

Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Transport Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 14th September 2023

Subject: Solent Transport Business Plan 2023-2024 - for ratification

Report by: Kerri Farnsworth, Interim Director of Regeneration

Report Author: James Silvester, Interim Strategic Transport Lead

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

1.1.1 This report seeks ratification of Solent Transport Business Plan for 2023-2024 which was approved at Solent Transport Joint Committee on 6 March 2023.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Transport:

2.1 Ratifies the Solent Transport Business Plan for 2023-2024.

3. Background

3.1 Solent Transport is a partnership of the four Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) - Portsmouth City Council (PCC), Southampton City Council (SCC), Hampshire County Council (HCC) and the Isle of Wight Council (IoWC) - in the Solent sub-region. The partnership was originally established in 2007, with just PCC, SCC and HCC working together, with IoWC joining in 2013.

3.2 Solent Transport works to deliver improved transport infrastructure, networks and systems crucial to keeping the Solent region moving.

3.3 Solent Transport's priorities adapt each year to reflect the priorities identified by Solent Transport's Senior Management Board and the resources available. In the business plan proposed for 2023/24, there are 5 main priorities shown in table 1:



Solent Transport Strategy	To develop a strategic vision statement and high-level strategy for transport shared across the four Member LTAs, which will also help define the future focus of Solent Transport's activities
Maintenance and Management of the Sub-Regional Transport Model (SRTM)	The SRTM is a multi-modal transport model, covering highway and public transport modes, which allows testing of the impacts and benefits of land use and transport interventions. One of the priorities for next year involves preparing for a major upgrade of the SRTM.
Solent Future Transport Zone (FTZ) delivery	A FTZ is a trial programme, funded by the Department for Transport, to help make journeys easier, smarter and greener. This aspect of work would continue the successful delivery of the FTZ programme
Solent Go	To consider the future structure of Solent Go, its delivery through digital means and also its role as a product in the regional fares environment and in Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs)
Solent Rail Connectivity Strategic Outline Business Case	Further work (jointly with Network Rail) to develop the Solent Rail Connectivity proposals, in an environment where rail funding from central government is reduced compared to the past

Table 1 - Solent Transport Business Plan priorities

- 3.4 Further details on each of these 5 priorities are included in the report to Solent Transport Joint Committee 6 March 2023 prepared by the Solent Transport Manager and attached as Appendix A.
- 3.5 To support the delivery of the business plan, PCC makes an annual contribution to Solent Transport of £40k, plus officer time. This amount goes towards Solent Transport's annual operating cost (mostly made up of staff costs) of roughly £190k. The annual £40k contribution has remained at the same level since 2013.
- 4. Reasons for recommendations**
- 4.1 The four constituent Local Transport Authorities (LTAs), working in conjunction with the district councils in the south of Hampshire, recognise that significantly more can be achieved by working in partnership than by operating in isolation. Therefore, there is a strong desire for Solent Transport to continue.
- 4.2 Solent Transport's Joint Committee approved the draft business plan on 6th March 2023. However, the approval of each of the four constituent LTAs is also



needed, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Terms of Reference in Solent Transport's legal agreement⁽¹⁾.

5. Integrated impact assessment (IIA)

5.1 An IIA is attached as Appendix B.

6. Legal implications

6.1 Solent Transport (formally, "Transport for South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight") operates as a Joint Committee of the four constituent local transport authorities established under powers contained in sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.

6.2 Under its Terms of Reference, one of the functions of the Joint Committee each year is *"to recommend the Annual Business Plan to the parties who will approve the Business Plan through their own decision-making system and, once approved, to implement the approved Annual Business Plan"*.

6.3 Accordingly, the Cabinet Member for Transport is now recommended to approve the current year's Business Plan on behalf of Portsmouth City Council.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 The Council makes an annual contribution to Solent Transport of approximately £40,000 per annum, this is funded through the Transport Portfolio's cash limited budget. There has been no proposal to increase contributions for 2023/2024.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Appendix A - Report to Solent Transport Joint Committee 6th March 2023

Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment

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
Legal Agreement related to Transport for South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	TfSHIOW-Agreement-updated-March-2021-1.pdf (solent-transport.com)



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
rejected by on

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Signed by: