

## DRAFT MINUTES

### CONNECTED DORSET MEETING

16 DECEMBER 2021 14:00 – 16:00 pm

#### MS Teams Video Conference

##### Attendees:

- Jim Stewart (JS), Poole Harbour Commissioners, Chair
- Andrew Ardley (AA), South Western Railways
- Andrew Wickham (AW), Go South Coast
- Beverley Spellman (BS), Highways England
- Cecilia Bufton (CB), Chair of Dorset LEP Board
- Cllr Ray Bryan (RB), Dorset Council
- Colin Morgan (CM), Swanage Railway
- David Squire (DS), Yellow Buses
- Ewan Wilson (EW), BCP Council
- Greg Stone (GS), Highways England
- Kevin Diffey (KD), PRC Streamline Taxis
- Jonathan Cowe (JC), Network Rail
- Julian McLaughlin (JM), BCP Council
- Marc Griffin (MG), WSP
- Owen Clark (OC), Dorset Council
- Paul Walker (PW), Go South Coast
- Phil Smith (PS), CPT
- Richard Barnes (RB), BCP Council
- Richard Pincroft (RP), BCP Council
- Simon Higgins (SH), Road Haulage Association
- Trevor Green (TG), Wyvern Cargo

##### Also present:

- Rosie Macnamara (RM), Dorset LEP

##### Apologies:

- Dominic McGrath (DM), Hampshire County Council
- Ian McQuade (IMQ), Portland Port

Item	Subject/ Title	Action owner
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>  Apologies noted.	
2.	<b>Terms of reference review</b>  The terms of reference were reviewed and agreed, updated version to be sent to the group with the minutes.	RM

3.	<p><b>Appointment of Deputy Chair</b></p> <p>Julian McLaughlin (JM) was appointed Deputy Chair of this group, and the members agreed that he would be a very worthy Deputy and that he is perfectly suited to carry out this role.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Dorset Connectivity Strategic Study recommendations</b></p> <p>Jonathan Cowe (JC) presented the recommendations from the Dorset Connectivity Strategic Study.</p> <p>Discussions with stakeholders and an extensive review of other organisations' policy and strategy aspirations has identified the interventions required to deliver against five outputs. These outputs would deliver a number of positive outcomes for rail users and stakeholders.</p> <p>To obtain best value and ensure efficiencies can be taken advantage of, there are a number of opportunities that should be considered by linking service change interventions, to infrastructure renewals, other planned enhancement works and rolling stock replacement.</p> <p>This is setting out the strategy, there is a lot to do ahead to iron out the details. Based on the findings of this strategic study 5 recommendations have been made.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Transforming Cities Fund update</b></p> <p>Marc Griffin gave an update on the Transforming Cities Fund.</p> <p>Marc has been working on the South East Dorset TCF for a couple of years. £79m of funding has been secured.</p> <p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance: strong governance ongoing; Local Assurance Framework agreed by DfT; Had a Programme Steering Group, also doing focus groups on various areas including disability; emergency services and Monitoring &amp; Evaluation: this group looks at reporting and evaluation of the programme's outputs &amp; outcomes and benefits and impact. Data is reported to the Board.</li> <li>• Consultation/ engagement: A number of consultation rounds have taken place. Further Public Engagement Events from January 2022:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ferndown Industrial Estate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- S6-4/ S6-5 Castle Lane West</li> <li>- Barrack Road</li> <li>- Ringwood Road</li> <li>• Communications:</li> </ul> <p>Blogs, YouTube channel (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5n-xvnyfSAmJO_JmmGZwnA">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5n-xvnyfSAmJO_JmmGZwnA</a>) promoting sustainable travel, stakeholder letter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engagement with Schools has been very positive: budget via the Council's LTP contributions has been made available to provide extra facilities for Schools, and this will be ramped up in the New Year.</li> <li>- Wayfinding programme is ongoing: connecting to different transport options</li> <li>• Construction is ongoing:</li> <li>- Leigh Road: Commenced 18/01/21. Planned comms: end of scheme</li> <li>- Whitelegg Way: commenced 17/05/21. Phase 2 29/11/21</li> <li>- Upper Gardens: commenced 24/05/21. Progressing</li> <li>- Kings Park - commenced 26/07. Press release 05/11/21. Phase 2 works 15/11/21</li> <li>- Queen Anne Drive – Magna Rd: commenced 09/08. Progressing</li> <li>- Twin Sails Bridge to Hamworthy: commenced 16/08. Rigler Road- progressing well</li> <li>- Ringwood Road- commenced 01/11. Between Longham Mini Roundabout and south of Church Road</li> </ul> <p>Good feedback received so far on improved cycling experience to and from places of work.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Council updates</b></p> <p>1. BCP Council update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joint Local Transport Plan 4:</li> </ul> <p>BCP Council and Dorset Council are looking to update the Bournemouth, Poole &amp; Dorset Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026. This will bring together all the latest evidence, incl. the Dorset LEP funded South East Dorset Mobility Study (SEDUMS) delivered end of 2019, and all updated evidence and policy. They are at scoping phase at the moment, and in the new year there will be a lot of stakeholder engagement events to bring together stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan</li> </ul> <p>The consultation has just closed on 12 December with close to 200 responses. This is a long-term plan of up to 15-20 years. The final LCWIP will be published in early 2022, following adoption by the Council's Cabinet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pokesdown Station</li> </ul>	

