

A46 Member Partnership

**Tuesday 23rd January 2018, 2-4pm
Leicestershire County Council**

Present:

Members: Cllr Vernon Smith (Chair), Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Ken Pollock, Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Adrian Hardman (Vice-Chair), Wychavon District Council
Cllr Christine Radford, Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Jeff Clarke, Warwickshire County Council

Highways England: Samantha Pinnock (SP)
Adrian Johnson (AJ)

Midlands Connect: Sarah Spink (SS),

Officers: Adrian Hart (AH), Warwickshire County Council
Stuart Maxwell (SM), Leicester City Council
Shawn Riley (SR), Wychavon District Council
Dave Barber (DB), Warwick District Council
Mark Palfreyman (MP), Leicestershire County Council
Jacob Hill (JH), Leicestershire County Council
Izaak Makwana (IM), Leicestershire County Council
Amanda Lawson-Smith (ALS), Gloucestershire County Council
John Careford (JC), Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Karen Hanchett (KH), Worcestershire County Council

Apologies: Andy Baker, Worcestershire County Council
Nick Dauncey, Warwickshire County Council
Ian Edwards, Worcestershire Local Enterprise
Jeremy Williamson, Cheltenham Borough Council
Cllr Andrew McKinlay, Cheltenham Borough Council
Cllr David Welsh, Coventry City Council
Annette Roberts, Tewkesbury Borough Council
Justine Young, Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Alistair Adams, Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Elaine MacTiernan, Tewkesbury Borough Council
Cllr Heather Timms, Rugby Borough Council
Cllr Peter Richards, Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Cllr Bradley Thomas, Wychavon District Council
Cllr Alan Rhead, Warwick District Council

Item 2 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising –

- Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2017 were agreed.
- AH agreed to formulate a response to the DfT Strategic Road Network Initial Report consultation on behalf of the A46 Partnership. Deadline for comments is

7th February 2018. Partnership to give collective views as well as individual councils.

Item 3 - Midlands Connect Update – A presentation was given by **SS** of Midlands Connect, providing an update on the current work of MC and upcoming projects.

The presentation included these points:

- Midlands Rail Hub – comments on connectivity to areas including Leicestershire – providing increased frequency of services and additional seating capacity.
- A46 Strategic Corridor Study (phase 1) commissioned in November 2017. Key priority in MC strategy. Example of collaboration between individual authorities. Programme outline was included in slides.
 - Economic study as much as transport – identifying key growth sites, housing potential etc.
 - Key objectives, options available etc.
 - Outline Business Case development
- Midlands Major Road Network – project commissioned to identify
 - Agreed MRN for the Midlands
 - Set of prioritised locations where investment should be targeted first
 - Future role for Midlands Connect if it becomes a Sub-National Transport Body for the Midlands
- East Midlands Gateway Connectivity Study
 - Key connectivity to proposed HS2 interchange at Toton
 - Study outputs will feed into HS2 Phase 2b Bill
 - 18 Month timetable – currently in stage 1 (model development)
- Midlands Motorway Hub – long-term strategy is needed for the M5/M6/M42 motorway box, in terms of further improvements and potential alternative routes that will provide much needed resilience. Potential options include:
 - Western Orbital
 - Junction improvements
 - A46 / A5 Expressway

Draft final report due out soon, will be sent to Midlands Connect Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

AH asked about the impact of the A46 and A5 on relieving issues on the eastern and southern parts of the motorway box. **Cllr Vernon Smith** asked about progress on A46 being included in initial Motorway Hub report – **SS** confirmed this is being included but it will also be looked at as a corridor in its own right.

- 2018-19 Business Plan
 - £4m budget for further work on the Midlands Motorway Hub
 - Additional £2m for the Midlands Rail Hub, specifically Leamington Spa – Coventry (to allow the second Cross Country service to serve Birmingham International)
 - A5 Strategic Corridor Study
 - Phase 2 of the A46 Strategic Corridor Study
 - Hereford Bypass
 - Acceleration of Toton delivery prior to HS2 Phase 2b.

Cllr Vernon Smith asked for clarification of slide delivery to authorities – confirmed these would be sent via **AH** for distribution.

Cllr Adrian Hardman asked about impact of Cambridge to Oxford proposals on MC schemes. **SS** noted they are in discussion with “England’s Economic Heartland” but not directly in competition and actively seeking co-operation on wider benefits of their proposals e.g. East-West Rail.

Item 4 - Highways England Update – AJ of Highways England gave an update on RIS1 schemes progress and the ongoing development of RIS2.

