

SOUTH YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

05 DECEMBER 2013

PRESENT: Councillor M Jameson (Chair)
Councillors: L Bramall, I Auckland, A Jones, B Lodge, R Miller, D Nevett and R Russell

H Brier, M McCarthy, S Pick and C Tyler (South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat)

T Belshaw, P Devine, J Hurley, B Still and D Young (South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive)

A Kemp (South Yorkshire LTP Partnership)

P Bray (Barnsley MBC), T Finnegan-Smith (Rotherham MBC), N Firth (Doncaster MBC) and D Proctor (Sheffield CC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:
B Johnson, D Leech, T Rippon and G Smith

1 **APOLOGIES.**

Members' apologies noted as above.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

T Belshaw reported on Baroness Kramer's recent visit to South Yorkshire to view the Meadowhall South site of the proposed BRT (N) link road, funding for which was announced last month. It was noted that the opportunity was taken to announce a £5m grant to the PTE to part fund the Supertram rail replacement programme.

Members were acquainted with the 'Making Buses a Better Choice' award, presented to the Sheffield Bus Partnership at the recent UK Bus Awards.

It was noted that consultation on the proposed Rotherham Bus Partnership has concluded. A good number of responses have been received. These are being assessed ahead of some proposals being formulated.

Cllr Russell reported concerns regarding the disingenuous conduct of some officers at recent consultation meetings who had incorrectly suggested that cabinet members have agreed to changes being made; cabinet members have only approved the consultation taking place. D Young confirmed that the matter has been raised with officers and clarity on what should be referenced at such events has been provided.

It was confirmed that 4 petitions received in respect of bus services in Rotherham will be considered as part of the consultation.

Members commented on the importance of mutually building on all lessons learnt as the various Partnerships develop.

It was reported that SCC have again agreed to fund special bus services in Sheffield on Boxing Day and New Year's Day for a fare of £1 per journey. The First and Stagecoach services will operate on most key routes between 8am and 5.30pm.

B Still reported that a letter has been sent to the DCLG Secretary of State regarding local government finance to highlight to adverse impact of cutting funding for concessionary travel. A response has been received from Brandon Lewis MP encouraging local authorities to look at where alternate funding may be accessed and the potential for integrated budgets.

The Chair reported that a letter has been received from Cllr Creasy (SCC) on behalf of the Sheffield Cycle Forum regarding the decision to not pursue a tram-train design which facilitates the carriage of cycles. It was noted that an appropriate response will be considered and sent.

M McCarthy recapped the discussion from the last meeting to move the date of the 06 February 2014 ITA meeting to avoid a clash with the BMBC full council meeting. Options for how this may be accommodated without negatively impinging on other meetings and reporting deadlines were considered and Members voiced support for the notion of holding the meeting in the afternoon of the 6th after the scheduled Passenger Transport Pension Fund Committee. It was agreed that Martin McCarthy will write to all Members to ascertain their views.

RESOLVED:

1. That M McCarthy will write to members regarding the alternate scheduling of the 06 February 2014 ITA meeting

3 **URGENT ITEMS.**

No urgent items noted.

4 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS.**

RESOLVED:

1. That agenda item 15 'Budget Setting 2014/15 Proposition' will be considered in the absence of the public and press (exemption paragraph 3).

5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.**

No declarations of interest noted.

6 **REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS.**

Cllr noted his receipt of a 200 signature petition regarding operational concerns and the conduct of Stagecoach drivers on Common Lane, Sheffield at the driver changeover stop.

D Young confirmed that the matter would be fully investigated once the petition has been forwarded to the PTE.

Cllr Jones requested information regarding consultation being currently undertaken by First in Auckley, Bessecarr, Finningley and Rossington.

D Young confirmed that First are undertaking a series of consultations across Doncaster. All ward Members have been informed.

Cllr Russell suggested more liaisons should be undertaken between the ITA and Robin Hood Airport.

It was confirmed that representatives from the Airport's owners, Peel Holdings, will be attending the January ITA meeting.

7 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2013

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the ITA held on 07 November be agreed to be an accurate record.

8 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2013

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the ITA Audit Committee held on 07 November 2013 be noted.

9 HS2 CONSULTATION UPDATE

A report was received to provide an update of the actions undertaken to produce the HS2 Phase 2 consultation responses.

It was reported that following a recent meeting of the SY Leaders, it has been decided that individual districts may submit their own responses to the consultation. This will not detract from the ITA's submission of a response focussed on the 'common elements' of those responses which will also note the ITA's support for a Meadowhall Station location.

It was noted that the next iteration of the consultation response will be presented to the January 2014 ITA meeting and agreed that should any further changes be required, the sign off of the final response may be delegated to the Chair.

RESOLVED - that the ITA:

1. Notes the comments from ITA, Management Board and Executive Board on the first draft and the elements which require further information and the time constraints and challenge in drafting version 2 of the response.
2. Notes the actions taken to provide further evidence in producing the draft Public Consultation response for HS2 Phase 2.
3. Notes the consultation deadlines and agree to a delegated sign off by the ITA Chair before 31 January 2014.

10 FINAL DETERMINATION OF NETWORK RAIL'S OUTPUTS AND FUNDING FOR 2014-19

A report was presented inviting discussion on the implications for the Sheffield City Region (SCR) from the publication by the Office for Rail Regulation of the Final Determination of Network Rail's outputs and funding for 2014-19.

