

Phil Norrey  
Chief Executive

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

County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 4QD

(see below)

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Your ref :  
Our ref :

Date : 16 September 2021  
Please ask for : Hannah Clark 01392 383000

Email: hannah.clark@devon.gov.uk  
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**PENINSULA TRANSPORT SHADOW SUB NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY**

Thursday, 23rd September, 2021

A meeting of the Peninsula Transport Shadow Sub National Transport Body is to be held on the above date, at 10.00 am 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 - 4)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2021.

3 Items requiring urgent attention

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

**STANDING ITEMS**

4 Peninsula Transport Update

Presentation of the Technical Lead Authority on the latest progress and activities of Peninsula Transport.

5 Finance Update (Pages 5 - 6)

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

6 Communications and Engagement Update (Pages 7 - 10)

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

7 Peninsula Rail Task Force Update

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

8 Co-Opted Members Update

Co-opted Members to provide updates and feedback from their organisations.

**MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

9 WP09 Freight Study (Pages 11 - 14)

Report of the technical team on the progress of the Freight Study.

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 -

2 December 2021 (14:00)

3 March 2022 (10:00)

2 June 2022 (10:00)

Please use link below for County Council Calendar of Meetings;

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

**PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

12 Exclusion of the Press & Public

**RECOMMENDATION** 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 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.

13 Finance Update: Itemised Expenditure Estimate for 2021/22 Financial Year

Finance lead authority to report.

*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**

<b>Membership</b>
Councillors: A Davis (Devon County Council), J Drear (Plymouth City Council), P Desmonde (Cornwall 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), D Northey (Network Rail), D Ralph (Heart of the South West LEP), A Rhind (Department for Transport), D Round (Network Rail), R Stevens (Plymouth Bus), J Whaley (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP), B Wills (Department for Transport), S Coghlan (Homes England) and E Wilson (Western Gateway)
<b>Declaration of Interests</b>
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.
<b>Access to Information</b>
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 <a href="https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=459">https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=459</a>
<b>Recording or Reporting of Meetings and Proceedings</b>
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.
<b>Public Participation</b>
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 <a href="mailto:hannah.clark@devon.gov.uk">hannah.clark@devon.gov.uk</a> 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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<b>Mobile Phones</b>
Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Committee Room or Council Chamber

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Induction loop system available

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**SatNav** – Postcode EX2 4QD

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### Access to County Hall and Public Transport Links

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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).

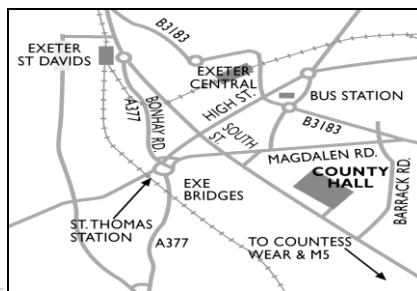
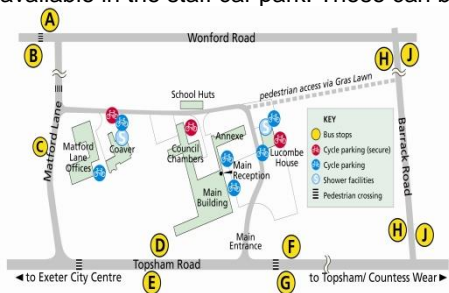
### Car Sharing

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### Car Parking and Security

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As indicated above, parking cannot be guaranteed and visitors should allow themselves enough time to find alternative parking if necessary. Public car parking can be found at the Cathedral Quay or Magdalen Road Car Parks (approx. 20 minutes walk). There are two disabled parking bays within the visitor car park. Additional disabled parking bays are available in the staff car park. These can be accessed via the intercom at the entrance barrier to the staff car park.



