

## CONNECTED DORSET GROUP

MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2019 2PM

### POOLE HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS, POOLE

#### **Summary of actions from this meeting**

1. David Glinos to deal directly with Wyvern to help them find low-emission solutions.
2. Members to inform Francesca Powell of their availability for proposed 2020 meetings.

#### 1. Introduction and Apologies

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Apologies:</b>
Julian McLaughlin (Chair) – BCP Council Francesca Powell (Group Administrator) – BCP Council Ewan Wilson – BCP Council Alexis Edwards – BCP Council Ruth Spencer – BCP Council Cllr Ray Bryan – Dorset Council Kelly Flynn – Dorset Council Trevor Green – Wyvern Cargo Paul Walker – Go South Coast Derek Robbins – Bournemouth University Colin Morgan – Swanage Railway Andrew Ardley – South Western Railway David Squire – Yellow Buses John Henderson – Highways England Bill Reeves – Portland Port David Glinos - DfT Steve Gill – Bournemouth Airport Andy Shaw – HCC Aaron Sparks – First Bus Kevin Diffey – PRC Streamline Taxis	Gavin Johns - Swanage Railway Lorna Carver – DLEP Lisa McCaffrey – Highways England Andy Roberts – Highways England Ray Bulpit - Casterbridge Ian McQuade – Portland Port Jim Stewart– PHC Cllr Andy Hadley– BCP Council Kate Tunks – Dorset Council Simon Higgins – Road Haulage Association Andrew Wickham – Morebus Jaime Rockhill - Network Rail Paul Richmond - Network Rail David Northey - Network Rail Adam Keen - Morebus

#### 2. Update on actions and agree minutes from previous meeting

Statements of support for STB related funding bids still sought. All other actions from last meeting completed or progressed, and minutes from previous meeting agreed.

#### 3. Transforming Cities Fund (TCF)

JMcL reported that there has been a change of thinking regarding TCF funding bids – instead of bidding to replace Poole Bus Station, will bid for new extend corridors. The working group is due to meet the 28<sup>th</sup> November deadline for submissions to DfT, and expects to receive the funding confirmation decision around Feb/Mar 2020.

#### **4. Sub-National Transport Bodies**

JMcL reported that priorities for the Western gateway STB are being assessed to determine which the group will focus on.

Currently, there is interest in the Wessex Fields site, but this may be withdrawn if a sustainable transport solution is sought instead of road improvements.

RB noted that the site had been subject to judicial review. He also showed some concern over the impact of its development in relation to the hospital. JMcL indicated that officers were assessing the travel implication of the land use and would be liaising with Members on the form of land use and infrastructure for the future.

#### **5. Smart Cities/5G**

RS reported that the Smart Cities initiative uses a Place-based approach, especially in terms of connectivity. They have received LEP funding to create a 'digital ecosystem' pilot in Lansdowne, including a small 'proof of concept' 5G network. The main aim is to drive new jobs and economic growth, but the pilot also aims to examine the challenges of a public rollout.

Case studies are being lined up as part of the pilot, including testing various ways it could be used at the Air Festival. They are also considering the pros and cons of scaling up the pilot. Examples from other areas are a major part of making the case – currently, Liverpool are testing the social and financial benefits of connecting hard-to-reach areas. In Dorset, TG said that 5G would make it a lot easier for hauliers to fit cameras to lorries, and AA said it would significantly improve Wi-Fi availability on trains.

The Cabinet report for the Lansdowne pilot is being submitted in December 2019.

A wider BCP programme would cost and estimated £500m, which is currently unfunded. They hope that with new business models underpinning it, the scheme could pay for itself. One of the ways they hope to attract investors is with a prospectus to inform people about the scheme and showcase the benefits through examples of how it will improve lives.

The Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have already embedded Smart Cities technology in their systems, and are exploring options for enhanced data sharing (e.g. firefighters being informed of health issues of residents they are attending).

The Smart Cities group are also working with Superfast Dorset, though while Superfast Dorset is mostly dealing with internet speeds, Smart Cities is more concerned with plugging various market shortfalls in connectivity, especially in rural areas. RS said that including the whole Dorset area is vital to maximise the benefits of the initiative, as this provides enough of a market to keep investors interested.

## **6. SEDMMS Update**

The South East Dorset Multi Modal Study, a partnership between BCP Council, Dorset Council and DLEP will conclude in March 2020. Although this is later than expected, it is vital that the information is correct. The scenario testing is also due to be completed soon.

