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Hertfordshire Local Transport Body Board Meeting

11:00 – Thursday 2 October 2014, County Hall, Hertford

Those Attending:

Attendee	Organisation
Core Members	
Cllr Terry Douris (TD)	Hertfordshire County Council (<i>Chair, Hertfordshire LTB</i>)
Cllr Richard Thake (RT)	Deputy Chair, Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership
Andrew Percival (AP)	Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Supporting Officers	
Joan Hancox (JH)	Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Jon Tiley (JT)	Hertfordshire County Council
Richard Boutal (RB)	Hertfordshire County Council
Morag Saunders (MS)	Hertfordshire County Council
Sanjay Patel (SP)	Hertfordshire County Council
Andy Summers (AS)	Hertfordshire County Council
Andy Morris (AM)	Hertfordshire County Council
Rupert Thacker (RTh)	Hertfordshire County Council
Jo Brown (JB)	Hertfordshire County Council (Communications Team)
Ian Cox (IC)	Hertfordshire County Council (<i>Minute Secretary</i>)
External Visitors	
Jenny Volp (JV)	Highways Agency
Stephen Hall (SH)	Highways Agency
Ashley Stower (ASt)	Network Rail

Minutes:

Serial	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence	
1.1	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting who then introduced themselves.	
1.2	Apologies for Absence were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Younghusband – HCC• Tom Hennessy – HCC• Trevor Mason – HCC• Sue Jackson – HCC• Simon Amor – HCC• Jane Custance – Watford BC• Alex Williams – TfL• Eric Cooper – Highways Agency• Alan Kirkdale – Highways Agency	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
2.1	The minutes of the 3 March 2014 Hertfordshire Local Transport Body (Herts LTB) meeting were agreed to be an accurate record and, as such, were signed by the Chair.	

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3.	Conflicts of Interest	
3.1	No conflicts of interest were declared.	
4.	Progress & Updates Since Last Meeting (verbal updates):	
4.1	<u>DfT/Government Guidance and Announcements</u>	
4.1.1	None – the SEP announcement in July postponed the last Herts LTB Board meeting.	
4.2	<u>Highways Agency (HA) – Route Based Strategy (RBS) Update</u>	
4.2.1	JV explained that the Route Based Strategy Area reports had now been published and were being sifted for priority locations. She went on to explain that the HA was now undertaking Stage 2 of the RBS process and would be submitting funding applications to undertake further option development for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1(M) Junctions 5-9; • M25 junctions; • M11 Junctions 7-8; and • An access/connectivity study for the A1(M). 	
4.2.2	JV went-on to explain that options for further development would be announced in the Government’s Autumn Statement. AP asked if it would be worth the LEP writing a letter of support for the A1(M) improvements? RB said that HCC were already looking at short-term A1(M) junction improvements to match the HA’s ongoing work and it was the intention to bring these to the next LTB Board meeting as a package that could also be used for lobbying.	
4.2.3	TD said that the Autumn Statement was now in the refinement stage. JV added that the HA was pushing the A1 corridor and any support would be welcome to push it further-up the political ladder. TD said, in that case, a letter as suggested by AP should be prepared.	AP/JH
4.2.4	TD asked when work on the ‘pinch-point’ scheme between A1(M) junctions 5-6 would commence? JV said that Phase 1 would commence in December 2014, with Phase 2 following between January and March 2015.	
4.3	<u>Network Rail (NR)</u>	
4.3.1	ASt explained that NR was about to commence a study looking at network improvements for the period 2026-2033 and this would cover the Abbey Line and the lower part of the West Coast Main Line. Some of the major factors to be looked at will be the service between HS1 and the opening of HS2; the Watford to Cross Rail Link using Old Oak Common; and options for the long-term development of Euston.	
4.3.2	AP asked what was happening in respect of the Watford Junction passenger capacity study? ASt said he would update AP outside the meeting (copy to IC).	ASt