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

21 JUNE 2021

Present:-

Board Members

Councillors A Davis (Devon County Council), J Drean (Plymouth City Council), P Desmonde (Cornwall Council)  
A Wiles (Somerset County Council), K Mowat (Torbay Council)

Co-opted Members:-

A Darley (Highways England), D Glinos (Department for Transport), I Harrison (Heart of the South West LEP), J White (Western Gateway), A Ardley (Transport Forum) and S Coghlan (Homes England)

Apologies:-

Councillors J Woodman (Somerset County Council), M Morey (Torbay Council)  
E Miller, J Whaley, R Stevens and E Wilson

**80**      **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Councillor Davis **MOVED** and Councillor Drean **SECONDED** that Councillor Davis be elected Chairman and Councillor Drean be elected Vice-Chairman of Peninsula Transport for the ensuing year.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

**81**      **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2021 be approved as a true record.

**82**      **Items requiring urgent attention**

There were no matters raised as urgent items.

**83**      **Peninsula Transport Update**

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

The Board heard that the High Level Transport Strategy and Vision work has been continuing, with a consultation planned to commence prior to the start of the summer holidays. A Transport Forum event would be held early in the consultation to update the business and transport stakeholders. An update on the consultation would be shared at the September Board meeting.

A work programme, including indicative reporting milestones, was shared. This demonstrated that parallel working between the workstreams would be required to ensure they can feed into the Transport Strategy work, which is planned to commence following the High Level Strategy and Vision consultation concludes. Members discussed the ambitious work programme and requested further update meetings to be arranged.

# Agenda Item 2

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PENINSULA TRANSPORT SHADOW SUB NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY  
21/06/21

The Board also received a presentation detailing the work undertaken on the Freight Strategy. Since an inception meeting was held in April, a range of tasks have been completed including a review of other freight strategies, stakeholder engagement, reviewing case studies and analysing freight data. In addition, collaboration with Western Gateway has been explored, with the scope extended to cover the wider south west.

## 84 Finance Update

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

The Board noted that the budget for 2021/22 is £1,000,820, comprising Local Authority contributions of £159,820, Department for Transport contribution of £425,000 and accrual from 2020/21 of £416,000. The planned expenditure of £932,700 is affordable and within budget.

## 85 Communications and Engagement Update

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

The Board noted that there have been limited activities since the pre-election period, but that the consultation provides an opportunity to increase these activities. For instance, MP briefings will be arranged, and social media activity will be amplified to showcase the consultation.

The Board also heard that partnership working with other STBs is continuing, including through co-ordination and planned attendance at the Innovation and Technology in Transport (ITT) event in Farnborough, 30 June – 1 July 2021.

## 86 Peninsula Rail Task Force Update

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

The Board heard that PRTF met on Friday 18 June and discussed the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail. It was agreed that the PRTF priorities for improved rail infrastructure in the South West Peninsula remain sound and that there is a need to engage with the emerging Great British Railways. As such, it is planned to hold a stakeholder event this year.

Councillor Davis **MOVED** and Councillor Desmonde **SECONDED** that Councillor Dreaan be elected Chairman of Peninsula Rail Task Force for the ensuing year.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

## 87 Climate Emergency Update

The Board received the Climate Emergency update from the Technical Lead Authority.

The Board heard that work is continuing on a number of studies that will provide insights and recommendations to the Peninsula Authorities on transport decarbonisation, such as the 'Carbon Transition Study' and 'Technology and Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy'. Joint ways of working are also being explored with other STBs, such as Western Gateway, on areas of common interest.

The Board also heard that the Local Authorities are continuing to work on their individual responses following their respective Climate Emergency Declarations.



Members discussed the importance of the Climate Emergency to all work currently being undertaken, and as such requested that future Peninsula Transport reports include individual climate emergency updates.

## 88 Co-Opted Members Update

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

Western Gateway reported that both STBs are undertaking similar work currently, and opportunities to collaborate are being explored. The Strategic Transport Plan development is continuing, focused on 4 key corridors, two of which overlap with the Peninsula geography.

Network Rail advised that Strategic Studies have been developed over the last 12 months, including Bristol – Exeter. This study is now in its final stages of consultation and due to be published this summer. The evidence will be used as a baseline for a Peninsula corridor study.

Highways England provided an update on their Route Strategies progress, which will form a key part of the evidence base for the Road Investment Strategy. It was also reported that traffic levels are back to nearly 100% of the pre-pandemic levels.

