

## A46 Member Partnership



**Draft  
Minutes**

**Date: Thursday 22nd June 2017**

**Time: 2-4pm**

**Location: Wychavon District Council**

**Present:**

**Members:**

Cllr Vernon Smith, (Chair)  
Cllr Jeff Clarke, Warwickshire County Council  
Cllr Elaine MacTiernan, Tewkesbury Borough Council  
Cllr Ken Pollock, Worcestershire County Council  
Cllr Heather Timms, Rugby Borough Council

**LEPs:**

Ian Edwards (IE), Worcestershire LEP

**Highways England:**

Serena Howell (SH), Asset Manager - Worcestershire  
Lisa Maric (LM), Asset Manager - Coventry & Warwickshire

**Officers:**

Andy Baker (AB), Worcestershire County Council  
Nicholas Dauncey (ND), Warwickshire County Council  
Adrian Hart (AH), Warwickshire County Council  
Amanda Lawson-Smith (ALS), Gloucestershire County Council  
Stuart Maxwell (SM), Leicester City Council  
Shawn Riley (SR), Wychavon District Council  
Annette Roberts (AR), Tewkesbury Borough Council  
Ian Vears (IV), Leicestershire County Council  
Jeremy Williamson (JW), Cheltenham Borough Council

**Apologies:**

Cllr Adrian Hardman, Wychavon District Council (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Peter Richards, Stratford-on-Avon District Council  
John Careford, Stratford-on-Avon District Council  
Matthew Stanczyszyn, Rugby Borough Council  
Cllr Stephen Cross, Warwick District Council  
Dave Barber, Warwick District Council  
Cllr Andrew McKinlay, Cheltenham Borough Council

<p><b>1. Introduction and Apologies (Chair)</b></p> <p>Cllr Smith welcomed attendees to the meeting and apologies were noted.</p> <p>It was agreed that the information packs from the corridor visit which took place earlier in the day would be circulated in both hard copy and electronic format.</p>	<b>AH/ND</b>
<p><b>2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Key Actions (Chair)</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 25th January 2017 were agreed. It was noted that all actions have been implemented.</p> <p>AH noted that the presentation on the Midlands Motorway Hub Study would be deferred until September.</p>	<b>All to note</b>
<p><b>3. A46 Corridor Visit – Discussion and Questions (Chair)</b></p> <p>Cllr Smith referred to the varying standards of route observed during the corridor visit which took place between M5 Junction 9 at Ashchurch and the A46/M6/M69 junction at Ansty.</p> <p>Cllr Clarke welcomed the recent improvements at the A45/A46 Tollbar End junction and referred to the need to address knock-on effects of the scheme which appear to have resulted in increased queuing at the nearby A46/A428 Binley Roundabout.</p> <p>Cllr Timms also referred to persistent problems of queuing on the section of the A46 between the M6/M69 junction at Ansty and Wallsgrave Roundabout all the way through to Binley.</p> <p>Cllr MacTiernan referred to the significant volume of traffic using the single carriageway section of the A46 though Ashchurch, the lack of resilience in the event of an accident on the M5 and the need to look for interim solutions. AR noted that Tewkesbury Borough Council is committed to looking at possible short-term solutions for housing and had commissioned masterplanning work around M5 Junction 9.</p> <p>SR referred to potential capacity constraints on future development aspirations and that developers were being challenged by Highways England on residual capacity issues around Evesham. SH noted that all recent planning applications had been approved and that Highways England was currently working with developers at Vale Business Park to identify appropriate mitigation measures.</p> <p>Cllr MacTiernan referred to development pressures at Fiddington where 950 houses were proposed and that any applications would be strongly resisted by Highways England. SH noted that Highways England would not normally object to a planning application if the proposed development can be shown to mitigate its own impact.</p>	

