in the STB region should:

- Be distinctive and inspirational;
- Emphasise each element of the strong sustainability model (environment, society and economy);
- Present decarbonisation aims in the context of other (potentially divergent) aims;

- Be developed iteratively and potentially evolve over time; and
- Be signed-off by the STB Board.

Through drafting and feedback, the draft Vision statement is as follows:

Transforming transport across the Peninsula to enable our unique and outstanding environment to flourish and our economy and society to thrive.

It is **proposed that the draft Peninsula Transport Vision statement is approved by the Board** for use in the development of the High-Level Vision Document, consultation with stakeholders (including the public), and the development of further work packages ahead of preparing the Full Peninsula Transport Strategy.

3. Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Scoping Report

To ensure that the Peninsula Transport Strategy addresses the appropriate strategic environmental, social and economic impacts, an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is being developed alongside it. A scoping report has been prepared and this will form the methodological structure for assessing the draft Peninsula Transport Strategy and any reasonable alternatives as they are developed for the strategy. IIA fulfils the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA¹) and discharges the duties for Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA²) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA³).

The use of an IIA will help ensure consistency in the development and evaluation of the Peninsula Transport Strategy and is considered best practice – particularly given the environmental and social constraints in the Peninsula.

As Peninsula Transport STB is not a statutory body, there is no legal requirement to undertake the IIA to reflect the requirements of the associated regulatory frameworks. However, in addition to being best practice, each local authority has their own obligations as statutory bodies. This approach acknowledges that the vision and strategy will shape subsequent plans and scheme promotion roles, either individually or on behalf of the STB, for schemes emerging from the transport strategy.

The IIA will provide a robust framework for all work packages to refer to, and will be developed, reviewed and published alongside the Full Peninsula Transport Strategy.

This integrated assessment will identify the potential impacts of the Peninsula Transport Strategy on the environment, community and vitality of the Peninsula region, with a view to promoting a more sustainable plan making process.

This IIA follows the process required by the SEA Regulations. There is guidance published by government on undertaking SEA, specifically 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'; the 'Practical Guide'. This sets out a five-stage process for undertaking

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC

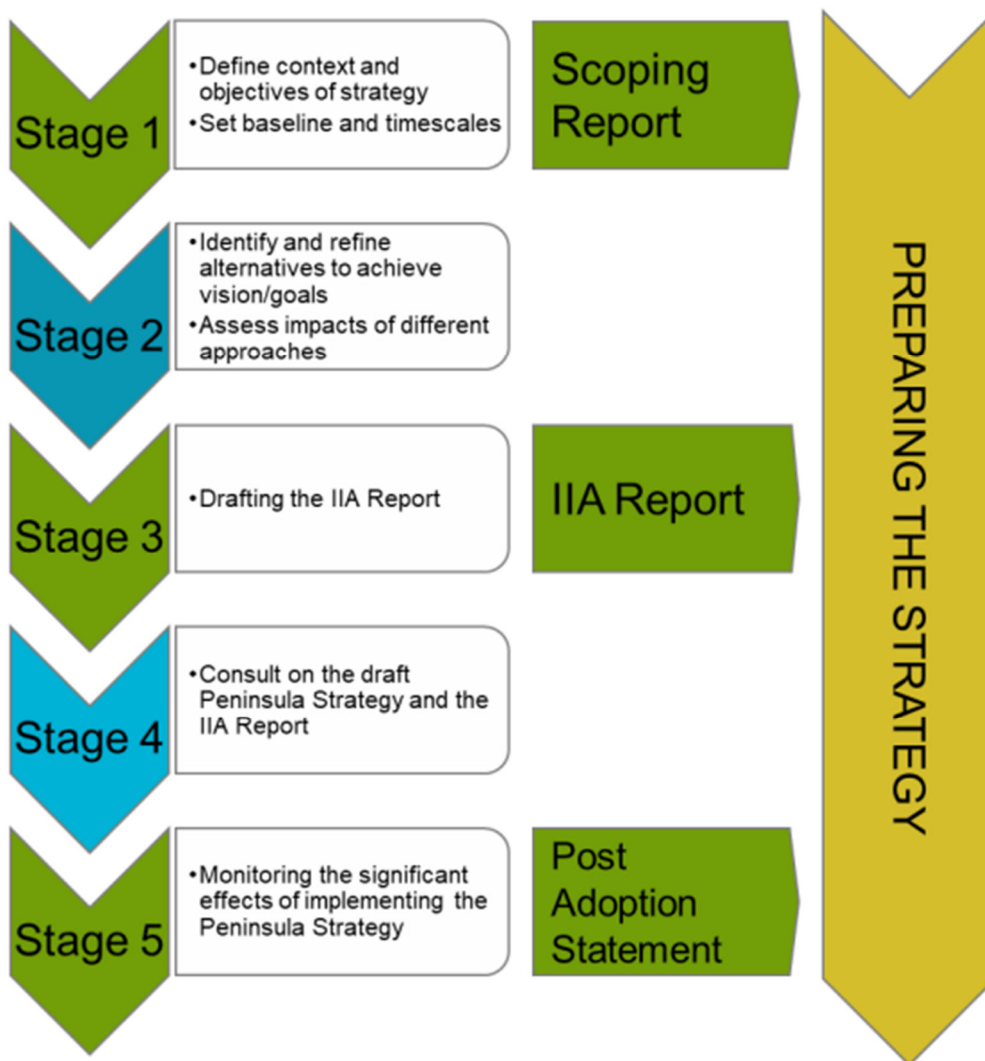
² Equality Act 2010 [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

