

**Local Transport Board Meeting Note**  
**10.30-12.30 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017**  
**Players Suite, Portman Road football ground, Ipswich, IP1 2DA.**

***Board Attendance:***

David Cumming	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Martin Wilby	Norfolk County Council
Tracy Jessop	Norfolk County Council
Richard Taylor	Network Rail
Tom Stead	Network Rail
Karl Murphy	DfT
Emily Manser	New Anglia LEP
Jonathan Rudd	New Anglia LEP
Doug Field	New Anglia LEP
Paul Davey	Felixstowe Port
Martin Collison	Collison Associates Ltd
Jonathan Denby	Greater Anglia
Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Jane Storey	Suffolk County Council
Nova Fairbank	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Ali Clabburn	Liftshare
Natasha Waller	New Anglia LEP
Simon Amor	Highways England
Anthony Barnes	Network Rail
Chris Soule	Country Land Owners and Business Associations
Hannah Grimes	Norfolk County Council

***Public attendance:***

Carolyn Barnes	East Suffolk District Council
Sara Noonan	West Suffolk Council

***Apologies:***

Cllr James Finch	Suffolk County Council
Larry Heyman	GT Railway
Richard Pace	Norwich Airport
Richard Perkins	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Richard Tunnicliffe	Confederation of British industry
Steve Wickers	First Group
Sue Roper	Suffolk County Council
Ollie Starbuck	East Midlands Trains
Chris Starkie	New Anglia LEP
Paul Horne	Suffolk County Council
Jamie Burles	Greater Anglia
Martin Fellows	Highways England
Nick Burfield	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce

## **1. Welcome and introductions**

Doug Field introduced himself as the new New Anglia LEP Chair and the new Chair of the Local Transport Board following Mark Pendlington's term of office being completed.

## **2. Minutes and matters arising Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

The Board agreed the minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

## **3. Updates**

Norfolk Chamber of Commerce

Nova Fairbank updated the Board and stated that the Chamber were happy to hear that the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing was awarded funding in the Autumn Budget. She also said that the Chamber are now helping the local authorities push for funding for improvements on the A47 Acle Straight and from Tilney to East Winch and have been helping the LEP at their roundtable events.

Highways England

Simon Amor explained that the strategic road network assessment is expected to be published by the end of 2017. The report will not go into detail as it is high level and focuses on corridors. Highways England are looking at a long term vision to 2050. The Roads Investment Strategy 1 announced delays to programmes along the A47 due to programming.

DfT

Karl Murphy informed the Board of the £98m announcement for the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing which is to be funded from the local large majors' fund. A £1.7bn transforming cities fund was also announced in the Budget. The major road network consultation is expected to be launched before the end of the year.

Network Rail

Tom Stead explained that the Great Eastern Main Line scheme priorities are Haughley Junction, Trowse and loops at Witham. Tom asked the Board who Network Rail are best to engage with to help secure some third party funding as third party funding helps to accelerate interest in schemes.

**ACTION:** Board members to circulate details to Tom Stead of any organisations who may be able to help Network Rail to secure funding. Tom Stead to send out a request of what Network Rail wants to achieve.

#### Greater Anglia

Jonathan Denby informed the Board that performance during the autumn was the best Greater Anglia have had. The improvements are as a result of ongoing work to the fleet to make them less susceptible to problems. Greater Anglia have been starting to transform the service now and are not waiting until the new trains are all in service. Recently there was an industry event based on performance statistics where Greater Anglia won six separate awards. Some trains are getting refurbished now and commuter trains in from Ipswich South will be fitted with Wi-Fi. The new trains are on schedule and Greater Anglia received a number of really helpful stakeholder comments. Greater Anglia have been taking virtual reality headsets to stations for people to experience the changes. Greater Anglia are also keeping all guards roles throughout the franchise. External funding pushes suggested enhancements ahead of the queue.

Chris Soule said it was good to hear that there are improvements underway on the railway. He enquired as to whether there is work underway looking at reliability.

Jonathan Denby responded that performance on local lines is very reliable in the 90%<sup>s</sup> for reliability and the main lines are in the high 80%<sup>s</sup> which is above the national average. Most other strategically important rails are less reliable than Greater Anglia. More can be done but we are going in the right direction.

#### Felixstowe Port

Paul Davey notified the Board that there will be a public enquiry in January on a diversion on the rail branch line. Looking to improve capacity from 33 to 47 trains by April 2019. The Secretary of State assured the Port that Ely Junction work will take place in CP6. Richard Taylor explained that the LEP's money has saved money in Network Rail which has been beneficial to the scheme. The Port work is starting in January which will look to create storage facilities. The Port has met with Government to discuss Brexit and customs from April 2019 which looks to secure a continued smooth flow of items. There is also going to be an enquiry into freight infrastructure and how it is best to be moved around.

#### Liftshare

Ali Clabburn discussed an air quality grant scheme. He has a meeting with Norfolk County Council to discuss further. Ali also explained that he is lobbying for Norwich to become a demonstration city, he also said Norwich should be a sharing city used to solve social problems. There is a transport focused event in February. Community transport personal travel planning is

now being used in North Norfolk. Liftshare will also be attending the Suffolk County innovation showcase on Monday.

New Anglia LEP

Doug Field informed the Board that the New Anglia LEP launched the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy last month. There is also a £9m call for projects out and there is an ongoing government review of the structure. New Anglia LEP are also recruiting a new Board member to represent one of the following areas- energy/ transport/ logistics and a Chief Operating Officer.