<p>AR indicated that Tewkesbury Borough Council would work collaboratively with other authorities and Highways England to address peak and non-peak hour operational issues at M5 Junction 9.</p> <p>Cllr Smith noted that results from a survey which had been undertaken at a meeting with local businesses and members of the public in Ashchurch included constructive comments on possible long and medium term measures to address congestion issues in the Ashchurch area.</p> <p>AH highlighted that improving the section between Alcester and Stratford-upon-Avon was a long established priority for Warwickshire County Council, and that Binley and Walsgrave junctions remained a priority now that Tollbar had been improved. He added that the forthcoming Midlands Connect study of the A46 Corridor would consider the priorities and identify business cases for other sections of route which require improvement.</p>	
<p><b>4. Highways England Update (Lisa Maric)</b></p> <p>LM referred to a forthcoming event due to be held on Thursday 20th July 2017 <i>Planning Future Investment in England's Strategic Roads</i>. DfT would be consulting on the Strategic Road Network Initial Report in late 2017/18. This would identify the main strategic priorities for investment over the period 2020-2025 as identified by Highways England.</p> <p>AH confirmed that he and a number of other officers from the Group were planning to attend the event.</p>	
<p><b>5. Midlands Connect Update (Adrian Hart)</b></p> <p>AH reported that the Midlands Connect Strategy has been in place since March 2017, and that a number of specific studies are now in the process of being commissioned to take forward specific elements of the strategy. Those of particular relevance to the A46 Member Partnership are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <b>Midlands Motorway Hub Study</b> – this will consider the long-term needs of the Birmingham Box (M5/M6/M42) including consideration of Smart Motorways ('all lanes running') and what improvements would be necessary on routes such as the A5, A46 and M6 Toll to provide resilience for the Motorway Hub.</li> <li>(ii) <b>A46 Corridor Strategic Study</b> – this will identify priorities for investment on the whole of the A46 corridor between North East Lincolnshire and Gloucestershire.</li> </ul> <p>The study is expected to take 18 months to complete and has a base budget of £750,000, with £130,000 of additional funding committed from a number of local authorities represented on this group. It was agreed that this should be a standing item on the agenda at future meetings.</p>	<p>AH</p>

<p><b>6. A46 Prospectus (Amanda Lawson-Smith)</b></p> <p>ALS noted that work was underway to produce a prospectus for the A46 corridor which summarised key issues/work undertaken to date. Once finalised, the intention is to provide copies of the prospectus to ministers and business leaders as a lobbying document.</p> <p>ALS added that the intention is to share the draft with elected members in late August 2017 with a final version printed in September for targeting of party conferences later this year.</p> <p>IV noted that Leicestershire County Council (LCC) had undertaken a similar exercise for a package of strategic transport improvements which emphasised their national importance. He agreed to share this with the officers who are drafting the A46 prospectus.</p>	ALS/AH
<p><b>7. Local Plan Update/Mapping of Development Pressures (Adrian Hart)</b></p> <p>The Local Plan update was noted.</p> <p>Cllr Timms stated that Rugby Borough Council had recently approved their Local Plan for submission which was unchanged from the Draft Publication version. This did not include land for housing or employment on green belt land near Walsgrave to the east of the A46. A public examination of the plan will take place later this year.</p> <p>AH asked whether members would find it useful to have plans showing key development sites along the corridor. This suggestion was supported by members and it was proposed to take this forward through the A46 Multi-Agency (officer) Group and report back to the next meeting.</p>	AH/ALS
<p><b>8. A46 Action Plan Update (Adrian Hart)</b></p> <p>The A46 Action Plan update was noted.</p> <p>AH proposed that the A46 Action Plan would be expanded to cover Leicester and Leicestershire and this was agreed.</p>	AH/IV
<p><b>9. Future Items (Chair)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of Draft A46 Prospectus</li> <li>- Midlands Motorway Hub Study Presentation</li> <li>- A46 Corridor Strategic Study</li> </ul> <p>LM suggested a possible briefing or presentation on the Smart Motorway Project between M6 Junction 2 (Coventry) and Junction 4 (near Coleshill) which was due to commence March/April 2018. Members agreed to consider this suggestion. LM indicated that a presentation on the M5 Oldbury Viaduct works may also be useful.</p>	

	<p><b>10.AOB</b></p> <p>Cllr Smith proposed that a press release should be issued to confirm that Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership have joined the A46 Partnership. A press release will also be required in due course to coincide with the launch of the prospectus.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 4pm.</p>	<p><b>ALS/AH</b></p>
	<p><b>11.Date and Venue of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>26<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 2-4pm, Worcestershire County Council</p>	<p><b>All to note</b></p>