

**Local Transport Board Meeting Note**

9.00am Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Endeavour House Ipswich

***Board Attendance***

David Abbott	Highways England
Tig Armstrong	Norfolk County Council
Nick Burfield	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Jamie Burles	Abellio Greater Anglia
Justin Wythe	Ipswich Buses
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council
Paul S Davey	HP UK
Cllr James Finch	Suffolk County Council
Paul Horne	Suffolk County Council
Neeraj Kaushal	DfT Northern Transport Strategy Team
Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council
Karl Murphy	DfT
Richard Pace	Norwich International Airport
Mark Pendlington (Chair)	New Anglia LEP
Richard Schofield	Network Rail
Chris Soule	Country Land Owners and Business Associations
Chris Starkie	New Anglia LEP

***Apologies***

Simon Amor	Highways England
Andrew Bell	Norwich International Airport
Keith Brown	Visit East Anglia
Richard Burnett	Road Haulage Association
Jonathan Cage	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Ali Claburn	Liftshare
Cllr Stuart Clancy	Norfolk County Council
John Dugmore	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Richard Ellis	Visit East Anglia
Graeme Ferguson	MAG Airports (Stansted)
Larry Heyman	GT Railways
Charles Horton	GoVia (GT Railways)
John Howells	Road Haulage Association
Lee Sambrook	DfT
David Squire	First Group
Richard Tunnicliffe	CBI, East of England
Dave Watson	Suffolk County Council
Caroline Williams	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Hannah Grimes	Norfolk County Council
Emily Manser	New Anglia LEP
Jeremy Cooper	Ipswich Buses
Vince Muspratt	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Guy McGregor	Suffolk County Council
Richard Perkins	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed delegates and thanked them for their commitment to the LTB.

## **2. Minutes and Matters Arising**

The February 2016 minutes were **agreed**.

Cllr James Finch asked about the renewal of the East Anglia franchise.

In response, Jamie Burles said that the evaluation was ongoing; there had been a delay due to Brexit but it was now back on track. An announcement might be expected in the first week of August.

Mark Pendlington added that the Rail Task Force was pressing for an announcement as soon as possible.

## **3. Feedback from NALEP Board**

Chris Starkie updated the Board:

- Growth Deal 3: Deadline for the LEP's submission is 28 July. The LEP Board meets this week to sign off the bid. The LEP had a challenge session with Michael Heseltine. There will be a decision on the bid by the Autumn Statement. He outlined that the moneys would be for 2019/20 and 2020/21. Decisions about which projects would receive funding would be made at a later date.
- The Board discussed any potential implications arising from Brexit.
- The Board received a report on programme implementation.

### **ACTION: Chris Starkie to seek support of MPs for Growth Deal Three**

Cllr Guy McGregor asked about Segway (Suffolk Energy Gateway, formerly known as the Four Villages Bypass). Chris Starkie stated that the Board had previously supported this project through the local major transport scheme funding bid process. Karl Murphy indicated that it was likely that DfT would make a decision regarding this funding stream by the end of the week (22 July).

Mark Pendlington updated on Devolution. He stated that government is now open for two deals, one for Norfolk and Suffolk, and one for the Cambridgeshire area. Public consultation runs until 23 August. If it proceeds there would be a Mayoral election in May 2017. In terms of funding, he outlined the deal included:

- £25m for 30 years
- £275m over five years for transport
- £130m for housing.

Chris Soule asked about the districts that had decided not to be part of the deal. In response Mark stated that the legal advice was that they cannot opt in until 3-4 years' time.

The LEP has organised three business breakfasts as part of the consultation:

- 26 July Ipswich UCS
- 28 July University of the Arts, Norwich
- 29 July Bury St Edmunds West Suffolk College.

**ACTION: Chris Starkie to circulate invitations**

#### **4. Roads Deep Dive**

David Cumming gave an overview of roads, indicating:

- The split between local authority roads and the strategic road network (trunk roads funded and maintained by government through Highways England).
- Funding allocations for local authority roads.
- Decision-making process for local authority roads.

David Abbott presented on the strategic road network:

- Although trunk roads form only 3% of the network they take 33% of the traffic.
- Highways England is working on developing the trunk road programme post-2020 (known as RIS2).
- There is a call for evidence, closing date end July.
- An Options Assessment report would be completed during autumn into the New Year.
- Route Strategies would be published March 2017.