The Department for Transport reported on a range of updates, including the publication of the Williams-Shapps Rail Reform White Paper, the National Bus Strategy publication and advice to prepared Bus Service Improvement Plans, confirmation of funding for the A382 Drumbridges to Newton Abbot MRN scheme, the Levelling Up Fund, Active Travel Fund and Restoring Your Railways Fund. It was also advised that the Transport Decarbonisation Strategy will be published as soon as possible. The confirmation of funding for Peninsula Transport for 2021/22 was also confirmed by Baroness Vere in May 2021.

Homes England advised that a new strategic plan is being developed for 2022 onwards, shaping the programme, funding and role of the organisation going forwards.

## 89 Response to National Bus Strategy

The Board received the Response to the National Bus Strategy paper from the Head of Transport Co-ordination Service at Devon County Council.

The Board heard that the National Bus Strategy, published in March 2021, moves buses up the transport agenda and sets out timescales for what Local Authorities need to do to develop enhanced partnerships.

The Board were advised that the Local Authorities are looking at what can be done to collaborate across the peninsula, including cross-boundary services. It was noted that several of the Peninsula Transport work packages have cross-cutting issues which would be relevant to strategic bus and coach journeys.

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

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) The Board recognise and take into account the contribution improving local bus and coach services can make across the Peninsula when developing its full Transport Strategy
- (b) The Board endorse the approach of Local Authorities within the Peninsula Transport area towards the implementation of the National Bus Strategy

# Agenda Item 2

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PENINSULA TRANSPORT SHADOW SUB NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY  
21/06/21

## 90 Network Rail Strategic Studies

The Board received the Network Rail Strategic Studies update as part of Item 10 (Co-Opted Members Update).

## 91 Heart of the South West LEP : Blueprint for Clean Growth

The Board received the presentation on the Blueprint for Clean Growth from the Heart of the South West LEP's Head of Delivery.

The Board heard that the plan for clean growth was approved by the LEP Board in May 2021. This includes a set of priorities which aim to grow the economy in a clean and sustainable way, by delivering inclusive economic prosperity whilst protecting the environment, lowering emissions and enhancing natural capital. The six priorities are: leadership, low carbon energy, greening business, sustainable communities, decarbonised transport and natural capital.

## 92 Public Participation

There was no question from a Member of the public.

## 93 Dates of Future Meetings

Board Members noted the dates of future meetings as:

9 September 2021

2 December 2021

All meetings to be held digitally via Microsoft Teams at 2.00pm until further notice.

Please use link below for County Council Calendar of Meetings;

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

## 94 Exclusion of the Press & Public

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Drean, **SECONDED** by Andrew Wiles 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 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.

## 95 Finance Update: Itemised Expenditure Estimate for 2021/22 Financial Year

The Board received the report of the Financial Lead Authority on the itemised forecast expenditure information for the 2021/22 financial year.

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 1.30 pm

## FINANCE UPDATE Financial Update Report

23 September 2021



**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 Board note the revised financial information for September 21 as set out in this report

#### 1. Background/Introduction

In 2020/21 Peninsula Transport received the much welcomed news of Department for Transport (DfT) Financial support of £425,000. However the securing of all the necessary funding to allow the work programme to progress at pace took longer than anticipated. Therefore a significant proportion of the funding to complete these work packages (£416k) was accrued into 2021/22.

A second confirmation was received from the DfT for a further £425,000 of funding in 2021/22. This was clearly excellent news for Peninsula Transport. This DfT funding is to be released in tranches, subject to good progress on producing the detailed regional transport strategy and supporting work packages.

At the last Board meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June the Peninsula Transport Officer Group was asked to update its work programme to ensure that it is achievable, reflecting progress to date. This paper provides the budget update that follows the updated programme.

#### 2. Main Text/Proposal

##### Financial Contributions 2020/21

As a reminder the Financial Contributions for 2021/22 from Peninsula Transport partnership local authorities are set out in table 1 below.

**Table 1: Financial contribution for 2021/22 from 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
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,241,800</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£159,820</b>

In additional there was an accrual from 2020/21 of £416k

The DfT contribution for 2021/22 provides a further £425,000.