³ National Planning Practice Guidance. Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 53-001-20140306 [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing>

SEA. This in conjunction with the SEA Regulations guides this assessment. The stages are outlined in Figure I-1 (below).

Stage I has culminated in the production of a Scoping Report for consultation with Statutory Consultees as a minimum. The statutory consultation bodies for SEA are Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. Due to the presence of Dartmoor National Park, Exmoor National Park, and nine AONBs within the Peninsula region, these organisations will also be consulted.

Figure Error! No text of specified style in document.-1: Key stages of the IIA



A draft of the IIA Scoping Report is being reviewed by Officers and will be updated before circulating to Board Members for approval before the end of the year. It is proposed that the Board agree to review and sign-off the draft Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Scoping Report via email before circulating to Statutory Consultees and wider stakeholders for a minimum 5-week consultation from January 2021.

4. Peninsula Transport Vision document and consultation

A draft of the high-level Peninsula Transport Vision document is being prepared, building on feedback from the Peninsula Transport STB Board workshop; the Peninsula Transport Forum; and Peninsula

Transport officers. This will be used as the basis for undertaking wider stakeholder and public engagement ahead of preparation of the Full Peninsula Transport Strategy.

The consultation will be hosted on an accessible “virtual consultation” platform, replicating the engagement possible through a “face-to-face” consultation environment. This will include a welcome message from the STB Board Chair; Vision summary materials; links to a consultation survey; the ability for consultees to have “live chat” or leave a message; and next steps for developing the Full Peninsula Strategy.

It will take at least 3 weeks to prepare the “virtual consultation” room after signing-off the Peninsula Transport Vision document.

It is proposed that a **draft of the Peninsula Transport Vision document and associated consultation materials are shared with Board for review and sign-off via email** ahead of publication and launch of a public consultation in early 2021. The consultation will continue for 5 weeks, with the intention of presenting high-level feedback at the next Peninsula STB Board Meeting.

5. Financial Considerations

The costs of drafting the vision document, IIA Scoping Report preparation and development of the virtual consultation tool are included in a previously delegated budget via local funding contributions from each local authority.

6. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

7. Risk Management Considerations

Peninsula Transport has now established a Programme Management Group to comply with the terms of the DfT’s funding support letter and this group will be responsible for reviewing risk and assigning the required mitigation actions across the Peninsula Transport work packages on at least a monthly basis.

This policy/proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken/included to safeguard the STB position.