In discussions, the following points arose:

- Nick Burfield indicated the importance of the A14 and A1307 to Suffolk's economy.
- Mark Pendlington asked what the LTB could do to best make the case for investment into the region's trunk roads. In response David Abbott stated that good quality evidence is being looked for, although one shouldn't underestimate the influence of lobbying.
- Cllr James Finch suggested that this was a long timescale, looking forward to 2025. He stated that Mildenhall Fiveways (on the A11) was important. He said that there were currently problems at this junction and asked how often Highways England looked at priorities. David Abbott said in response that RIS2 was largely for major schemes. Where there are problems, including of safety, they have separate funding streams that could be used for shorter-term measures.
- Paul Davey asked about the National Infrastructure Commission, and the relationship between this, the National Infrastructure Plan and RIS2. In response, David Abbott stated that there was a close relationship.
- Paul suggested that the Board consider how it might be most effective in persuading the NIC to undertake a report into the provision of strategic east-west infrastructure links given that the NIC can instigate studies and produce reports either under its own initiative or as directed by government. Raising the profile of historic under-investment in east-west links would benefit a number of Norfolk/Suffolk priorities.

#### **5. Governance: Directions of Travel**

Neeraj Kaushal gave an overview of how transport governance across the country was shaping up, particularly in respect of Sub National Local Transport Bodies (SNLTBs). He summarised the department's work with Transport for the North and some of the governance issues and initiatives. On SNLTBs he outlined that government saw perhaps five to seven across the country.

In discussions, Cllr Guy McGregor raised the recent meeting that had taken place including with Essex and Hertfordshire.

## **6. Integrated Transport Strategy**

Tig Armstrong gave an overview of progress with the transport strategy the Board has been working on. He outlined how it was important to cover a wider area, and that the work should look long-term. Tig said that, to help this long-term look, some work looking at modelling economic scenarios would be commissioned. It would be important as part of the work to consider the economic benefits of transport.

Paul Davey asked if a date should be set for creation of an SNTB, and how this might look given the involvement of Cambridgeshire with the Economic Heartland proposition. Neeraj Kaushal stated that places could be a member of one SNTB only, but could be a sub-member of more than one.

It was **agreed** for the next meeting of the Board:

- To invite David Brown, Chief Executive of Transport for the North
- A timetable for moving towards an SNTB
- Guidance on what its geography might look like
- To arrange visit to Transport for the North
- To seek a political sponsor for a SNTB for the East.

**ACTION: Tig Armstrong**

Chris Soule asked whether a briefing could be done on the new government Cabinet members. Chris Starkie **agreed** to circulate a briefing he was doing for the LEP Board.

**ACTION: Chris Starkie**

## **7. Growth Deal**

This had been covered under Item 3, and so was not discussed further.

## **8. Transport and Infrastructure Updates**

Richard Pace outlined that the Regional Air Connectivity Fund has been put on hold. This is extremely important for Norwich International Airport to build regional routes. He also stated that the Air Passenger Duty could be a driver for the strategy.

**ACTION: Letter from Board in support of APD (Draft from Richard Pace)**

Jamie Burles stated that – in the absence of any new franchise appointment – it was business as usual. Investment is continuing with the completion of the refurbishment of the Inter City rolling stock. This stock is now the most reliable Inter City stock in the country.

**ACTION: GEML Task Force to meet train operator following award of franchise**

Richard Schofield summarised that the programme for Control Period Six is being put together, delayed until late 2016 / early 2017. He stated that major engineering works will be undertaken on the GEML between autumn and Christmas, and over the Christmas period. The line would be blocked from 25/12 to 2/1.

Richard also outlined their work on level crossings. Phase 1 consultation is done; there were 860 representations. Phase 2 starts in September.

Justin Wythe stated that they were seeing passenger growth following their recent frequency increases but that bus infrastructure improvements were needed in Ipswich for further improvements to be realised.

Paul Davey asked that the Board encourage the National Infrastructure Commission to look at the needs of this area.

It was **agreed** to invite the NIC to the late autumn meeting.

**ACTION: NCC Secretariat**

It was **agreed** to add updates on ports and buses to subsequent agendas.

**ACTION: NCC Secretariat**

- Local Transport Major Schemes: NCC SCC
- Road
- Air
- Rail: Jamie Burles
- GEML campaign: Progress Report: Mark Pendlington

**9. Date of next meeting**

**10.30-12.30 Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September in the Cranworth Room, County Hall, Norwich.**