

Worcestershire Local Transport Board (WLTB)

Minutes of WLTB meeting

10.00a.m. Friday 11th September 2015

Kidderminster Room, Worcestershire County Council, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP

WLTB members present:

Councillor Adrian Hardman (Chairman) Worcestershire County Council
Leader of the Council with Responsibility for Finance

Councillor Simon Geraghty Worcestershire County Council
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure

Ian Edwards Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
Senior Project Manager

Tom Stracey White Logistics & Storage Ltd
Managing Director

Tom Pierpoint First Great Western
Regional Development Manager

Also present:
Nigel Hudson Worcestershire County Council
Head of Strategic Infrastructure and Economy

Andy Baker Worcestershire County Council
Transport Planning Manager

Roy Fullee Worcestershire County Council
Project Manager

Andy Maginnis Worcestershire County Council
Programme and Commissioning Manager

Lynsey Keir Worcestershire County Council
Sustainable Schemes Team Leader

Richard Banner Worcestershire County Council
Development Officer

Ian Beavis Parsons Brinckerhoff
Practitioner Associate

Ian Harrison

Parsons Brinckerhoff
Transport Consultant

David Crockett

CH2M
Director – Public Transport & Appraisal

Mark Broomby

CH2M
Project Manager

Andrew Ball

CH2M
Transport Planner

Mike Haigh

SLC Rail
Transport Planner

Graham Russell

Amion
Partner Director

DRAFT

Item 1

Welcome and introductions

Councillor Adrian Hardman opened the meeting and welcomed the board members and other attendees.

Apologies:

WLTB members:

Councillor Rod Laight

Bromsgrove District Council
Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture Services

Councillor John Smith

Worcestershire County Council
Cabinet Member for Highways

Councillor John Campion

Worcestershire County Council
Cabinet member for Transformation and Change

Councillor Marc Bayliss

Worcester City Council
Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity

Gary Woodman

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
Executive Director

Other attendees:

Matt Maginnis

Worcestershire County Council
Flood Risk and Highway Drainage Manager

Declarations of interest and any other relevant information:

Tom Pierpoint asked whether his profession and appointment to the WLTB would be a conflict of interest in respect of the Worcestershire Parkway scheme. Councillors Adrian Hardman and Simon Geraghty said there would be no conflict of interest.

Item 2

Matters arising from minutes of previous WLTB meeting held on Monday 26 January 2015 (Minutes enclosed)

There were no matters arising from the last meeting and Councillor Adrian Hardman signed the minutes as a true record of events.



26.01.2015 WLTB
meeting - Notes of mx

Item 3

WLTB programme review and update

Ian Edwards gave a presentation identifying the status of WLTB funded schemes over the period 2015/16 to 2020/21 and forecasted funding allocation. £13m is available for 2015/16 schemes, with £10m allocated. In total a further £30m available over 3 years from 2015/16.

Funding allocation and profile

Scheme	Funding			
	Scheme cost	WLTB	LEP	Other
Southern Link Road	£33.0m	£4.4m (15/16 - 16/17) 15/16 £1.4m 16/17 £3.0m	£12.0m (15/16 - 16/17) 15/16 £2.0m (LEP forecast £3.4m with WLTB fund) 16/17 £10.0m (LEP forecast £4.0m with WLTB fund with £9.0m for 17/18 - 20/21)	£16.6m £16.27m developer £0.33m local authority
Worcestershire Parkway	£22.0m	£0.8m (17/18)	£7.5m (16/17)	£13.7m £12.23m prudential borrowing £1.47m WCC
Drainage schemes	£4.0m		£4.0m (15/16 - 16/17) 15/16 £1.2m (LEP forecast £0.5m) 16/17 £2.8m (LEP forecast £2.0m) 17/18 - 20/21 (LEP forecast £1.5m)	
Worcester Six	£5.0m		£5.0m (15/16 - 16/17) 15/16 £1.0m (LEP forecast £2.0m) 16/17 £4.0m (LEP forecast £3.0m)	
Cathedral Square	£1.9m		£0.5m (starting 15/16)	£1.1m £0.3m developer £0.8m local authority

Item 4

WLTB major schemes update

Cathedral Square

Lynsey Keir presented an update on this scheme. She stated that good progress is being made on phase 1 (realignment of the carriageway and revised vehicular turning movements) with works anticipated to be completed by the end of October 2015.

Councillor Adrian Hardman asked that once phase 1 has been completed will work on the public highway pause. Lynsey Keir advised that this could be the case dependent on issues with the hoarding. Councillor Hardman advised that Salmon Harvester Opportunities Funds Ltd need to be pressed-on in order to reduce the occupancy of the hoarding area in order to try and ensure forecasted timescales for completion are met, particularly in respect of the public highway works. Nigel Hudson stated that the end of 2016 was the original, envisaged time period for the opening of the redeveloped area, but this may now be early 2017.

Lynsey Keir also added that in addition to the redevelopment of the Cathedral Square area, the footway along College Street will also be enhanced.

Lynsey Keir advised that there is a shortfall of £300,000 in funding but discussions were already under way to address the funding gap.

Parking enforcement, particularly during the redevelopment phase, will be managed by Worcester City Council.