#### **4. Skills presentation**

Natasha Waller and Martin Collison presented to the Board about potential funding sources for skills projects and sector skills plans which are being written to support the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

Simon Amor asked if there was any plans to concentrate work on construction. Natasha explained that a Sector Skills plan on construction has been produced.

Ali Clabburn explained he was looking to provide training for internal staff.

Cllr Storey asked if there was any duplication with the work of other organisations. Natasha explained that there are a number of complementary organisations trying to help improve skills as it's a key issue.

Tracy Jessop said that due to the release of the Industrial Strategy it is important to make sure they apply strategic and local strategy to the skills plans.

Martin Collison informed the Board that a number of different groups have explained that it is difficult for people to find the programmes and initiatives, they need a stronger voice and the plan will look to pull things together. He explained that the LEP are looking for groups to take actions forward and provide any thoughts on the proposed questions.

**ACTION:** Board members to send Martin/ Natasha any contacts who you think it would be valuable to consult on the sector skills plan. Please provide any contacts or answers to the questions by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January**.

Chris Soule raised concern over the recent announcement that CIBT, the building industry training centre near King's Lynn, is looking to move out of Norfolk. This could potentially have a huge impact on the skills training in the area.

Natasha explained that the LEP have been in talks with the DWP, councils, colleges and are in consultation with CIBT to try to mitigate any impact. The LEP are working with schools, training organisations and trying to change perceptions of the construction industry. Suffolk County Council produced videos with different people speaking about their personal experience.

Ali Clabburn pointed out that we are planning to build lots of houses and there are fewer new jobs. People will need to be working for longer and therefore is

there any programmes for digital upskilling over 50s. Natasha explained that there is work currently underway to support employees who have been out of work for various reasons and are looking to come back into employment at the grade they left.

Martin Collison stated that careers and jobs for life have largely gone and that employees need to retrain two or three times throughout their life. Robotics and automation are also upcoming challenges in the future jobs may come up that we currently do not know of, today we need to look at transferable skills. The draft skills sector plan for transport and logistics is expected to be ready by the end of January beginning of February.

## **5. A140 and Major Road Network**

Graeme Mateer updated the Board on the success of two schemes on the A140 which recently received funding through National Productivity Investment Funds: Hempnall and Eye Airfield Junctions. Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils both still intend to push for a strategic study from the A14 to the A47 so when the major road network is announced the counties would be ready. The consultation on the major road network is likely to occur by the end of the year. The roads being suggested in the Rees Jeffreys Report to be included in the major road network are the A140, A146, A10, A17 and the A134. Cllr Wilby informed the Board that Hempnall Crossroads has received lots of support and suggested a possible extension of any study work to Cromer.

Graeme Mateer explained that the construction at Eye is likely to be in 2019/20.

Paul Davey asked if we had put forward all of the roads we want in the major road network and are we sure DfT know.

Tracy Jessop explained that a lot of work looking at roads was undertaken in preparation for the devolution deal.

## **6. Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy and Integrated Transport Strategy**

The Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy has been published.

David Cumming updated the Board on progress being made around the Integrated Transport Strategy following a recent workshop in Norwich. Points raised were that the Strategy needs to be more specific with clearer asks for Norfolk and Suffolk. Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council and the LEP are now updating the Strategy. The Integrated Transport Strategy is going to have an Action Plan and both will tie into the LEP Economic Strategy. The Transport Action Plan is expected to be finished in March 2018. Each section will identify priorities and asks for Norfolk and Suffolk.

Chris Soule emphasised the need to discuss smaller road issues in the document.

David Cumming explained that the document will take account of large and smaller issues. He explained that Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft will be moved out of the coastal section and it is likely that the coastal and rural sections will be combined. We have detailed notes of those meetings.

Paul Davey stated that the Strategy was heading in a good direction but noted that work had been undertaken for a long time.

It was agreed that the final draft will be brought back to the next Local Transport Board in February.

## **7. Sub National Transport Body**

Graeme Mateer explained that there were moves to look at a Sub National Transport Body for the east and that there had been a meeting chaired by Essex looking to cover all authorities in the old east of England geography. It has been suggested that it would be useful to have a strategic transport forum to allow greater working together. Graeme notified the Board that there is a further meeting of the Group on the 21<sup>st</sup> December which will be an open initial meeting to discuss a strategic transport forum with a commitment to work together across the east.

## **8. East West Rail- Eastern Section report**

David Cumming updated the Board, some work is already underway between Oxford and Cambridge. Some services in the western section will begin shortly. There will need to be a new rail line between Cambridge and Bedford and work is currently underway looking at corridors by Network Rail. There was an announcement in the budget supporting the Cambridge to Oxford line stating services will commence in the mid-2020s, once this section is in it will open up the potential for longer distance services. The East West Rail Consortium brings together stakeholders along the route. Consultants were commissioned to look at the case for extending the service eastwards and the published report shows a good case for extending services out to Norwich and out to Ipswich.

Jonathan Denby informed the Board that there is funding from Government to match local funding to look at Cambridge South, the improvement reduces disruption and helps facilitate ongoing improvements.

Ali Clabburn explained that looking through the report it shows Ipswich to London looks congested in terms of seats on page 51. Jonathan Denby stated he was unclear as to why that was the case as the new trains will have extra capacity.

## **9. Autumn budget**

The key announcements in the Budget were the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing and the Industrial Strategy.

## **10. Any other business**

No other business was discussed.

## **11. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting is likely to be held in February 2018.