The model has now been handed over to AECOM and will form part of the TCF work.

## **7. Future High Streets**

EW reported that the amount of money available for the Future High Streets fund has doubled to £1bn, though more high streets will now be eligible for inclusion. The inception meeting with the government in Bristol was a success, and there will be a stakeholder meeting in December to discuss various issues around the bid.

Poole has also been awarded the maximum £150k to put together a business case, and as more councils are now bidding, submission dates have been pushed back. A decision will be made on the submission in autumn 2020.

Historic England have granted Poole £265k for heritage work in the town centre, and they are happy for this to be joined up with Future High Streets work.

RS said that the FHS group and Smart Cities had met with a local tech SME recently. She raised the possibility that an existing SME consortium for Smart Cities could be developed to aid Future High Streets.

## **8. DLEP Scheme Progress (GD1, 2 and 3) – Overview of recent progress**

**BCP:** - The scheme at Wessex Fields is progressing well, with physical access to the airport and industrial estate improving. The final phase of access from Poole Port to the trunk road has been postponed as the Twin Sails Bridge is out of action. At Hunger Hill, open space is being formed and public art commissioned and built.

**Dorset:** - The LEP has allocated funding to three roundabouts on the Ferndown corridor. WSP have taken over and identified 15 issues, and the strategic business case will be outlined to the LEP board in November.

DC are investigating the options for the new Longham Bridge. There is no money available at present, by the Local Highways Maintenance fund may be able to help. They have received money for the Gillingham development, which is progressing.

## **9. Updates from sectors**

**TRN** – A31 is being developed in the background. Two bridges have to be replaced (the funding has been found internally at Highways England). The consultation is to start late 2019/early 2020.

Only around ten schemes will be started under RIS2 in England – no guarantee any will be in the South West.

HE may co-ordinate with rail companies on smart motorways.

Ports – Portland Port expect 10,000 more passengers next year, so it is likely that they will make heavier use of buses. HGVs won't increase until 2020, but after that, they'll double by 2021.

Airport – Bournemouth Airport have had a good year in a difficult landscape, with 20% growth. TUI are putting on an extra ½ an aircraft across the summer next year, and will introduce two new destinations, including Skiathos.

The aim is to double passenger numbers in 5 years. Up to 65 new staff have been hired so the Airport control as much of the customer experience as possible.

A new executive jet centre has been opened, offering more secure services to football teams etc. in the area (one can also charter a plane on others' behalf). They also hope to open a premium lounge in summer.

The airport also hope to set up a regional forum to attract airlines to fly to Bournemouth by emphasising the tourism and business opportunities to pitch the entire region to airlines.

Bus Sector (MoreBus) – GSC have put out their winter timetable.

Yellow Buses – YB's next major event is the Christmas Tree Wonderland. Summer 2020 offerings are being planned.

Rail – A new SWR timetable is coming out in December.

SWR have been engaged in strategic planning with NR and LAs for the West of England line.

SWR have made several suggestions to the national Stations Improvements Programme, but they have yet to hear about funding. They have also bid for accessibility improvements at Pokesdown and Dorchester South stations.

The Customer Communities Improvement Fund has now closed – successful bids will be notified soon.

Swanage Railway are reasonably confident of running a Swanage-Wareham service for 90 days next summer.

Haulage – the main issue for hauliers now is rail bridge strikes (i.e. the vehicle or container hitting a bridge). The bridge at Blandford is unmarked, and the dynamics changed recently, leading to trailer damage.

Brexit uncertainty is still affecting vehicle purchases.

Wyvern Cargo have now reduced their area, so electric hybrid vehicles are now a serious possibility.

**ACTION:** David Glinos to deal directly with Wyvern to help them find low-emission solutions.

## **10.AOB**

DR invited group to a talk held at Bournemouth University on the collapse of Thomas Cook.

A31 works may put pressure on A350.

CM raised that Connected Dorset often deals only with the immediate issues rather than transforming the transport landscape to be more eco-friendly. JMcL explained that the LTP covers this.

### **11. Dates of future meetings**

Several possible meeting dates for 2020 were suggested:

**Meeting 1: 21st, 22nd, 29th January**

**Meeting 2: 22nd, 29th April**

**Meeting 3: 8th, 15th July**

**Meeting 4: 14th, 22nd October, 4th November**

**ACTION:** Members to inform Francesca Powell of their availability for proposed 2020 meetings