- As of now, all RIS1 schemes are on-programme, though some of these will be completed in the first few years of RIS2
- M6 Junctions 2-4 Smart Motorway starting Autumn 2018
- M40-42 Smart Motorway due to start Spring 2019
- A46 Binley due to start October 2019 with completion by July 2022
- M42 Junction 6 – May 2020 to March 2023.
- A5 Longshoot – Dodwells due to start in 2020/21
- M6 J10 due for delivery Oct 2019-Oct 2021

Cllr Jeff Clarke asked about whether there have been any timescale shifts in A5 scheme and how these may affect cost.

Cllr Adrian Hardman asked how much of RIS1 has ended up as part of RIS2 package. **AJ** noted that this can’t be answered at the moment but certain schemes are expected to run into the early years of RIS2 – this may have budget and delivery implications.

Cllr Jeff Clarke asked about A46 Binley – **AJ** noted this will begin delivery in RIS1. A further question was asked about the flyover and potential disruption. **AJ** noted that construction is likely to take place off-site wherever possible to minimise traffic disruption.

Cllr Vernon Smith asked about Worcestershire CC issues with temporary traffic management on the M5 related to the Oldbury Viaduct works.

AH noted ring-fencing of Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) from 2020/21 for funding of RIS2 and MRN improvements is the current plan from Government.

DfT Strategic Road Network Initial Report consultation issued in December 2017, focus on safety and maintenance of the SRN. HE want to proceed with further Smart Motorways and rollout of Expressways. Report mentions looking at small to medium schemes (<£10million).

Item 5 - Mapping of Planned Housing and Employment Growth – Presentation by **DB** of Warwick District Council.

At the previous meeting, individual authorities showed proposed growth along A46 to inform the wider plans for the corridor.

Work has been undertaken to coordinate into single mapping output. Some issues with information provided.

- Notify WDC of problems
- Include missing data
- Check for consistency e.g. level of detail provided (differences between Coventry and Leicester)
- Cross-references to Local Plans (housing numbers, scale of employment)

Cllr Vernon Smith noted that this data shows the potential scale of development along the corridor. It was agreed that a consistent approach in data presentation would be desirable.

Cllr Vernon Smith asked for a collective note with a timeline / brief showing total numbers of houses along corridor, officer agreements on scope and approach to provision etc.

MP asked if lessons can be learnt from A5 Strategy. **AH** noted the picture shows a clear story of cumulative development. Agreed with previous suggestion that headline figures / data is very useful for creating a compelling case that investment is needed to support this scale of growth. He also noted that mapping presented here could be enhanced with additional labelling of schemes along route.

Cllr Vernon Smith asked for graph / table of housing to be included and incorporated into A46 scheme works.

KH noted that a visually-homogenous approach could allow identification of the progress of schemes.

Cllr Adrian Hardman asked about the criteria for inclusion on the list of developments, as certain sites within Wychavon that he is aware of are not currently shown on the plans. **DB** noted that certain criteria were considered in choosing sites counted as part of the scheme mapping – e.g. size, potential interaction, distance from A46 etc.

It was agreed upon that this would be considered further at the next meeting.

Item 6 - A46 Prospectus Launch

ALS noted prospectus has been distributed to MPs and all authorities represented on the A46 Partnership.

It was suggested that an MP event would be useful in order to get constituency MPs on-board, including Chris Grayling.

Press release for prospectus launch was discussed. It was agreed that the launch should be organised sooner rather than later, possibly at Whitehall. It was agreed that Nigel Huddleston (MP for Evesham) should be approached in the first instance to champion the launch with other MPs and the Minister.

Item 7 - A46/M69 Expressway

MP stressed that LCC are supportive of MC's longer-term strategic vision and inclusion of A46 / M69 corridor as a priority.

Cllr Vernon Smith noted that it is useful to understand the wider route aspirations. He welcomed representation from LCC officers and members on the group. **AH** asked about the forthcoming Leicester and Leicestershire Growth Strategy – it was confirmed that this will include the A46 as part of the strategic infrastructure that is needed to support long term growth.

Item 8 - A46 Action Plan Update

AH stated that the information contained in the Action Plan is a live document. Not currently on website but **AH** agreed this could be provided online as information is largely in the public domain.

Item 9 – A46 Corridor Local Plan and SEP Update

Similar to A46 Action Plan Update. Could sit alongside mapping work once complete.

Item 10 – Media Issues

Only issue raised was press release relating to the A46 Prospectus launch (see item 6).

Item 11 – Future Items

Cllr Vernon Smith asked for continued input of Midlands Connect. **SS** agreed.

Cllr Jeff Clarke – requested that A46 Binley as standalone item at the next meeting.

M6 Junctions 2-4 Smart Motorway

Item 12 – AOB

None.

Date of Next Meeting: 13th June 2018, 2-4pm, Stratford-on-Avon District Council