8. Reasons for Recommendations

The recommendations are proposed so that the Full Peninsula Transport Strategy can be prepared supported by the most comprehensive assessment framework – with wider input from the public and other stakeholders – to meet the DfT requirement of publishing a transport strategy for the Peninsula Transport STB region.

FINANCE UPDATE

Financial Update Report

4 December 2020



Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Board before taking effect.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The Board note the revised financial information for 2020/21 as set out in this report

1. Background/Introduction

This budget update includes the very welcome funding contribution from the Department for Transport (DfT) of £425,000. All required documentation has been provided to the DfT and approved and the funding has been released to Peninsula Transport. A letter of sincere thanks was sent by the Chair of Peninsula Transport, Councillor Geoff Brown, to the DfT.

This DfT funding, alongside an accrual of £62,523 from 2019/20 and the Local Authority contribution of £159,820, provides a total budget for 20/21 of £647,343 as notified and approved at the last Board meeting.

The Local Authorities have each pledged to maintain their contribution levels in 2021/22 to continue to meet Peninsula Transport's functional, administrative and communications costs. This funding will also deliver the Rural Mobility Study and complete the Regional Transport Strategy.

A response was sent by Peninsula Transport to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) consultation requesting longer-term certainty of funding for Peninsula Transport. It is understood that several Sub-national Transport Bodies (STBs) put in similar responses.

A formal tender is being progressed for the communications activities for both Peninsula Transport and the Peninsula Rail Task Force (PRTF). The tender is being done mindful of the Board's request that the PRTF identity is retained.

2. Main Text/Proposal

Financial Contributions

The Financial Contributions for 2020/21 from Peninsula Transport partnership Local Authorities are set out in table I below.

Table I: Financial contribution from Peninsula Transport Local Authorities

Name of Party	Type of Authority	Population	% cost share	Budget
Cornwall Council	Unitary	536,000	23.9%	£38,240
Devon County Council	County	779,000	34.7%	£55,520
Plymouth City Council	Unitary	262,400	11.7%	£18,700
Somerset County Council	County	530,00	23.6%	£37,760
Torbay Council	Unitary	134,400	6.0%	£9,600

Total		2,241,800	100%	£159,820
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In additional there was an accrual from 2019/20 of £62,523

The DfT contribution adds a further £425,000.

This makes a total budget for 2020/21 of £647,343

Funding Position

The financial contribution from the DfT allows a significant number of the remaining work packages to be completed to progress the Detailed Transport Strategy.

The funding to be provided by the DfT can only be used to produce specified work packages

- Strategic Economic Corridor Studies
- Carbon Transition Strategy
- Technology and Electric Vehicle Strategy
- Rail Strategy
- Freight Study
- International Gateway Study
- Detailed Transport Strategy

Despite being in a much stronger financial position, the total funding of £647,343 is not sufficient to cover all of the above work packages. In additional the partnering authorities place high importance on producing a Rural Mobility Study to be completed in time to form part of the overarching Regional Transport Strategy.

It is also the case that for the foreseeable future Peninsula Transport is required to fund its functional, administrative, and communications costs from local contributions. The partnering authorities have therefore agreed to maintain their annual contributions into next year (2021/22).

It should be noted that although the DfT funding can be used to produce the International Gateway Study, there is currently not sufficient funding overall to support this work package.

All work stream estimates have continued to remain within or under the agreed budget from our technical support and communications organisations.

However longer-term certainty of funding is what is required to allow Peninsula Transport to maintain its function as an STB, speaking with one voice for the region, providing leadership and developing a detailed pipeline of investment priorities within in the region. The Peninsula Transport response to the CSR consultation was based upon this need for longer-term certainty of funding and requested £1.745m over three years up to 2023/24.

Forecast Spend

The functional, administrative and communications costs plus the work packages being progressed provide an anticipated expenditure of £622,292. With a budget of £647,343, that leaves a remaining headroom of £25,051. The risk of over-spend can be controlled by postponing work packages if necessary and utilisation of the headroom, should this be required.