Catherdal Square, 11.9.2015 WLTB
Worcester (Lynsey Keir meeting - Catherdal S

Decision: The update was noted by the LTB and approved 2015/16 £0.5m funding subject to formal review of the Business Case by the Independent Technical Advisor

New Road flooding scheme

Matt Maginnis was unavailable to present an update on this scheme but would address any questions that are raised and submitted.

Councillors Adrian Hardman and Simon Geraghty enquired about timing and completion dates because of concerns there are no specific details available They also stated that Worcestershire County Cricket Club (WCCC) need to provide clear plans on their redevelopment of the cricket ground to ensure all timescales are achievable and there are no adverse impact upon the works being undertaken by Worcestershire County Council (WCC). Andy Baker informed the meeting that works would be completed in 2016 but will provide a copy of the programme of works while WCCC will be liaised with in order to obtain details of their redevelopment schedule.



11.9.2015 WLTB
meeting - New Road f

Decision: The update was noted by the LTB and approved 2015/16 £0.5m funding subject to formal review of the Business Case by the Independent Technical Advisor

Worcester Six

Graham Russell presented an independent assessment of this strategically important scheme for Worcestershire, recognised as a top priority for the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP) in their Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), submitted in March 2014.



Worcester Six
(Graham Russell) 11.9.15.ppt



Cathedral Square
plan 11.9.15.pdf

Decision: The update was noted by the LTB and approved the total LGF allocation of £5.0m, £3m of which is to be brought forward from £2016/17.

Worcestershire Parkway

Mike Haigh gave a progress update and presentation.

He advised that the Department for Transport will sign off the business case in October. Invitations to tender for construction will commence mid to late October with the appointed contractor announced in January 2016. Construction works will commence during autumn 2016 with an anticipated completion date of autumn 2017.

Ian Harrison presented the ITA assessment and recommended that the Worcestershire Parkway scheme be given conditional approval and progress to full business case submission.

Councillor Adrian Hardman stated that there was no mention of HS2 and cited whether this railway scheme was seen as an irrelevance. Ian Harrison replied, advising that HS2 will have no impact on the delivery of Worcestershire Parkway and that the importance of this station was to increase connectivity to London and to commence connection to cross county services while cross country services will facilitate access to HS2 in Birmingham.

Tom Stracey asked whether there were any compulsory purchase order issues following recent reports in the local media. Nigel Hudson acknowledged that there were some hurdles to overcome and negotiations were under way to address these.

Councillor Simon Geraghty mentioned the need to communicate the benefits of Worcestershire Parkway to the wider community and businesses and not just within

Worcestershire either. This station is a game changer that will reap significant economic benefits for the county as well as improve transport links.

Tom Pierpoint stated that the railway station will increase flexibility and accessibility for all rail users to London and cross country services, while the former will be enhanced if the remainder of the Cotswold Line is dualled though this could cost in the region of £300m to deliver in full.



Worcestershire
Parkway (Mike Haigh)



Worcestershire
Parkway (Parsons Bri

Decision: The WLTB unanimously provided Conditional Approval to the Worcestershire Parkway business case. The business case will be updated post procurement and will seek Full Approval at the next WLTB meeting.

Southern Link Road (Phase 3A)

Ian Beavis presented the ITA assessment and recommended that the Southern Link Road (Phase 3A) scheme be given full approval and progresses to construction, subject to completion of the necessary declarations.

Ian Edwards said it was necessary to ensure the scheme was delivered within the funding envelope. Nigel Hudson and Andy Maginnis gave reassurance that the scheme would be delivered within the required timeframes.

Nigel Hudson recommended that full WLEP funding profile be adjusted to reflect the forecast spend profile. Ian Edwards advised that this was possible.



Southern Link Road
3A (Parsons Brinckert

Decision: The WLTB unanimously provided Full Approval to the Southern Link Road (Phase 3A) business case. The scheme can be progressed towards the construction stage.

The WLTB also noted that all schemes were on schedule to be delivered to the prescribed timescale.

Item 5

Looking forward – pipeline schemes

Nigel Hudson presented this item with a focus on the need to improve accessibility to/from Worcestershire to not only enhance 'getting around' but to drive economic growth in the county.

Councillor Adrian Hardman advised that it was critical to identify schemes as preparation for the next round of Local Growth Deal funding to ensure Worcestershire maximises all funding opportunities.

Councillor Simon Geraghty suggested that a breakdown of all funding streams be established in order to ascertain the level of local funding.

Andy Baker informed the group that as a rule of thumb scheme promoters should allow 10% of the full scheme costs development and design.

Councillor Adrian Hardman mentioned the A46 is a major barrier to Vale Park in Evesham and other nearby businesses. Andy Baker advised that a multi-agency group has been formed to develop the case for Highways England to bid for funding opportunities through future Route Investment Strategies, with the ultimate aim of converting the A46 in to an expressway.

Item 6

Any Other Business

Tom Pierpoint mentioned the Department of Transport have been requested to appraise the dualling of the remainder of the Cotsworld Line railway line.

The next WLTB meeting is to be held in February 2016; Roy Fullee to canvass the availability of members and confirm the date.

The meeting closed at 11:50am.