It was noted that Network Rail has been invited to attend a future meeting of the Authority to discuss investment proposals for 2014-19.

Cllr Russell suggested the response needs to be stronger in terms of lobbying for the funding for Holmes Chord in Control Period 5 to enable vital linkages to the East Coast Main Line (ECML).

B Still agreed that a letter should also be sent to Infrastructure UK in respect of this matter.

N Firth proposed that the response needs to clearly express the expectation that HS2 will provide 'additional' capacity and that capacity on other lines e.g. ECML will not be reduced as a consequence. J Hurley reported that released capacity is due to be considered next year as part of other studies.

Cllr Miller requested a reference to need improvements at Jumble Lane level crossing.

RESOLVED – that the ITA:

1. Notes the contents of this report;
2. Approves the letter to Network Rail, attached as Appendix A, subject to the above alterations being made

11 DRAFT LTP 2012/13 PROGRESS REPORT

A report was presented providing Members with the DRAFT version of the South Yorkshire LTP 2012/13 Progress Report.

Comments were sought regarding the document, as was approval for publication. It was confirmed that the document would only be published online.

Members were reminded that there is no longer any requirement from the Department for Transport, for Local Transport Authorities to prepare annual LTP reports. Never the less, the South Yorkshire ITA has requested that, as part of our ongoing LTP Programme Management processes, it is good practice to maintain the discipline of presenting annual reports on LTP delivery. Support for this discipline from members was noted. It was also reported that DfT have recently started to request more information regarding how local authorities are investing transport funding.

Despite its alternate (non-LTP) funding arrangements, it was agreed to reference the progress of the A57 major scheme in the report.

RESOLVED – that the ITA

1. Note the contents of the progress report
2. Approve publication of the South Yorkshire LTP 2012/13 Progress Report.

12 MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

A report was received noting the current membership of the ITA.

The Chair took the opportunity to welcome Cllr Lodge back to the Authority.

RESOLVED:

1. That the membership of the Authority is noted.

13 WOODHEAD TUNNELS

A report was received regarding the Government's recent decision not to purchase the redundant Woodhead Tunnels and to discuss future activity on Sheffield-Manchester links.

It was reported that the DfT justification for this move is that the existing rail route through the Hope Valley has the capacity for additional services. It was also noted that additional cross-Pennine road based studies are currently being scoped.

It was agreed that dialogue needs to be maintained with the Greater Manchester region to promote ideas.

RESOLVED - that the ITA:

1. Notes the Government's recent decision not to purchase the Woodhead Tunnels;
2. Agrees that a wider debate on Sheffield-Manchester links is needed including existing rail and road links.

14 SHEFFIELD BUS PARTNERSHIP - 1ST ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report was received to brief the ITA on how the Sheffield Bus Partnership has performed over the first year of operation, since the launch on 28 October 2012.

Key messages, to be shared with the public via regional and trade press (print, broadcast and digital) were noted as:

- Overall number of passengers has risen 1.1% in first year of operation
- Reversal of historic decline in bus users since de-regulation
- Punctuality and reliability continue to outstrip pre-partnership levels, whilst customer complaints have fallen sharply
- Fare-paying passengers have risen 8.9% in first year of operation
- 60% of adult fare paying customers benefitting from cheaper fares
- 19 new Stagecoach hybrid buses in operation and 8 Euro V buses introduced
- 37 First Euro V single deck buses introduced
- The Sheffield Bus partnership has won two national awards

It was suggested that behind the headline figures, the real success has been the development of a cultural change in attitudes towards improving services across the Partnership. Efforts will continue to build on this change and not revert to old ways of working.

Consideration was given to whether the advances achieved by the Partnership should be referred to as 'success' or 'progress in the right direction' noting the scope for further improvements, particularly in some specific services.

Consideration was also given to the position of the operators and their need to run profitable businesses, noting calls for financial stability moving forward.

It was reiterated that the next SY district Bus Partnership agreements need to build on the lessons learnt by the Members of the Sheffield Partnership.

It was suggested that the UK Bus Award for the Partnership is testament to the hard work of all officers involved in its success.

It was requested that the next report on the Sheffield Bus Partnership provide further information on how the Better Bus Area Fund has been invested.

The importance to future success of capturing and retaining young person travel on buses was reiterated. It was noted that the Partnership will see a renewed drive towards developing better, cheaper child products, ideally with countywide coverage.

RESOLVED – That the ITA:

1. Notes the 'success' of the Sheffield Bus Partnership during its first year of operation

15 BUDGET SETTING 2014/15 PROPOSITION

A report was received seeking Members' collective views on the outline shape of the budget for 2014/15 and the cuts/measures needed to achieve savings.

RESOLVED – That the ITA:

1. Notes the progress of work to prepare the 2014/15 budget
2. Endorses the proposed outline 3 year budget for finalisation

16 NORTHERN RAIL FRANCHISE EXTENSION

Members were informed of work in progress to agree the details of the extension of the current franchise to February 2016.

Northern Rail is currently considering what alterations to service provision may be needed to comply with the DfT's current financial offer.

Negotiation with Northern Rail will be maintained in the interests of mitigating any potential reductions in levels of service. Members will be kept updated with developments.

CHAIR