

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday, 20 October 2016 at 5.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Hannah Hockaday (in the Chair)

Councillors Steve Hastings
Yahiya Chowdhury
Matthew Winnington

13. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

Councillor Hunt had sent his apologies for absence as he was unwell.

14. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

15. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 13 September 2016 (AI 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

16. Smarter Cities Review (AI 4)

(i) Presentation on Intelligent Transport Systems by Pam Turton, Assistant Director of Transport, Environment & Business Support and Adil Mohammad, Traffic & Network Manager

The importance of transport as an enabler of activity supporting the regeneration of Portsmouth was outlined.

With limited road space and strong growth agenda, and associated predicted increases in traffic, we need to gain the maximum capacity from existing infrastructure, providing improved, reliable journey times for all modes within the city.

Intelligent transport systems have a key role to play in maximising capacity as well encouraging the use of public transport and sustainable methods of transport such as cycling and walking.

***Aim:** To develop and implement cutting edge technology to deliver improved, consistent journey times for all modes, harnessing big data to provide real-time multi modal information enabling informed journeys, and enabling a real time response, with the overall aim of improving the journey experience for all users of the transport network within Portsmouth.*

Aspirations:

- *Improved management of the current network*
- *Support for the economic and growth strategies of the city*
- *Improved air quality and environmental objectives*
- *More informed decision making by members of the public through the provision of more information, leading to greater numbers of sustainable journey choices*
- *Improved end-to-end journey experience*
- *Improved uptake of public transport and active travel*
- *Improved management of events within the city, both regular (e.g. football matches) and irregular (e.g. America's Cup World Series)*

The public transport projects being implemented and investigated included:

- Real Time information boards - these were at 90 upgraded bus shelters in the city (delivered in part through LST¹ local sustainable travel funding from the Department of Transport)
- Smartcard Ticketing - these included Solent Go and Portsmouth Park & Ride
- Clear Channel is currently upgrading 40 bus shelters to digital advertising
- Future plans also included expanding payment options to 'Wave & Pay' (contactless payment through credit and debit cards) and retrospective billing
- Audio announcements are now available on buses and at bus shelters

The Hard Interchange - the new building was integrating 'smart' technology with the provision of Real Time Information travel screens, touch screens (which would include tourist information), Free Wi-fi and Beacon Technology².

Routes 4 All - work was taking place on an application to help individuals with particular mobility requirements, to determine the most accessible route. The App uses the Smartphone's internal sensors to record the user's journey, and how accessible the routes that they have used are. For example the internal tilt sensors show how bumpy a pavement is or how steep a dropped kerb is for a wheelchair user. The GPS data will also show desire lines for routes and crossing points.

Cycling: Department for Transport funding was being used to develop 'quiet ways' in the city to encourage cyclists to use 20mph routes (as 80% of cycling casualties occurred on the 30mph network). An ambition is to have an 'app' for cycling route planning. Funding for low level traffic light signals for cyclists was also being sought to allow a 2 second head start on motor traffic; a funding bid had been submitted for Portsmouth to be an early adopter of this technology.

¹ Local Sustainable Travel Fund

² This technology alerts mobile Apps to your location

X-Cam - video technology is used to monitor the build-up of queues and to enable changing the phasing of traffic signals to give public transport priority.

Traffic Signal Optimisation Programme - £1m funding is available for delivery of this to give greater control of junction capacity. There has been installation of 'MOVA'³ at independent junctions - 11 of these were due to be upgraded in the city.

Walking Improvements - This included:

- the upgrading of pedestrian facilities and integrate phasing at junctions
- upgrading of wayfinding totems (which show distances and times for walking between sites) to become digital touch screens
- Zebrite beacons - which are brighter and more visible than traditional Belisha beacons to help slow traffic at pedestrian crossings

Traffic Management Centre Upgrade

Portsmouth City Council (PCC) is investing approximately £0.25m in upgrading the Traffic Management Centre (TMC) to 'Stratos' a cloud based system enabling PCC to link up with more traffic lights within the city to the Traffic Management Centre and to provide remote access to the management systems. The upgrade to the TMC is the most effective solution currently available and provides secure, scalable and real-time traffic management. The system will be available by Spring 2017.