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4.3.3	RT asked what was happening with the West Anglia route study? He added that he may be called upon to support the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium concerns and asked ASt to alert his colleagues. RTh said a meeting was planned to cover this later in the week.	ASt
4.3.4	Returning to the NR 2026-2033 Study, TD asked if there could be positive outcomes for Hertfordshire? ASt said that lots of elements would be looked-at, but he could not add much other than to say that Light Rail will once again be looked into.	
4.3.5	JH asked ASt if there was a paper in existence on the possibility of linking Crossrail 1 to Hertfordshire (ie, to Tring). ASt said he would find-out. JH went on to say that more background information would be needed, in particular on the domestic line into Euston. ASt said that NR was looking at the least painful options. JH asked if the Herts LTB would be involved in the 2026-2033 study? ASt confirmed that it would.	
4.3.6	Discussions then ensued around the re-development of Euston Station.	
5.	Strategic Economic Plan / Growth Plan Update	
5.1	<u>2015/16 – 2020/21 Growth Deal – Programme and Projects</u>	
5.1.1	JH talked-through the slides as they were presented to those at the meeting. TD emphasised how good the Herts LEP SEP was compared to others. MS pointed-out that the DfT were very complimentary about the Hertfordshire work. JH said that Hertfordshire was proposing real schemes rather than concepts.	
5.2	<u>LTB Role in Growth Deal Governance</u>	
5.2.1	SP and RB talked-through the slides as they were presented to those at the meeting. TD expressed concern as to whether or not money would be available in later years to 2020 to finish projects. SP said that funding for 2016/17 had been provisionally agreed, and HCC was committing resources on the basis that future funding allocated would be delivered.	
5.2.2	RB noted that the certainty of future funding was a risk, and the DfT is well aware that the Herts LEP is committing resources now.	
5.2.3	Two other points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS pointed-out that that Hertfordshire is bringing together smaller schemes into larger packages and SP added that this was why our funding bid was so robust; and • RTh emphasised the need to deliver sustainable transport. 	
5.3	<u>Assurance Framework Update</u>	
5.3.1	AS talked-through the slides as they were presented to those at the meeting.	

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5.3.2	<p>TD asked if the changes proposed to the Assurance Framework would protect the LTB from challenges? AS said that employing the Gateway process does this by setting out a clear and transparent process for projects. AP said that the LEP were happy with the amendments to the Framework being proposed and the LEP would pick them up to ensure that they are complimentary with its Framework. RT added that from the HIPP perspective, the proposals would get away from double consultation. MS made the point that LTB oversight of all projects should not be lost. The Herts LTB Board formally agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed updates to the LTB Assurance Framework as set-out in Section 4 and Appendix 1 of the proposed updates paper dated 2 Oct 14 issued to Board Members; and • Agreed the recommendation that the proposed updates are considered by the LEP Board and HCC Cabinet for inclusion in the wider Growth Deal governance arrangements that are due to be agreed later in FY 2014/15. 	<p>AS / JH</p> <p>AS</p>
6.	LTB Priority Schemes	
6.1	<p>RB talked-through the update paper presented to those at the meeting. RT said he was pleased with what was said regarding the A120. TD briefly mentioned HCC's relationship with Essex CC, pointing-out the A120 is actually a Trunk Road in Essex. TD, AP and RT said that they were very happy with the paper as presented.</p>	
6.2	<p>RT asked if the A120 scheme would result in an improvement in Air Quality, commenting that this must be a statutory problem? TD commented that people tend to forget that the A120 Bypass scheme also has a flood alleviation element which the Environment Agency (EA) would not have been able to fund as a stand-alone project. RB added that the EA would be present at the forthcoming exhibitions.</p>	
6.3	<p>The LTB noted the Report and the following decisions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To endorse the responses to the Business Cases for the A120 and A602 and for these to be published on the LTS website (Report para 4.1); and • To recommend funding in principle for both the A120 and A602 (as prioritised LTB schemes) from the 2015-20 Hertfordshire LEP Growth Deal. 	
6.4	<p>JB asked whether or not a press release should be prepared to cover funding. After discussion it was agreed that she would prepare a draft for consideration by TD, AP and RT.</p>	JB
7.	Forward Programme	
7.1	<p>In terms of the Forward Programme, AS commented that there could be opportunity for inviting external speakers to future LTB Board meetings under the 'Forward Programme' header. Suggestions included Network Rail, the Train Operating Companies (especially GTR Great Northern and Thameslink), Sustrans, the London Infrastructure Plan and finalised</p>	

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	HA Route Based Studies. AS agreed to put together an outline programme for the next 12 months.	AS
7.2	MS commented that the LTB could help the HA with scheme prioritisation and JV said that the HA was looking to develop complimentary schemes.	
8.	Any Other Business	
8.1	None. The meeting closed at 12:35.	
9.0	Date of Next Meeting	
Date	Time	Location
Thu 15th January	14:30 to 16:30	Committee Room 'B', 1st Floor, HCC County Hall