



Strategic Transport Leadership Board

Minutes

09th June 2023

11:00 – 13:00

Online

Present:

Cllr Liz Leffman (Vice Chair)
Cllr Jennifer Wilson-Marklew
Cllr Graham Lawman
Cllr Phil Larratt
Cllr Phil Bibby
Cllr Robert Roche
Cllr James Weir
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha
Cllr Anna Smith
Cllr Jim Robbins
Cllr Steve Broadbent
Cllr Mary Walsh
Cllr Nigel Simons
Cllr Barry Wood

Leader, Oxfordshire County Council
Cabinet Member, Milton Keynes City Council
Executive Member, North Northamptonshire Council
Cabinet Member, West Northamptonshire Council
Executive Member, Hertfordshire County Council
Executive Member, Luton Council
Deputy Mayor, Bedford Borough Council
Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council
Deputy Mayor, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Leader, Swindon Borough Council
Cabinet Member, Buckinghamshire Council
Executive Member, Central Bedfordshire Council
Cabinet Member, Peterborough City Council
Leader, Cherwell District Council

Apologies:

Mayor Nik Johnson
Cllr Martin Tett
Cllr Adam Zerny
Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald

Mayor, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
Leader, Buckinghamshire Council
Leader, Central Bedfordshire Council
Leader, Peterborough Council

EEH Team Members Present:

Naomi Green
Suzanne Winkels
Fiona Foulkes
Abi Nichols
Trevor Brennan
James Golding-Graham
Nathalie Mazhunga
Adam King
Hanane Elmaarouf
Erin Pitcher
Helen Fallon
James Gagg

Managing Director
Technical Programme Manager
Business Manager
Project Lead
Project Lead
Decarbonisation and Innovation Manager
Project Officer
External Affairs and Policy Manager
Business Operations Assistant
Business Operations Assistant
Freight Lead
Project Lead

<p>1</p>	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Cllr Liz Leffman (LL) opened the meeting asked attendees if they were content with accuracy of previous meeting minutes.</p> <p>Cllr Steve Broadbent (SB) requested to formalise an action for Cllr Barry Wood, in his role as Shadow Board Chairman of the Oxford-Cambridge PRP, to reach out to Cllr Martin Tett and its addition to the actions list.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>Alan Francis (AF), Milton Keynes Green Party asked detailed questions regarding the East West Railway Company's route announcement. This covered the station location at Tempsford; six-tracking at Bedford; proposed service pattern on Marston Vale line; and the possibility of the Marston Vale services extending to Milton Keynes Central.</p> <p>Action – Adam King (AK) to coordinate passing the questions through to EWR Company. Cllr Jim Weir (JW) requested EEH circulates the answers to AF's questions from EWR to Board members.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Strategic Transport Leadership Board – Update</p> <p>Naomi Green (NG) opened the item by welcoming new members to the Board and recognising the contributions of outgoing members. Naomi sought correction on Annex 3 under details of board members which should be 'Cllr Simons for Peterborough'. She also noted that EEH had received the resignation of the EEH Board Chair (Cllr Richard Wenham) following the recent local elections. She reminded the Board that the governance allows for vice chair and chair to have a two year tenure, this was due to be refreshed in September 2023. Therefore, in order to maintain consistency and give new members the opportunity to form a greater understanding of the work of EEH before making appointments, the proposal of the paper is that the board agrees Cllr Leffman continue as vice and interim chair until September 2023.</p> <p>Naomi Green provided a summary on the 2023/24 work programme and said that the draft work programme has been submitted to DfT and EEH are now awaiting confirmation of the settlement. Once the DfT funding has been confirmed, the full work programme for the year ahead will be brought to the Board for final approval. Meanwhile EEH will continue with work commitments carried over from 22/23.</p> <p>Cllr Liz Leffman (LL) welcomed the new board members and expressed gratitude to Cllr Wenham for his work. She also said that she has written to Cllr Wenham as well as Mayor Dave Hodgson, Cllr Emily Darlington and Cllr David Renard to thank them for the contributions they have made to the board.</p> <p>Board agreed to appoint LL as interim chair until September 2023.</p>

4

Year End Financial Position and 22/23 Annual Review

Fiona Foulkes (FF) presented the paper and requested an agreement for the following things:

- Year-end financial and corporate position
- Increase the permanent headcount of EEH to 10 full time equivalents by year end
- Draft annual report for 2023 which is in Annex 2

Cllr Steve Broadbent (SB) questioned if the 10 full time equivalents will be new recruits.