Journey Time Monitoring

There are 5 detector units for real-time journey monitoring, which make use of data from residents' smart devices. The data allows Traffic Engineers to monitor historical and current journey times, likewise journey times during major events, major road works etc.

Parking The Transport department is keen to develop and deliver technological solutions to parking issues, providing parking space information to monitor how full car parks are and a PCC 'where to park app' is being investigated, and 'wave & pay' is being implemented at PCC car parks starting with Isambard Brunel multi-storey.

Sustainable vehicles - 10 % of PCC's vehicle fleet now have 'Lightfoot' technology which gives audio reminders of how to drive economically, which will reduce fuel bills and emissions.

Communication with the public - this is via several social media channels (including Twitter and Facebook) to give messages on traffic problems and route planning around major events. It is also planned to develop a PCC website which would have a centralised travel information section.

Adil Mohammad then expanded on the traffic network issues, with the build-up of traffic and disruption on the network being monitored and reacted to. A **Digital Platform** is being created with the upgrades to the Traffic Management Centre system, signalling upgrades and other 'smart'

³ Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation

technology being integrated into this. This includes Internet of Things technology - with roadside sensors (detecting traffic flow and air quality/pollution levels, Big Data (bringing together data that can be used in developing 'apps'), Situational Awareness (harnesses information via smartphones) - which can all provide information to help drivers make informed travel choices. The collection of data also enables more accurate modelling for transport planning and in predicting the levels of demand for public transport.

The Transport, Environment & Business Support Department's next steps included:

- Developing dynamic route guidance systems, Smart Mobility Model and Predictive Modelling Capability, and Co-operative ITS systems
- Putting in bids for C-ITS (worth £300k) and for Low Level Cycle Signals (also £300k)

Councillor Hockaday, as Chair, thanked both Pam and Adil for their very useful presentation and she invited questions from the panel members. Issues further expanded were:

- Timing of low level signals for cyclists - the result of the DfT ⁴ bid was likely to be known in November/December - Pam Turton would update the panel
- **Active travel** was being encouraged with consideration being given to co-ordinating different schemes through the strategy development for the Active Travel Strategy and Local Transport Plan work currently underway. These strategies would reflect and build on the aspirations around creating a walking friendly city and the Cycle Forum's City to Share strategy.
- Claire Upton-Brown reported that the National Planning Policy Framework also reflected sustainability, so that the public realm and design of the built space also encouraged all forms of public transport.
- The Park & Ride was already illustrating changes in patterns of behaviour (the pricing and marketing of Smart Cards there had encouraged takeup)
- It was recognised that apps/technology is just one element of encouraging behaviour change, and there are a range of factors which go into encouraging the uptake of sustainable travel modes.
- The issue of signing up all transport operators to smart ticketing was discussed; Pam confirmed that revenue sharing arrangements with operators remains a key consideration in the development of multi-operator, multi-modal ticketing options.
- There was some concern regarding the risk of using apps on handheld devices (including sat-navs in cars) and therefore hand-free alternatives were being investigated. Also the safety of cyclists the low level signals given 2 seconds to set off before the motorist was discussed and whether this would be detrimental to the flow of other traffic; it was anticipated that there would be little impact on general

⁴ Department for Transport

- traffic but potentially a significant improvement in safety for cyclists. All impacts would be modelled and considered prior to implementation.
- The new totem way-finders with digital touch-screen displays would have space for advertising too (which would help generate income); members were concerned that these may be prone to vandalism and expensive to repair. There would be the opportunity for the new maps to include information from various departments.

(ii) Written Information

The background notes circulated to members with the agenda were welcome.

17. Date of next meeting (AI 5)

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 17th November at 5pm, and Louise Wilders, Director of Community & Communication would be invited to present.

The meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.

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Councillor Hannah Hockaday
Chair