

## 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.

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 Drear, **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

**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