Fiona Foulkes said that this will be dependent on the best decision for the business, for example between altering existing contracts and new recruitment.

Naomi Green (NG) reassured the Board that if EEH decide to recruit then these will be people brought into the region then allowing them to move within the authorities after time spent with EEH, this is so that EEH are careful and respectful of their local authority partners. She said that the intention is to keep people within the team to then grow their careers either within or across the wider local authority partners.

Cllr Liz Leffman (LL) agreed and said that there is great benefits to EEH in having people seconded from local authorities.

Board agreed to the requests and noted the financial commitments carried forward into 2023/24.

5

Technical support offer

Suzanne Winkels (SW) set out how EEH is supporting local authorities. Following the results from the independent review of EEH, it was highlighted that there was real value in the support EEH can provide to local authorities.

James Golding-Graham (JGG) briefed the board on the tools that EEH have and tools they are developing to support local authorities accelerating their LTP development. The full list of evidence-based tools can be found in Item 5 on Annex 1. **JGG** then gave an overview on the Cadence Data Platform as well as the Carbon Baseline & Policy playbook and lastly the EV infrastructure planning tool.

Cllr Phil Bibby (PB) asked if there is any information on a likely date from DfT on LTP guidance.

SW confirmed that EEH business unit was hoping for the guidance to be published before the summer recess. In the meantime, EEH is working with transport officers in each of our local authorities and have agreed to set up a workshop with DfT to give early feedback on the guidance, once published. One of the key challenge is expected to be balancing the expected focus on "ambition" for LTPs without certainty of funding from DfT to deliver that ambition. There are also likely to be challenges around evaluating rural vs urban public transport.

Cllr Robert Roche (RR) asked when the QCR tool will be available to local authority partners.

James said that Beta testing will start in July 2023 and robust iteration to be available for officers in August.

Cllr Anna Smith (AS) welcomed the offer of support on the Ely to Cambridge A10 work and asked if EEH will help LTA's provide responses to the LTP consultation.

SW said that EEH are happy to provide support to LTAs.

Cllr Phil Larratt (PL) said that West Northamptonshire would like to work with EEH to develop their first LTP. He also added that West Northamptonshire are about to embark on writing a bus strategy and would welcome EEH's support on the cross boundary elements.

The Board agreed for demonstrations on the tool to local authorities including board members when its ready.

6

East West Rail Update

Naomi Green (NG) opened the item and said she would like to secure board agreement of the role the EEH Board plays in ensuring the legacy of East West Rail.

Beth West (BW), chief executive of East West Railway Company, provided a presentation on the route update. EWR has made some changes to the proposals they presented in 2021, which take account of:

- Feedback received during and since the 2021 consultation
- Further technical and environmental work
- The analysis undertaken as part of the Affordable Connections Project

CLlr Lucy Nethsingha sought clarification on whether the 80,000 jobs will be available regardless of EWR and that EWR would make it more viable for people to travel to Cambridge by rail.

BW said that there is a potential for 80,000 jobs however if employers can't access talent to fill those vacancies, then there is a question on finding people who will travel to fill those roles.

CLlr Barry Wood said that the growth potential should not be underestimated and added that he is delighted with the train journey from Oxford – Bicester. He also said that EEH should continue to back the vision of East West Rail.

Brian Milnes (BM) said that South Cambridge is seeing huge developments going in and that rail is giving capability for mass sustainable transport. BM encouraged EWR not to start with a diesel fleet. Further, BM updated the board on the job forecast and says that it has been met 10yrs ahead of original forecast.

CLlr Jim Weir (JW) questioned what work EWR have done on the changing pattern of work and people working from home.

BW said that there are lots of jobs that require you to be in place of work e.g. labs, but transport patterns do continue to change also they are seeing that there's becoming more regular commutes from Tuesdays to Thursdays.

CLlr Robert Roche (RR) asked if EEH will work with the University of Bedfordshire when they work with all the universities in the region.

Naomi responded and said yes.

CLlr Steve Broadbent (SB) raised the importance of the Aylesbury link being delivered.

BW acknowledged the point in regard to the Aylesbury Link and said work was continuing.