**This provides a total budget for 2021/22 of £1,000,820**

Although the exact figure for the revised programme is still to be confirmed, the current estimate of £828,040 remains within the agreed budget for 2021/22 (see table 2 below).

To reduce the risk of losing any DfT funding from 21/22, Peninsula Transport will need to agree the revised programme of works with the DfT, including how and when the remaining monies of £172,780 will be spent.

For clarity the September 21 revised budget estimate is set out alongside the previous (June 21) Financial update.

**Table 2. 2021/22 Revised Budget Estimate for September 21 (compared to June 21)**

	<b>September 21</b>	<b>June 21</b>
Local Authority Contributions 2021/22	£159,820	£159,820
Accrual from 2021/21	£416,000	£416,000
DfT contribution 2021/22	£425,000	£425,000
<b>Total budget 2021/22</b>	<b>£1,000,820</b>	<b>£1,000,820</b>
<b>Cost estimate 2021/22</b>	<b>£828,040</b>	<b>£932,700</b>
<b><u>Headroom (budget minus cost estimate)</u></b>	<b><u>£172,780</u></b>	<b><u>£68,120</u></b>

### 3. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

Board Members are asked to note that the revised programme cost estimate of £828,040 is affordable and within budget.

The £425,000 contribution from the DfT will be released in tranches and is subject to demonstration of good progress in producing the regional transport strategy and supporting work packages.

Board Members agreed their contributions for 2021/22 and the funding of the work packages in November 2020. Therefore no decision is required but Board members are asked to note the budget change in September 21 compared to June 2021.

## COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Update report

23 September 2021

***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 Communications and Engagement report is noted.

#### **1. Background/Introduction**

This paper provides an outline of the communications activities that have taken place for the period June 2021 to September 2021, as well as setting out the up and coming programme.

#### **2. Communications activities since June 2021**

Communication activity since June 2021 has focused on the launch of the vision and consultation.

##### **2.1. Strategic communications and programme development**

The communications strategy and communications activity plan are subject to ongoing development to ensure communications are effective.

Recent activity includes:

- Ongoing development of the monthly communications activity plan
- Updating the Peninsula Transport communications protocol and issuing to Board members
- Vision development
- Survey creation and management

##### **2.2. Stakeholder communications**

Working with stakeholders is vital to shaping the work of Peninsula Transport. Recent stakeholder engagement activity includes:

- Mailing list launched in August, opening up a new channel for engagement – 13 followers to date. The sign up link will be promoted in all appropriate communications materials going forward
- Stakeholder briefing for the consultation issued to stakeholder list
- Chairman letters to encourage networks to promote the vision and consultation through their own channels
- Transport forum

- One-to-one responses to inbox enquiries for both Peninsula Rail Task Force (PRTF) and Peninsula Transport

### 2.3. Public affairs and parliamentary relations

Our MPs are sent regular briefings on the work of Peninsula Transport and PRTF. Recent activity includes:

- A written briefing and copy of the vision in advance of the launch
- 14 face-to-face meetings taking place either with the MPs or their office, including: Cherilyn Mackrory, Selaine Saxby, Mel Stride, Steve Double, Scott Mann, Anne Marie Morris, Sir Geoffrey Cox, Marcus Fysh, Sheryll Murray, George Eustice, Simon Jupp, David Warburton, James Heappey and Sir Gary Streeter

### 2.4. Online communications

#### Website

The website ([www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk](http://www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk)) helps to explain the purpose and work of Peninsula Transport and provides links to schemes, minutes, governance arrangements and news. The Peninsula Rail Task Force (PRTF) currently has its own website ([www.peninsularailtaskforce.co.uk](http://www.peninsularailtaskforce.co.uk)).

The Peninsula Transport website is currently under re-development, looking at a newer structure and refreshed content. Design elements are also being reviewed to ensure that the design and imagery of the site is consistent and to help improve the flow of the visitor. The PRTF website will also be integrated to the Peninsula Transport website. The PRTF domain name will remain active and will automatically direct people to the PRTF section of the Peninsula Transport webpage.

#### Social media

Both Peninsula Transport and PRTF Twitter accounts, @PensTransport and @SWRailTaskforce respectively, are used to help share news and build awareness with stakeholders.

