

DRAFT MINUTES

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

28 OCTOBER 2021 10:00 am – 11.30 am

MS Teams Video Conference

Attendees:

- Nick Gaines (NG), Dorset LEP Board member
- Emma Baker (EB), Dorset Council
- Andrew Ardley (AA), Southwest Railways
- Steve Atkins (SA), SSE
- Jim Stewart (JS), Dorset LEP Board member
- Julian McLaughlin (JM), BCP Council
- Liz Williams (LW), Governance & Performance Manager in Higher Education
- David Lewis (DL), South West Energy Hub
- Brett Spiller (BS), Chapman Lily Planning
- Marc Griffin (MG), WSP Global (transport)
- Nigel Martin (NM), Wessex Water
- Greg Stone (GS), Highways England

Also present:

- Corrina Osborne (CO), Dorset LEP
- Rosie Macnamara (RM), Dorset LEP

Apologies:

- Jim Andrews (JA), Dorset LEP Board member
- Andrew Wickham (AW), Dorset LEP Board Member
- Mark Wray (MW), Knowledge Transfer Network
- Sara Uzzell (SU), Dorset LEP Board member
- John Sellgren (JS), Dorset Council

Item	Subject/ Title	Action owner
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest Apologies noted.	
2.	Agree draft minutes The draft minutes from the last meeting were approved. Actions from last meeting:	

	<p>1. RM to invite JM to the October meeting to provide a Connected Dorset update – completed and has an agenda slot in this meeting.</p> <p>2. DL to share SW Energy Hub new build planning and policy development best practice with Dorset Council – completed – calls and emails exchanged.</p> <p>3. RM to invite NP to the next meeting. CO to liaise with PR to link up with Network Rail re low carbon energy opportunities – completed; Regen and PR linked up via email.</p> <p>5. RM to add a discussion item to the next agenda for the Committee to agree priority areas of focus – due to the ongoing national LEP review this action will roll forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>6. GS to update in future meetings how stakeholders can feed into route strategies – ongoing and will become Committee business as usual activity.</p>	
3.	<p>Dorset LEP infrastructure investments: Gillingham Growth project</p> <p>EB gave a presentation on the Gillingham Growth project, a Dorset LEP funded project, and RM gave a brief overview of the Growth Deal Fund which is now fully completed and outcomes to be delivered by 2024-25.</p> <p>The Local Growth Fund was allocated to deliver a package of transport improvement schemes within Gillingham town centre. Improvements to the road network were shown as necessary through the Transport Assessment completed for the Gillingham southern extension.</p> <p>The schemes aim to unlock the development of up to 1800 houses and 2500 jobs. The works were programmed to be constructed over a 15-month period.</p> <p>The physical works were substantially completed on programme and under budget.</p> <p>Infrastructure works delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaftesbury Road/New Road junction improvement • Newbury/Le Neubourg Way junction improvement • Sustainable transport improvements – walking, cycling links between the development, station, town centre • Public realm improvements to enhance the High Street (enhanced carriageway, footways, streetlights, etc) • Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique (SCOOT) installation on 5 junctions along the B3081/B3092 corridor • Enmore Green Link Road design 	

4.	<p>Investing in the Railway</p> <p>AA gave a presentation on current investment programmes.</p> <p>Work across Dorset:</p> <p>Short term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bidding for Government funds such as Cycle Rail and Access for All • Supporting third parties to develop and implement rail schemes e.g. working with Dorset Coastal Forum on Weymouth forecourt • Customer and Communities Improvement Fund • Station Travel Plans • Community Rail Partnerships and Adoption Groups <p>Longer Term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Rail Strategic Studies • Engaging with Local Plans, regeneration strategies, Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body (SnTB), Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs), Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs), National Highways Route Strategies, Connected Dorset • Development of Station Masterplans • WISP –Southern Region <p>Network Rail South West Mainline Strategic Study has been published on the long-term planning of the Network Rail website: https://www.networkrail.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/South-West-Main-Line-Strategic-Study.pdf</p> <p>Phase Two of the Network Rail Main Line strategy has kicked off and will look at the infrastructure from Woking out towards Bournemouth, Salisbury, Alton and Portsmouth.</p> <p>Network Rail continue to work towards completing the Dorset Connectivity Strategic Study and have kicked off a Wessex focussed rail freight study.</p>	
5.	<p>Connected Dorset update</p> <p>JM gave an update on the Connected Dorset meetings. The Connected Dorset advisory group is a sub-group of the Strategic Infrastructure Committee, focused on transport and achieving efficient and reliable systems to improve transport</p>	

	<p>in Dorset, the group brings together key partners to promote integrated, efficient and sustainable transport strategic priorities in the area. The meetings take place on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>The group acts in an advisory capacity to the Strategic Infrastructure Committee and complements existing council meetings and sub-national groups that help define strategy and action around transport in Dorset. It provides an invaluable tool for stakeholders to engage with each other and coordinate key policy or strategies.</p> <p>The membership comprises of organisations including Dorset LEP, BCP Council, Poole Harbour Commissioners, Department for Transport, Portland Port, Dorset Council, South Western Railways, Swanage Railways, Yellow Buses, Highways England, Network Rail, Go South Coast, Road Haulage Association, WSP, and Wyvern Cargo.</p> <p>The last two meetings have seen an update on Transforming Cities Fund with an overview of the schemes, the launch of the consultations and how to get involved; presentations from Highways England on the Road Investment Strategy, the long-term strategic vision for the Strategic Road Network; an update on the Route Strategies, Highways England's vehicle for understanding the strategic road network and future investment priorities. The 5-year cycle starts with assessment of every route on the strategic road network, and evidence gathering from stakeholders. Review of the current evidence base started in 2020 and external stakeholder engagement started in late Spring 2021.</p> <p>BCP Council has updated the group on the Western Gateway Subnational Transport Body (STB). The strategy will be submitted in April 2023 and there will be opportunities for giving views. The Council will continue updating the group on stakeholder engagement opportunities moving forward.</p> <p>The update on the Dorset Strategic Study from Network Rail highlighted to the group the key elements of the long-term planning of the rail network through to 2050 and the opportunities to input into the planning.</p> <p>Other updates have included the National Coach Strategy, the BCP Bus Service Improvement Plan, the M4 to Dorset Coast Strategic Study, an update from Dorset LEP, BCP Council and Dorset Council on the Growth Deal projects.</p>	
--	--	--

	All meetings for 2022 are published on the Dorset LEP website.	
6.	<p>Energy update</p> <p>The Low Carbon Investment Opportunities document highlights opportunities for improving energy distribution across Dorset (https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/dorset-net-zero) and identifies “quick wins” for energy including solar generation, offshore wind, hydrogen for heavy transportation, marine usage, amongst others etc.</p> <p>Dorset LEP is seeking to create a Low Carbon Energy Partnership with Nick Gaines as Chair. The details of the partnership will be finalised once the role of LEPs in low carbon energy are confirmed which is anticipated to be through the LEP Review. Further details will be shared with the Committee in due course.</p>	
7.	<p>Highlights for Board</p> <p>NG highlighted the importance of the Committee in agreeing priorities in order to take action for Dorset.</p>	
8.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None.</p>	

Date of next meeting: 28 February 2022 10:00-12:00