CLlr Graham Lawman (GL) said he doesn't want to see a detrimental effect on the Midland Mainline services.

	<p>BW said that this was part of the decision making indicating the need for six tracks at Bedford, so that Bedford and other areas in the north continue to have the current level of service.</p> <p>BW agreed with the recommendations of the item and noted the importance for EWR to continue to work with EEH on boarder connectivity.</p>
7	<p>Active Travel Strategy Phase 2</p> <p>Abigail Nichols (AN) presented the paper and explained that EEH has been working with local authority partners and the Department for Transport to develop the Active Travel Strategy Phase 2, following Board agreement to the first phase of work in February 2022. She recommended that the Board agrees the Active Travel Strategy Phase 2 report outcomes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The fifteen possible cross boundary active travel links. ii. The place-based travel ambitions (underpinned by data and closely aligned to national targets whilst also recognising the differing nature of places in our region), recognising the important role new (and electric) forms of mobility must play. <p>She also said that EEH’s role is to support all the good work local authorities are doing, so EEH will focus on multi-modal integration and cross-border opportunities. AN reiterated the expectation that, to achieve the ambitions set out in Gear Change and the Cycling and Walking Strategy 2, local authorities require reliable, transparent, and long-term funding to support active travel.</p> <p>Cllr Phil Bibby (PB) said it was good to hear EEH are working with Local Authorities and that Hertfordshire have just started consultations on their active travel plan with the aim to find out from people what they want rather than what we want to give them. He also said that LCWIPs are urban centric, so interurban routes are overlooked and would like EEH to work with Hertfordshire and other local authorities to get people’s hearts and minds changed.</p> <p>Cllr Graham Lawman (GL) raised a number of technical questions regarding the study methodology, which AN agreed to answer in correspondence.</p> <p>Cllr Anna Smith (AS) raised that as phase 2 develops what will then happen and how will the route be delivered, has Active Travel England been engaged and what EEH would suggest as next steps.</p> <p>AN said that Active Travel England have been engaged and are aware of the work, she will follow up on the questions with responses via email.</p>

<p>8</p>	<p>Freight Action Plan</p> <p>Helen Fallon (HF) ran through the paper and said that EEH have produced a brochure which sets out the benefits of Ely, this document will be launched at the East of England APPG on the 19 June 2023. Looking at setting up a freight forum with Local Authority partners and existing regional partners within the EEH region to develop freight and logistics strategy. HF proposed setting up a wider freight forum with Transport East and Transport for the South East to also engage with the industry.</p> <p>Cllr Graham Lawman (GL) supports paper and getting more freight onto rail and wanted to know if National Highways have been engaged.</p> <p>HF said EEH have been talking with National Highways about key routes and congested routes, as well as talking to Network Rail.</p> <p>Cllr Brian Milnes (BM) said that there is a potential long-term important freight usage on rail. He also gave an example of one of their local transport companies are electrifying their whole fleet, which envisions mini-hubs/lockers for last mile, this is an interesting example of a company that is evolving not only in electric vehicles but delivery methods.</p> <p>Cllr Phil Larratt (PL) raised concerns about the impact of rail freight on the Northampton loop and West Coast Main Line between Roade and Rugby, given that expansions of DIRFT severely impact on capacity for passenger services.</p> <p>HF said EEH are undertaking rail objectives work in parallel with this work, which includes trade-offs between passenger and freight services. This would be presented to the Board in July.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Business Unit Update</p> <p>Suzanne Winkels (SW) explained that the paper provided an update on various consultations EEH are responding to and requested an approval for the Western Gateway consultation response as it mainly affects Swindon & Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Cllr Graham Lawman (GL) asked, as the RIS consultation ends a day before the next board meeting, will they see the response. In addition, he asked if EEH could put contact details into the reports.</p> <p>Suzanne said EEH have asked DfT for a RIS3 extension and will be providing them with a draft and then final version will be sent a couple of days after the consultation closed. EEH will also be publishing all consultation responses onto their website.</p>

10 Proposed Future Meeting Dates

The Board agreed the following 2023 dates:

14 July 2023 (Bee House, Milton Park: Science and Technology Park, Oxfordshire)

29 September 2023 (virtual meeting, via Teams)

1 December 2023 (in-person - location to be confirmed)

Board members are also invited and encouraged to attend our EEH Annual Conference on 1 November 2023 at the Guildhall, Cambridge.