Social media activity is ongoing, focusing on re-tweeting and pro-active content particularly around the consultation and new announcements. We also supported National Highway's request for help in promoting the public exhibition for the Sparkford to Ilchester works.

Insights	June	July	August
Profile visits	795	1098	603
New followers	5	5	7
Mentions	3	9	9
Tweet Impressions	1022	8482	2858
Tweets	5	3	4

### 2.5. Media management

Recent media activity includes:

- Vision launch operational note and press release
- Individual local authority press offices were contacted to help localise the release for their own media contacts and to share through appropriate channels

- The release was also pitched to key journalists
- Coverage was achieved in Business Live, Exeter Daily, Highways News and CIHT. Print media cannot be evaluated but the release was also issued to the smaller localised print media across the region
- A303 Stonehenge Judicial Review decision comment – the quote was picked up by New Civil Engineer and Business Live

## 2.6. Joint STB Communications

A Communications Group comprising of the communications leads for STBs (Transport for the North, Midlands Connect, England's Economic Heartlands, Transport for the South East, Transport East, Western Gateway as well as Peninsula Transport) meet on a monthly basis to discuss approaches to areas of shared interest. Recent activity includes:

- Attendance at the stand alongside other STBs at the Innovation and Technology in Transport (ITT) event, which took place at Farnborough 31 June – 01 July
- Ongoing feedback on a proposed joint STB event for 2022

## 3. Future work activities

The following work will be undertaken in the coming months:

- Updating PRTF campaign plan – ensuring the specific rail key messages are up-to-date
- Stakeholder audit
- Development of a newsletter to begin building a regular base of stakeholders interested the work of Peninsula Transport
- Utilising other opportunities to promote Peninsula Transport's key messages through proactive news stories i.e work programme milestones
- Public summary of communications objectives and high level activity following consultation
- Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2021 considerations

## 4. Financial Considerations

Costs are within the financial envelope agreed for communications activities.

## 5. Environmental Impact Considerations

There are no environmental impact considerations associated with this paper.

## 6. Equality Considerations

There are no specific equality considerations associated with this paper. The interim communications strategy has been developed mindful of the need for the work of the STB to be accessible to all.

## 7. Legal Considerations

There are no legal considerations associated with this paper.

**8. Risk Management Considerations**

There are no risk management considerations associated with this paper.

**9. Public Health Impact**

There are no public health impacts associated with this paper.

**10. Summary**

The communications activity is being delivered in line with the interim communications strategy and agreed monthly communications activity plan.



## WP09 FREIGHT STRATEGY

WP09 Draft Freight Strategy

23 September 2021

***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 approves the process outlined in this paper for finalising the draft Freight Strategy for the South West.

#### **1. Background/Introduction**

The Peninsula Transport STB in conjunction with the Western Gateway STB is drafting a Freight Strategy for the South West. Work Package 9 (WP09) Freight Strategy is one of the accompanying technical work streams being used to progress development of the Peninsula Transport Strategy in 2022.

The document has been prepared alongside the development of the Draft Peninsula Transport Vision, which was published for consultation between 12 July and 17 September 2021. The draft Vision is “Transforming transport across the peninsula to enable our society and economy to thrive and our unique and outstanding environment to flourish” and is underpinned by five cross-cutting goals.

The Freight Strategy will be used as part of the evidence and recommendations in the development and publication of a full Peninsula Transport Strategy in 2022. This builds on the freight analysis and engagement presented in the Regional Evidence Base (REB), published in 2019, and the Economic Connectivity Study (ECS), published in 2020.

WP09 has been developed with engagement with Officers and stakeholders from the Freight sector and wider business community.

