**Worcestershire Local Transport Body (WLTB)**

**Tuesday 25 July 2017**

**3.00 pm**

**Great Malvern Room, County Hall, Worcestershire County Council**

**WLT Members Present:**

Councillor Simon Geraghty Worcestershire County Council

*Leader of the Council with Responsibility for Finance*

Councillor Dr Ken Pollock Worcestershire County Council

*Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure*

Councillor Alan Amos Worcestershire County Council

*Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways*

District Councillor Ian Hardiman Wyre Forest District Council

*Representative for the North of the County*

Ian Edwards Worcestershire Local Enterprise

Partnership

*Growth Deal Project Manager*

Tom Peirpoint Great Western Railway *Regional Development Manager*

**Also present:**

Andy Baker Worcestershire County Council

*Transport Planning Manager*

Ian Harrison WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff

*Transport Consultant*

Abhi Bhasin Worcestershire County Council

*Transport Consultant*

Mark Mills Worcestershire County Council

*Project Commissioner*

Martyn von-Dahlen Andrews CH2M

*Transport Consultant*

Lynsey Keir Worcestershire County Council

*Transport Infrastructure Commissioning Team Leader*

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| **1** | **Welcome and Apologies**  Apologies:  Cllr Hardman – Worcestershire County Council, Deputy Leader  Cllr Bayliss - Representative for the south of the County  Tom Stracey – White Logistics Ltd  Rachel Hill – Worcestershire County Council, Strategic Commissioner, Major Projects |
| **2** | **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr Hardiman is also a Worcestershire County Councillor.  Cllr Geraghty is also a member of the LEP Board. |
| **3** | **Minutes/Matters arising from previous meeting**  The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a true record of the meeting. Andy Baker offered to supply an update to Tom Stracey on progress relating to Racecourse Road, Pershore. |
| **4** | **Assurance Framework**  In addition to discussing the proposed amendments to the Assurance Framework, as there were a couple of new Members on the LTB, Ian Harrison provided an overview of the background of the LTB and its role in the Assurance Framework process.  A summary of recommendations to alter the Assurance Framework were proposed. These included clarification on transparency of the group and availability of information relating to the projects it approves for funding.  It was requested that point 2.9 clarifies that the LEP Board confirm the Government funding allocations that are available for Transport projects, whilst the LTB endorse the use of these funds.  **Decision:** **It was agreed that the proposed changes were to be included and the revised Assurance Framework documentation be adopted.**  **LTB webpages**  It was agreed that the LTB webpages are to be updated to provide agendas for future LTB meetings seven days in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to publish all minutes of meetings and ITA responses to business cases. In addition a bespoke email address would be set up to allow external queries to be received in advance of future meetings. A link to the LTB will be provided on the LEP website.  **Decision:** **The Secretariat will update the LTB website to reflect the recommendations made subsequent to the Assurance Framework review.**  **Meeting paperwork**  It was also agreed to send all the papers out, including the Independent Transport Advisers comments, in advance of future meetings. |
| **5** | **Pershore Infrastructure Improvements – Abhi Bhasin (WCC) & Ian Harrison (WSP)**  Abhi Bhasin gave a presentation illustrating the context, progress to date, risks, outline programme and funding required for the project. Ian Harrison, the Independent Transport Advisor, then gave the formal response to the business case submission.  The scheme had a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of over 20, which is categorised as Very High. Councillor Geraghty raised the issue of Network Rail permission required to deliver the scheme, to which Mark Mills confirmed that there was no closure of the line required but the matter of "Air Rights" had been agreed with Network Rail.  Councillor Geraghty also asked if a roundabout had been considered for the Pinvin crossroads element of the scheme. Mark Mills confirmed that this had been considered during the options assessment process and discounted due to the significant additional cost this would accrue for minimal additional benefit.  Councillor Pollock asked if the scheme had been designed to facilitate the potential for future electrification and dual tracking. Mark Mills confirmed that it had but would follow up on the point made by Tom Pierpoint who referenced that Reading Station had been required to have a clearance of 6.2m to facilitate electrification, instead of the standard 5.9m. Mark Mills was asked to clarify this with Network Rail.  It was noted that the scheme had a funding shortfall of approximately £5m. Given the strategic importance of this scheme is was noted that the matter was going to a future Cabinet meeting to request that Worcestershire County Council underwrite the funding shortfall, with the proviso that additional funding sources were to be investigated to mitigate this.    **Decision: In light of the positive recommendation being put forward from the ITA, the LTB agreed to give Conditional Approval for this scheme and endorse the £5m contribution from the Worcestershire Local Growth Fund.** |
| **6** | **A38 Bromsgrove – Martyn von-Dahlen Andrews (CH2M)**  Martyn von-Dahlen Andrews gave a presentation highlighting the current status and progress with the scheme. The overall scheme has a significant funding shortfall and therefore it will be delivered in phases as funding opportunities present themselves. A meeting with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership is scheduled to take place to explore potential funding options. In addition, there are potential opportunities to bid for funding through the both Major Route Network Fund and the Housing Infrastructure Fund.  It was noted that the scheme forms part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to be implemented by 2023, relating to the delivery of the Bromsgrove Local Plan. Councillor Geraghty stated that it is important that the phasing of the scheme dovetails with the emerging economic growth priorities being developed by Bromsgrove District Council.  A request was made to provide explanations of traffic modelling acronyms. This will be supplied.  **Decision: LTB noted the update and gave their support to the project going towards Conditional Business case.** |
| **7** | **Projects Update – Lynsey Keir (WCC) on behalf of Rachel Hill (WCC)**  A brief presentation providing an update on SLR, Worcestershire Parkway and Kidderminster Rail Station was provided to the group. Councillor Amos asked if Worcestershire County Council are engaging with bus operators to ensure they serve the Worcestershire Parkway Station when it opens in 2019. Andy Baker confirmed that these discussions are taking place.  Councillor Geraghty raised the matter of missing artwork and promotional opportunities at Worcestershire Parkway. This would be followed up with the Central Communications team at Worcestershire County Council.  Councillor Pollock requested that sufficient consideration be given to parking provision for "Powered Two Wheelers" at Worcestershire Parkway.  **Decision: LTB noted this update.** |
| **8** | **Dates for future meetings**  As further business case approvals will not be required until 2018 it was requested that an update meeting focusing on project funding and finances was to be held in December 2017; Lynsey Keir will coordinate this. |
| **9** | **Any Other Business**  There were no issues raised and the meeting closed at 4:50pm. |