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(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Traffic and Transportation Cabinet Decision Meeting
Date of meeting:	19 th January 2023
Subject:	Southsea Transport Hub
Report by:	Tristan Samuels - Director of Regeneration
Report Author:	Abi Kelly - Senior Project Manager
Wards affected:	Central Southsea
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Requested by

1.1 Report requested by the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation.

2. Purpose:

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Southsea Transport Hub.

3. Background:

3.1 Southsea Transport Hub is the creation of a new transport hub including opportunity for improved public realm in the Clarence Interchange area bringing together the Southsea Coastal defence works, Hovertravel's aspirations for redevelopment and the Seafront Masterplan¹.

3.2 The opportunity for a transport hub in Southsea has been brought forward with the potential of aligning with the timescales of the coastal defence works and the redevelopment of the Hovertravel site. The area already provides interchange of sustainable travel modes but it is felt there is opportunity to make better use of the area improving transport links promoting sustainable travel options and making wider

¹ https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/173.48-Seafront-Masterplan_Accessible.pdf

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improvements, regenerating the local area and improving the economic, culture and leisure offering.

3.3 Clarence Pier is accessible by a number of different transport modes inclusive of the following;

- Bus
- Hovertravel
- Car/ Motorcycle
- Taxi
- Cycling
- Walking
- Rental E-scooters
- Coach Pick up/ Drop off

3.4 The new transport hub would enhance the transport services and infrastructure in and around the surrounding area of Clarence Pier. The improvements would ensure better accessibility of the area as well as easing the transition between different transport modes across the site.

3.5 Hovertravel currently work closely with the Isle of Wight NHS Trust Ambulance Service providing a fundamental service helping to transport patients to local hospitals, this offering is only enhanced by the collaborative work relationship between the Hovertravel and South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS).

3.6 The Hovertravel is a unique service and helps to support not only locals and commuters travelling to and from the Isle of White but is a well-known tourist attraction with people travelling from around the world to visit. The Hovertravel supports the local economy and tourism trade helping to promote Culture and Leisure within the City and special events throughout the year.

3.6 Feasibility funding of £50,000 has been allocated. The feasibility funding will support initial concept designs associated with the transport hub and public realm alongside refining a clear brief for the redevelopment of the Hovertravel terminal.

4. Strategy:

4.1. The Seafront Master Plan SPD (2021) states that there is opportunity for the creation of a new transport hub in the space adjacent to Clarence Pier and inclusive of the Hovercraft site.

4.2 It is proposed that the Hovertravel terminal is redeveloped with the primary function of providing check in/ out facilities for the Hovertravel with the potential to provide visitor information, flexible space ie. office/ venue facilities and café/ restaurant facilities to support local and visitor economy.

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- 4.3 The existing public toilet block is proposed to be removed and new facilities provided within the redeveloped Hovertravel terminal which in turn will create the realisation of a large public space.
- 4.4 The adjacent area to Clarence Pier will be redesigned and enhanced to provide an attractive public space, but also enhanced transport facilities for bus and coach services to facilitate an easy and convenient transition between these modes inclusive of cycle facilities and with the Hovertravel services.
- 4.5 The Portsmouth Transport Strategy (Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4))² was adopted at Full Council in October 2021, and includes the vision that:
- 'By 2038, Portsmouth will have a people-centred, connected travel network that prioritises walking, cycling and public transport to help deliver a safer, healthier and more prosperous city'.
- This vision is underpinned by four strategic objectives; delivery cleaner air, priorities walking and cycling, transform public transport and support business and protect our assets.
- 4.6 The Southsea Transport Hub would support this vision and objectives, increasing sustainable travel choice and provision, and ease of use. Within LTP4 a set of policies have been developed, with Policy L; *Deliver high quality transport interchanges, stations and stops* directly referring to the proposed introduction of transport hubs.

5. Stakeholders:

- 5.1 The redevelopment of the Hovertravel site and provision of a new transport hub and public realm area is supported via multi-agency and collaborative working.
- 5.2 Hovertravel need to refurbish their terminal building and want to work in partnership with PCC to deliver improvements to the wider area.
- 5.3 Discussions to date have also included working with the Isle of Wight NHS Trust Ambulance Service and SCAS to help support smoother and an easier transition for patients from the Isle of White to QA and Southampton General Hospital. An opportunity poses itself in being able to provide ambulance parking facilities on-site.

² <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/74.633-Local-Transport-Plan-2021-Final-Accessible.pdf>

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- 5.4 As plans advance in designing the transport hub and public realm facilities stakeholders such as Sustrans, the Cycle Forum and local Bus Companies will be approached to provide feedback and comments. Public engagement will take place during feasibility to understand areas of improvement and to collate feedback and comments for the proposed improvements.
- 5.5 The Southsea Defence design team are engaged, and the proposed transport hub and public realm will ensure consistency in terms of both design and materials.

6. Feasibility:

- 6.1 PCC have the aspiration to enhance the public realm and improve travel choices at Clarence Pier and transform it into a successful travel hub with the following objectives aligned to how CoMoUK assess mobility hubs when accrediting them:
 - 6.1.1 Develop a visible and accessible transport hub which will become part of the transport network with services easily accessible by all visitors.
 - 6.1.2 Provide a wide choice of transport modes for visitors to choose from which include public and shared modes, along with proper consideration of the needs of pedestrians.
 - 6.1.3 Allow easy switching between modes - designed and organised to facilitate easy access between different modes, and ensuring the modes are linked both physically and digitally.
 - 6.1.4 Safety - the design and facilities provided should ensure traveller safety is a key factor e.g. improved crossing points.
 - 6.1.5 Bringing convenience to different users by including practical non-transport facilities, such as public toilet, cafes, or workspace.
- 6.2 An initial brief has been drafted for the redevelopment of the Hovertravel site aligning itself with their vision to maximise the potential of a prime seafront location and to create greater transport integration and connectivity.
- 6.3 A working group has been established to engage in discussions around the design of the transport hub and public realm working with colleagues across Transport, Culture and Leisure and the Seafront Defence team.
- 6.4 Legal and the leasing team are engaged to ensure contractual and current leasing arrangements are reviewed and do not prevent works moving forward.

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7. Next Steps:

7.1 Monthly multi-agency working groups with stakeholders both internal and external need to be established to share ideas and help to define and shape the project brief.

7.2 Bi-monthly project board established representatives will include but are not limited to those from Transport, Culture & Leisure, Commercial & Property, Legal, Finance and Procurement.

7.3 Leasing arrangements to be reviewed in regard to the Hovertravel site and proposed commercial arrangements to be discussed as scheme progresses.

7.4 Public engagement and consultation to be completed to understand aspirations for the area and to obtain feedback with regard to the removal of the public toilet facilities to a new place within the Hovertravel site.

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Signed by Tristan Samuels, Director of Regeneration

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
LTP4	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/74.633-Local-Transport-Plan-2021-Final-Accessible.pdf
Seafront Masterplan	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/173.48-Seafront-Masterplan_Accessible.pdf