#### **2. Emerging freight issues**

The analysis and engagement for WP09 has highlighted the vital nature of the freight industry, as well as the challenges faced, in the Peninsula region. This includes the importance of close links with the Western Gateway and the regions beyond. Significant issues highlighted include;

- The South West has a growing and ageing population with significant numbers living in coastal and rural locations that are difficult and expensive for the freight sector to serve;
- A shortage of lorry drivers, lack of attractiveness of working in the sector and generally low levels of skills are seriously affecting the ability to deliver;
- The road freight sector is still a major polluter and there is a need to help it make decisions on how to decarbonise in the context of the wide and confusing range of options to consider;
- The South West is well placed to generate much of its own energy in the future, from a combination of sources: wind; solar; marine; and, biomethane. How does the freight sector best tap into this range of power alternatives to the diesel engine?;
- Congestion on both the Strategic Road Network and local roads, particularly in the summer, is not a new problem. The freight industry does its best to counter this by

operating round the clock where is practicable, but more can be done by influencing other road users and coordinating better with public transport;

- Connectivity is not as good as in many other parts of the country. There is a limited road and rail network across the South West with several counties with no motorway and few stretches of dual carriageway, hence journey times are slow;
- Few alternative routes exist for road and rail freight operators and hence if there is an incident there is a lack of resilience in the supply chain;
- Technology is moving fast, and this is changing ways that consumers buy and the service they require. This is one reason why the number of vans has been growing sharply over recent years with an extra spike in demand from online retail related to the Covid-19 pandemic. There are concerns that this has brought inefficiencies into the supply chain;
- There is potential for rail freight in the South West, but a number of factors have been holding back the sector such as: the lack of terminals; the lack of electrified routes; and, the dispersed nature of demand in the area. However, it is believed that there are solutions to all of these given a concerted effort;
- The region has a good network of commercial ports and with changing supply chains due to various factors, including Brexit, there is scope to revitalise the facilities at some of these ports to exploit new opportunities. One of the most important is to maximise the newly granted Freeport status of Plymouth and South Devon.

### 3. Interim South West Freight Strategy document and process for finalising

An Interim draft of the Freight Strategy has been prepared, building on feedback from Stakeholder Workshops held in June and July 2020, as well as from Peninsula Officer guidance, and one to one calls and written submissions. The analysis, review, and feedback has been used to determine the main freight issues across the region (summarised above). Following that, a set of approximately 70 draft interventions have been compiled aimed at addressing the issues (c.50% relevant to road-based interventions and c.50% relevant to other modes).

Alongside Officer and Member feedback, it is proposed that the Freight Strategy for the South West will be finalised by:

1. Preparing a scoring pro-forma for reviewing the provisional list of interventions – including reference to the draft Goals;
2. Presenting and scoring the set of draft interventions in a stakeholder workshop on September 16<sup>th</sup>;
3. Presenting an initial summary of the workshop discussion to the Peninsula Transport Board Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September;
4. Updating the draft list of interventions to allow for modifications, additions and deletions following dialogue and feedback;
5. Circulation by email of the draft Final Report for comments from Officers, co-opted Members and Board Members; and
6. Submission, presentation and sign-off of the final Freight Strategy report at a future Peninsula Transport Board Meeting, including highlighted opportunities and recommendations for interventions to be taken forward further in the Full Peninsula Transport Strategy.

The report will also factor in relevant feedback from the Peninsula Transport Vision document.

**Recommendation: The Board approves the process for finalising the draft Freight Strategy for the South West.**

#### **4. Financial Considerations**

The costs of drafting the Freight Strategy document are from allocated funds from the Department of Transport (DfT).

#### **5. Legal Considerations**

There are no specific legal considerations.

#### **6. Risk Management Considerations**

The Peninsula Transport Programme Management Group reviews risk and assigns the required mitigation actions across the Peninsula Transport work packages on at least a monthly basis. The group reports monthly to the DfT in compliance with the terms of the DfT's funding support letter.

This policy/proposals have been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken/included to safeguard the Sub-national Transport Board (STB) position.

#### **7. Reasons for Recommendation**

The recommendation is proposed so that the Freight Strategy can be prepared and approved in a timely manner to inform the development of the Full Peninsula Transport Strategy and be considered in other work packages.

The Freight Strategy has been developed through a robust and formal process: collecting data; looking for best practice freight operations and case studies from other geographical areas; and, gaining wider input from industry, the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS), Local Authority officers, trade bodies, universities and other stakeholders.

This process will help meet the DfT requirements to research, develop and publish a transport strategy for the Peninsula STB region and will also inform the development of Western Gateway's transport strategy.