Tender of Communications Activities

Following the decision by the Board in September to approve the formal integration of PRTF within the Peninsula Transport STB (PTSTB), a tender is being progressed for a single communications / PR provider for both PRTF and PTSTB. This is in order to realise the expected financial efficiencies, of combining the two separate PRTF and PTSTB communications activities into a single commission. It will also achieve a better alignment of all strategic transport PR and Communications, ensuring co-ordination across the services.

Plymouth City Council are leading the tender, as the Communications and Engagement Lead Authority, with support from Devon County Council.

The contract will be for the period 01.01.21 – 31.03.22 (15 months).

3. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

Board Members are asked to note that the budget position is much improved with the funding provided by the DfT and that planned expenditure is affordable and within budget.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Update Report

4 December 2020

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Board before taking effect.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The Communications and Engagement report is noted.

1. Background/Introduction

The Board at its meeting in March 2019 approved the Communications Strategy. This report provides an activity update for the period September 2020 to December 2020 and a look forward to upcoming activities.

2. Communications and Engagement Update

2.1 Website

The website www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk helps to explain the purpose and work of Peninsula Transport and provides links to schemes, minutes, governance arrangements and news.

Regular news items have been added to the website to align with other public affairs activities such as the letter to the Secretary of State with regard to the whole route strategy (A303, A358, A30, M5, A38) and announcements from the DfT such as welcoming funding for the North Devon Link Road and the announcement on the 12th November by the Secretary of State for Transport, Rt Hons Grant Shapps MP, to approve Highways England's Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the A303 Stonehenge (Amesbury to Berwick Down) scheme.

Following agreement with the Department for Transport (DfT) on funding for the 2020-21 work programme, and in accordance with the DfT request, a new section has been added to the website "Planned work 2020 - 2021" outlining the schemes which are being progressed.

2.2 Social Media

The Twitter account @PensTransport is used to help share news, build awareness with stakeholders and drive traffic to the website. The account is also used to share information from other stakeholders such as Great South West, DfT and Network Rail Resilience Forum. This is building engagement with a range of audiences.

All news announcements on the website are shared on the social media account. We have seen a significant rise in the numbers of impressions on the account, new followers and engagement levels (retweets and comments). Our most popular tweet was the one announcing the DfT funding.

2.3 Media

Regular news items are posted on the website, sent to local media and comment given to reporters as and when appropriate. Reporters also attended the September virtual Board meeting which resulted in coverage on the whole route strategy.

2.4 Publications

Any new publications are added to the website as and when they are approved by the Board. No new publications have been added in the period covered by this report.

2.5 Transport Forum

We held a virtual forum in late August and the next virtual forum is planned to be in the New Year to coincide with the engagement around the high level Transport Vision. A database of stakeholders who are interested in the work of Peninsula Transport is being built so that when we are in a position to consult on a high-level Transport Strategy for the Peninsula we will have an effective method of engaging stakeholders.

2.6 Stakeholder briefings

Our Chairman, alongside the seven other STB chairs, met with Baroness Vere of Norbiton in late September to press the case for investment. We have sent letters to the Secretary of State for Transport with regard to the whole route strategy (A303, A358, A30, M5, A38) and to the Chancellor of the Exchequer putting the case for infrastructure investment in the Peninsula as part of the spending review. Our MPs are sent regular briefings on the work of Peninsula Transport with the latest briefing sent in November.

2.7 Joint STB Communications and events

Regular teleconferences have been undertaken with the Communication leads for the other Strategic Transport Bodies (Transport for the North, Midlands Connect, Transport for the South East, Transport East, Western Gateway) to discuss approaches to areas of shared interest.

We provided speakers (Cllr Davis, Mike O'Dowd-Jones and Sally Farley) to several panel sessions on STB day at Highways UK on 5 November as well as organising one panel session.

3. Next Quarter

Looking forward the key activities for the next three months are to:

- Complete building the PT stakeholder database;
- Engage stakeholders on the high-level Transport Strategy through events and online;
- Produce MP briefings in January to provide an update on the work of Peninsula Transport and identify how they can contribute to the Transport Strategy engagement.

4. Financial Considerations

Costs are within the financial envelope agreed.

5. Summary

The Communications and Engagement are being delivered in line with the agreed strategy.