

Worcestershire Local Transport Body (WLTB)

**Monday 8th February 2016
1.30pm**

Conservative Group Room, County Hall, Worcestershire County Council

WLT Members Present:

Councillor Simon Geraghty Worcestershire County Council
Leader of the Council with Responsibility for Finance

Councillor Ken Pollock Worcestershire County Council
Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure

Councillor John Smith Worcestershire County Council
Cabinet Member for Highways

Ian Edwards Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
Growth Deal 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

Mark Mills Worcestershire County Council
Contract Project Manager

Ian Harrison Parsons Brinckerhoff
Transport Consultant

Lynsey Kier Worcestershire County Council
Transport Infrastructure Commissioning Team

Nigel Braithwaite Worcestershire County Council
Project Management Engineer

<p>1</p>	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr Mark Bayliss – Southern Districts Member Representative Cllr Rod Laight – Northern Districts Member Representative Gary Woodman - Executive Director, Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>SG welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the membership of the group may change when a devolution deal has been reached to ensure parity between County and Districts. SG welcomed KP to the board as the new Cabinet Member for Economy , Skills and Infrastructure</p>
	<p>Minutes/Matters arising from previous meeting</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Hoobrook Link Road – Update from Mark Mills</p> <p>Project well established on site. Working towards completion date of August 2016. Steel beams are in place, as are the concreting decks which will allow for the road to be put on top. Work had commenced on the junctions with Worcester Road and Stourbridge Road. The link road through the old sugar site is under construction. The scheme is well on programme and budget.</p> <p>GBSLEP has confirmed growth fund contribution of £4.8 million. This represents an increase of £1.8 million on their original contribution. The WLTB acknowledged and welcomed the additional funding. In summary the GBSLEP independent technical assessment confirmed that the scheme had followed DfT guidance and the Benefits Cost Ratio (BCR) is rated as high value for money.</p> <p>The board agreed to approve £3.6 million Worcestershire Local Growth Funding contribution towards the scheme and will work with Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership regarding further contributions to the scheme.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Cathedral Square - update from Lynsey Kier and Ian Harrison</p> <p>SG made a declaration of interest as former leader of Worcester City Council</p> <p>Phase 1 of the scheme, the realignment of the Highway to allow for a compound for Salmon Harvester was completed very successfully within a year. Phase 2 of the scheme, the development of the site by Salmon Harvester to take place between Nov 16 and June 17. Phase 3 will see the completion of the Public Realm. The scheme aims to provide 416 jobs, 10,000 square feet of retail floor space and a increased GVA of £60million. Footfall will increase, as will tourism and there will be further investment.</p>

	<p>IH talked about the Business Case process and how it needed to ensure local growth programmes. As a non –major scheme the business case will be scrutinised just once. IH talked about the five elements. He explained although BCR is rated as low there are factors that would increase this. It is also important to bear in mind that this is not essentially a transport scheme but a scheme that will release economic benefits. The commercial and management case is sound.</p> <p>There is a funding gap of £0.818 million with a contingency of £175,000.</p> <p>KP asked about the accident benefits of the scheme. LK confirmed that average speeds were now lower and certain features had been removed. JS raised the point that there had been some talk of fire engines not been able to get round. NB confirmed that he had met with the fire brigade and the navigability of a fully loaded engine had been successfully tested. The scheme was not suitable for articulated lorries but signs and a TRO are in place. SG commented that a future aspiration would be to remove the front entrance of the NCP car park. The scheme could then be fully pedestrianised. NH and David Blake from Worcester City will meet with NCP to discuss this option.</p> <p>SG said he has received hardly any negative feedback and congratulated the team.</p> <p>The Board agreed £500,000 Worcestershire Local Growth Funding contribution to the scheme</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>GWR Vision for the North Cotswold Line</p> <p>Tom Pierpoint presented the GWR vision for the North Cotswold Line including developments at Pershore Station.</p> <p>TP asked the board to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support principle to North Cotswold Line • Confirm LTB prioritisation for North Cotswold Line investment for LGF funding, subject to business case • Informal of approval to programme development of Per shore station masterplan <p>SG said he was fully supportive of the North Cotswold Line vision. He expressed some concern over the timing in that he didn't want it to appear that Worcestershire had two conflicting schemes with this and Parkway.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Local Growth Deal 3</p> <p>Chancellor has recently confirmed £12 billion Local Growth Fund monies, £7 billion already allocated therefore £5 billion remains. Funding will not be available until 18/19. SG asked how we can get ahead of the curve. It was felt beneficial to get schemes to a point where we can put them forward with confidence. European Funding was also discussed. It would appear there has been a shift in ESIF funding away from economic/infrastructure projects.</p>

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AOB

No AOB

Meeting closed at 3.25pm.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, 24th March 2016 1:00pm-4:00pm
Woodland Room, Countryside Centre
Worcester Woods Country Park**