

Worcestershire Local Transport Body (WLTB)

Notes of WLTB meeting

10.00a.m. Monday 26th January 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
- Councillor John Smith, Worcestershire County Council
Cabinet Member for Highways
- Councillor John Champion, 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
- Ian Edwards, Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
Growth Deal Project Manager
- Tom Stracey, White Logistics & Storage Ltd
Managing Director

Also present:

- Nigel Hudson, Worcestershire County Council
Head of Strategic Infrastructure and Economy
- Andy Baker, Worcestershire County Council
Transport Planning Manager
- Luke Willetts, Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
Business Delivery Manager
- Roy Fullee, Worcestershire County Council
Project Manager

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kidderminster Rail Station <p>Luke Willetts presented further information to set the context of how future funding for local major transport schemes is going to be devolved through WLEP via local Growth Deals negotiated with government.</p> <p>WLTB will play a key role in supporting WLEP in the development of a pipeline of transport schemes, including identification, prioritisation and coordination of these schemes.</p> <p>Decision: WLTB noted the revised role of LTBs in light of national picture and context of LEPs and Growth Deals</p>	
<p>ITEM 3 - Governance Arrangements – WLTB Framework</p> <p>In light of the emerging national context around Local Enterprise Partnerships receiving devolved funding from central government, the WLTB Assurance Framework has been revised accordingly.</p> <p>The revised version was unanimously approved by WLTB, subject to the following areas/recommendations being addressed accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Simon Geraghty recommended consideration is given to the inclusion of the Section 151 Officer of WCC in scheme development, due to a requirement to authorise funding strategies. • The minimum local funding contribution threshold was agreed to be lowered to 10% from the previous 25% threshold. Whilst this enhances the chances for scheme promoters to achieve 'programme entry' with their schemes – it must be recognised that this does not imply a 10% local funding 'cap' and that the greater the local contribution, the greater the chances of the scheme achieving 'programme entry' and subsequently 'funding approval'. • It was agreed that the webTAG methodology should be applied to those local major transport schemes where the total capital value exceeds £5m. <p>WLTB Framework - clarifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation provided to WLTB that a representative from Worcestershire sits on the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Transport Body (GBSLTB) • A separate 'light-touch' process has been developed and incorporated into the WLTB Assurance Framework for those schemes below the local 'major' scheme threshold of £5m – to provide a framework for LGF transport schemes • The WLTB now operates as a sub-group of the WLEP Board and it was agreed that meeting frequency should be set as quarterly with a review in 6 months. <p>Decision: WLTB approved Assurance Framework (subject to above) and agreed to publish finalised version on website.</p>	<p>AnBa</p>
<p>ITEM 4 - WLTB Major Schemes Update</p> <p>Andy Baker introduced each of the Project Managers to provide an update on the local major transport schemes that were first approved for delivery under WLTB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoobrook Link Road • Worcestershire Parkway railway station; and • Southern Link Road <p>Hoobrook Link Road Mark Mills presented an update on this scheme. He informed the board that good progress is being made.</p>	

The commencement of construction works is anticipated to be mid-April 2015 for duration of 12-14 months. All planning requirements and conditions have been met.

Subject to final tender prices it is anticipated that the scheme is fully funded should all finances be available from the WLEP and GBSLEP Growth Deal allocations.

Mark Mills advised WLTB that all DfT pinchpoint funding milestones and funding obligations have been met.

Worcestershire Parkway Rail Station
Andy Maginnis presented an update on this scheme.

The scheme received Worcestershire County Council cabinet approval during September 2014, where funding approval was obtained. Approval to proceed with a planning application was also obtained as part of the same WCC cabinet report.

The Project Team continue to liaise with key stakeholders including DfT, Network Rail and TOCs to ensure progress is maintained.

The commencement of construction works is anticipated to be June 2016 with an expected station open date during May 2017.

Southern Link Road (SLR)

Mark Broomby presented an introduction to this scheme. There was a positive reaction to the Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) from WLTB, although also a recognition that perhaps the full benefits of this scheme were not being conveyed to the wider public.

Ian Beavis and Ian Harrison (Parsons Brinckerhoff) presented to WLTB the work undertaken as part of their independent appraisal process on the SLR business case. Ian Beavis explained that the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) had been incorporated into their appraisal process.

Ian Harrison talked about the costs associated with having separate contracts in delivering various elements of the SLR scheme, but also the associated benefits in terms of minimising delivery risks, particularly in respect of the required railway bridge possession for Phase 3b.

Ian Harrison and Ian Beavis concluded that the full business case was robust and sound with a more than satisfactory BCR. The independent appraisal process recommended that conditional approval be granted for the scheme.

Decision: WLTB unanimously provided conditional approval to SLR Phase 3 business case. Full business case to be worked up and bought back for full approval at next meeting.

Decision: WLTB assured that timescales for all three schemes are currently being met and the schemes as a whole programme are on track.

WLTB Approval of LTB Funding Allocation and Profile

Andy Baker presented an overview of proposed split of the £7.7m LTB funding allocation across the three local major schemes as follows:

Scheme	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	TOTAL
Hoobrook	£2.5m	-	-	£2.5m
SLR	£1.4m	£3.0m	-	£4.4m
Parkway	-	-	£0.8m	£0.8m
TOTAL	£3.9m	£3.0m	£0.8m	£7.7m

<p>Decision: WLTB unanimously agreed with the recommended spend profile and formally approved it.</p>	
<p>ITEM 5 - Looking Forward – Emerging Pipeline of Schemes Andy Baker briefly touched on emerging plans for the development of future pipeline of transport schemes, along with those that are due to be submitted to WLTB in future due to LGF funding contribution i.e. Flood Alleviation Schemes (New Road), Pershore Lane improvements (Worcester Technology Park highways works) and Kidderminster Station.</p> <p>Decision: WLTB acknowledged current pipeline of schemes with LGF funding to go through WLTB Assurance Framework.</p>	<p>FOR INFO</p>
<p>ITEM 6 - AOB and Next Meeting Date Mid-May 2015 was mooted as suggested timing for next WLTB meeting, recognising local elections are scheduled early May. Roy Fullee will canvass dates for the next WLTB meeting.</p>	<p>RoFu</p>