** **

**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*

**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.



**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**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Funding** | | | | | | |
| **Scheme** | Scheme cost | WLTB | | LEP | | Other | |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Southern Link Road | £33.0m | £4.4m (15/16 - 16/17) | | £12.0m (15/16 - 16/17) | | £16.6m | |
|  |  | 15/16 £1.4m | | 15/16 £2.0m (LEP forecast £3.4m with WLTB fund) | | £16.27m developer | |
|  |  | 16/17 £3.0m | | 16/17 £10.0m (LEP forecast £4.0m with WLTB fund with £9.0m for 17/18 - 20/21) | | £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.



**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.



**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.



**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.



**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.



**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 Cotswold 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.