	<p>BCP Council and South Western Rail are working together to deliver new lifts and access improvements to Pokesdown Station in the Boscombe area in Bournemouth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bus Service Improvement Plan</li> </ul> <p>All local authorities in England have a statutory obligation to produce a BSIP by 31 October 2020, which BCP Council has done. The Bus Back Better survey runs until the 7 January:  <a href="https://haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/bus-better">https://haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/bus-better</a>.</p> <p>The Plan has been developed in partnership with the operators. Views are now being sought from key stakeholders on the plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sub-national Transport Body Western Gateway</li> </ul> <p>The STB are in the final stages of including a Freight Strategy for the South West of England, done in partnership with neighbours in Peninsula Transport: Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth, Somerset, Torbay etc. This is the first Joint Strategy of its kind and this will be taken to the Board in January. It highlights a number of interventions to be delivered in partnership with Network Rail/ Great British Railways and National Highways. There are a number of recommendations which will fit in with the Route Strategies which are currently being developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Route Strategies</li> </ul> <p>National Highways have been developing the South West Route Strategy and carried out early engagement with STBs and local authorities and will be developing draft strategies for the Spring time and there will be a further round of engagement on those with a view to delivering route strategies by Summer 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roads Investment Strategy 2</li> </ul> <p>Pipeline of road schemes. The Strategic Study "M4 to Dorset Coast study" on North South Connectivity has just started. The study has finished its scoping stage, which is developed by Arup with National Highways, and they are reviewing evidence at the moment. This study should be completed by the end of 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic Transport Plan</li> </ul> <p>This is the regional transport plan for the Western Gateway STB: the methodology is under review and so there will be engagement opportunities sometime in 2022 in order to help publicise the Transport Plan.</p> <p>2. Dorset Council update</p> <p>Owen Clark has just started a new position in the transport Planning team. He can do updates at the group meetings going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bus Service Improvement Plan</li> </ul>	
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	<p>Dorset Council have submitted their BSIP at the end of October. Funding ask was £92m over 3 years. Next phase of the Enhanced Partnership process starting. <b>If any of the group members have any comments on the draft Enhanced Partnership Plan, get in touch with OC.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local Plan</li> </ul> <p>The team is developing the evidence base for the Local Plan. A lot of discussions ongoing with National Highways on the Dorchester bypass model, also a lot of work ongoing on the South Dorset model and the South East model.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Levelling Up Transport bid.</li> </ul> <p>The Council has been unsuccessful in the Levelling Up Transport bid. The Weymouth Gateway Station improvement scheme was able to find alternative source of funding, that programme of works has now commenced. The next round of Levelling up fund will be in Spring time.</p>	All
7.	<p><b>Sector updates</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ports           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JS gave a quick update on the Port of Poole:</li> </ul> <p>Covid 19 has impacted ferry traffic; Poole-Cherbourg traffic in 2021 has been quiet. The port is working on potential new freight routes to North Africa. Condor Ferries have had a busy year with the Channel Islands crossing proving popular.</p> <p>There has been a surge in bulk cargo within the port over the past few months evolving around construction materials.</p> <p>Partly as a result of Covid, Poole has established itself as a superyacht destination; there has also been a big increase in leisure activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weymouth</li> </ul> <p>RB indicated that Weymouth town council is having discussions with ferry companies. They are also doing a lot of work on Harbour Walls.</p> </li> <li>2. Bus           <p>AW gave an update on the impact of Covid 19 on bus services, including the need for the Bus Recovery Grant to be extended after March 2022 to avoid service cuts.</p> <p>DS mentioned that they have started a Megabus service from Dorset to London at the start of the Summer season; that will continue, as well as Golden Tours. Leisure is looking positive. There is a challenge when it comes to bus service funding in the light of Covid as people are put off travelling by bus.</p> </li> </ol>	

	<p>3. Rail</p> <p>AW highlighted that there are similar funding issues. Any changes to the 2022 timetables will become clearer soon. The West of England line from Dorset: line is closed East of Salisbury for engineering works following an incident in November.</p> <p>Swanage Railways: CM outlined that they are going to start its tourist season next Summer. Leisure has been very buoyant this Summer. There are plans to progress services next Summer.</p> <p>4. Haulage</p> <p>TG and SH gave a quick update on the sector. There is currently a long manufacturing lead time on new vehicles. Driver shortage is getting better. Industry is still struggling, but it has been helped by Government funding. There is a shortage of microchips. Hydrogen will take steps forward. Electric vehicles: there is a need for further investment in electric charging points.</p> <p>RB mentioned that they are looking at putting charging points in depots but grid capacity is a challenge.</p> <p>RB indicated that on the Dorset Council website there is a link to all the charging points  <a href="https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking/parking/electric-vehicle-charge-points">https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking/parking/electric-vehicle-charge-points</a></p> <p>JM mentioned the importance of providing the public with the choice and infrastructure in order to reduce congestion on the roads and provide sustainable transport solutions.</p> <p><b>Action: invite Beryl Bikes to the group.</b></p>	RM
8.	<p><b>Any other business (AOB):</b></p> <p>None.</p>	