

A46 Member Partnership

Gloucestershire County Council

Tuesday 18th October 2016, 2pm

Attending:

Members:

Cllr Peter Butlin - Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Adrian Hardman – Wychavon District Council
Cllr Elaine MacTiernan - Tewkesbury Borough Council
Cllr Ken Pollock - Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Vernon Smith – Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Robert Vaudry – Stratford-on-Avon District Council

LEPs:

Ian Edwards – Worcestershire LEP
Mike Warner - GFirst LEP

Officers:

Andy Baker – Worcestershire County Council
John Careford – Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Amanda Lawson-Smith – Gloucestershire County Council
Matthew Stanczyszyn – Rugby Borough Council
Julie Wood – Tewkesbury Borough Council
Adrian Hart – Warwickshire County Council
Shawn Riley – Wychavon District Council

Apologies:

Cllr Heather Timms - Rugby Borough Council
Cllr David Welsh - Coventry City Council
Paul Boulton – Coventry City Council
Dave Barber - Warwick District Council

Meeting opened: 14:14

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Adrian Hart welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the role of the A46 Multi-Agency officer group and the purpose of the member group, including LEPs.
- 1.2. The A46 corridor needs to work as a whole and is not currently fulfilling its potential.
- 1.3. The aim of the officer group is to build an evidence base and highlight the local and strategic importance of the corridor to Highways England. The aim of the Member Partnership is to ensure a political voice and champion the needs of the A46 corridor.

2. Election of a Chair and Deputy Chair

- 2.1. Cllr Smith thanked all for attending.
- 2.2. Cllr MacTiernan nominated Cllr Smith for the role of Chair, Cllr Vaudry seconded this.

Cllr Vernon Smith was duly elected as Chair.

- 2.3. Cllr Butlin nominated Cllr Hardman as the Deputy Chair, Cllr Pollock seconded this.
Cllr Adrian Hardman was duly elected as Deputy Chair.
- 2.4. Cllr Smith said this was an exciting opportunity to work together over the longer term and feed into the Highway's England vision for the A46 corridor, ensuring a solution for everyone.

3. Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Smith invited all attendees to formally introduce themselves and their role. Apologies were recorded as above.

4. Terms of reference

- 4.1. It was agreed that point 2 would be re-worded to ensure 'supporting growth' came first ahead of 'congestion' and 'safety'.
- 4.2. It was agreed that further to Highways England review, minutes of the meeting would be published.
- 4.3. £250,000 of Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) funding has been secured by Tewkesbury Borough Council to conduct a transport study of the A46 in the M5 J9/Ashchurch area. It was agreed that a small sum would be used to develop a website to act as a portal of information and to publicise the work of the group.
- 4.4. Cllr Smith agreed to distribute a letter to all members to be used to contact and engage local businesses along the A46.
- 4.5. Julie Wood confirmed that the Multi-Agency Group has already established that the A46 is a key corridor for Highways England.
- 4.6. Terms of reference were agreed with the one minor amendment described above.

5. Governance

- 5.1. The Chair agreed to draft a letter to Cllr Jordan to invite attendance for Cheltenham Borough Council to the A46 Multi-Agency Group and Member Partnership, and to MPs to introduce the work of the group.
- 5.2. The Governance paper was agreed.

6. Key issues and priorities for the A46 Corridor (discussion)

Wychavon:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor east/west links• Boosting economic growth• Gathering evidence• Access to the A46 from outlying communities
Stratford-on-Avon:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dualling the carriageway around Stratford is accepted• Safety issues• Large scale development pressures• Prioritising schemes along the corridor
Gloucestershire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timeline of existing proposals would be useful to inform future bids on the A46• The A46 is a 'national artery' and should be considered as an 'Expressway'• All have local issues, but all agree that the whole corridor

	needs improving
Warwickshire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing growth • Safety • Growth of industry • A number of improvements are already underway
Worcestershire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on the A46 as the alternative route to the congested M5/M42 • Economic growth • Dualling of the carriageway • Ensuring LEPs can bid effectively at a local level despite competing priorities
Tewkesbury:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit along A46 would be useful • Lack of space to dual the existing carriageway • Understating the strategic picture
Rugby:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for A46 junctions at Binley and Walsgrave to be improved (as per RIS1 commitment) • Importance of the Rolls Royce site adjacent to the A46 near Ansty and the need to address connectivity from the site to the SRN

7. Midlands Connect

7.1. Midlands Connect, covering an area from the Humber Ports to the Welsh Marshes, has utilised £5m of Government funding to develop a strategy for the strategic road and rail network. A comprehensive evidence base is in the process of being compiled and the strategy is now in draft. A further £12m of funding over the next three years for Midlands Connect has recently been committed by the new Transport Minister Chris Grayling.

7.2. The Midlands Connect Programme Director, Maria Machancoses, will be invited to give a presentation to the group at the next meeting.

7.3. The strategy aims to secure future funding and identifies the A46 as a priority. The draft strategy aspires to the A46 being upgraded to 'at least an expressway' between Lincoln/Newark and Tewkesbury.

8. A46 Strategy and Action Plan

8.1. An initial Action Plan has been developed to outline key studies and improvements to the A46, this can be a standing agenda item for Members to receive an update at each meeting and to act as an ongoing snapshot of the corridor for reference.

8.2. The Plan is currently highway orientated but can become multi-modal over time.

8.3. It was agreed that the Member Partnership would support the development of an overall strategy for the A46 corridor in due course.

9. Future Items and additional actions

9.1. Highways England will be invited to the next meeting to share their work on the corridor and the wider Route Strategies/Road Investment Strategy process.

9.2. Midlands Connect will be invited to give a presentation at the next meeting.

9.3. A press release will be issued by GCC on behalf of the Partnership.

9.4. A site visit of the whole corridor will be planned, meeting in Pershore/Stratford-upon-Avon.

10. Date and Venue for next meeting

10.1. The next meeting will be hosted by Warwickshire County Council and planned for January 2017.

11. AOB

The Chair thanked all for attending.

Meeting closed: 15:56

Action Log

Action	Who	Progress
Terms of reference reworded and recirculated	Adrian Hart/Amanda Lawson-Smith	To be actioned
Minutes to be circulated to Highways England prior to publishing	Adrian Hart/Amanda Lawson-Smith	To be actioned
Develop A46 Member Partnership page on Council website	Amanda Lawson-Smith	To be actioned
Cllr Smith's letter to local businesses to be shared with the group	Amanda Lawson-Smith	To be actioned
Chair to send a letter to the leader of Cheltenham Borough Council inviting CBC to attend the Multi-Agency Group and Member Partnership meetings	Cllr Vernon Smith	To be actioned
Chair to draft a letter for the MPs, introducing the Member Partnership and inviting MPs to a meeting later next year	Cllr Vernon Smith	To be actioned
Midlands Connect to be invited to attend the next meeting of the A46 Member Partnership	Adrian Hart	To be actioned
Highways England to be invited to the next meeting of the A46 Member Partnership	Adrian Hart	To be actioned
Cllr Vernon Smith will issue a GCC press release about the inaugural meeting-to be shared with HE prior to publishing	Cllr Vernon Smith	Complete
A Member site visit will be planned to look at the whole length of the A46	Adrian Hart/Amanda Lawson-Smith	To be actioned
Next meeting to be hosted by Warwickshire County Council in January 2017	Adrian Hart	Meeting date set for Weds 25/1/17 @ 2pm in Warwick