

REPORT OF THE ISLAND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE – JULY 2017 – RECOMMENDATIONS – AS PRESENTED TO THE CABINET ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/Meetings/committees/cabinet/14-9-17/PAPER%20B.pdf>

Cross Solent transport

1. In recognition of the community as a key stakeholder in cross Solent transport it is recommended that the Council convenes and leads a cross-Solent operators' partnership board, to provide meaningful engagement with the cross-Solent operators. The objective of the board would be to work together for mutual benefit of the cross-Solent operators and the economic development of the Island. Amongst other matters the board should consider the impact of new investment on the flexibility of new services, the potential for provision of increased services in evenings and shoulders, and travel offers for those in education or training.
2. Membership should include the cross Solent-operators, the Council, Solent Transport and businesses the partnership board should seek to develop and deliver a ferries strategy that is for the benefit of the economic development of the Island.
3. The Council and partners should lobby central government (National Health) to get financial assistance for those who have to travel to visit family in hospital.
4. An independent study should be undertaken to evaluate the feasibility and cost benefit of a fixed link across the Solent (road or rail).

Technology

5. Building on the Island's expertise in the digital sector, The Council should explore how and where the delivery of improved digital services can be accelerated.
6. To improve accessibility across transport modes, and provide the ability to introduce integrated travel information for bus, train and cross-Solent operators, The Council should work with mobile technology companies to improve network coverage across the Island. Additionally, the transport providers should ensure their services are Wi-Fi enabled for passengers.
7. The Council should work with transport operators to encourage the introduction of smart ticketing (for example, Solent Go6) and in particular multi operator use smart payment opportunities.
8. National Rail information at Waterloo should include information on the Island and gateways.

9. The Council should investigate future investment opportunities for alternative transport modes (e.g. hydrogen fuel and other low-carbon fuels; innovation in sustainable transport and/or autonomous vehicles). The Council may wish to consider a potential joint venture with a car company to test electric vehicles.

10. Technology can be used to support the implementation of The Councils parking strategy, both in terms of smart apps to pay for parking and opportunities to advertise parking space availability within towns.

Highways and interchanges

11. The funding for Newport junction improvements is welcomed, but should include signalling improvements to ensure improved traffic flows.

12. A longer-term strategy for congestion in and around Newport is needed. This could include investigation of the feasibility of a Medina Crossing.

13. That Council and Island Roads review the specification for surfacing on minor (rural) roads and in addition ensure that surfacing is taken to the edge of the road.

14. Transport interchanges at Ryde Esplanade, Cowes and East Cowes are improved.

Bus services

15. Southern Vectis provides a good service and the Council should ensure services are continued and that opportunities to enhance community services are fully explored.

16. Investigate opportunities for improved ticketing initiatives for the occasional bus users.

17. The Council with Southern Vectis and the Isle of Wight College should investigate what improvements can be made to student access to transport. This could be linked to projects being delivered through existing sustainable transport programmes.

18. Next stop announcements and Wi-Fi on buses should be rolled out across all scheduled services.

19. Assess the feasibility of corridor improvements for bus services, including investigating the introduction of bus lanes where achievable.

20. Whilst the investment strategy of Southern Vectis should be recognised and noted, it is a rate of investment that is unlikely to be sustainable in the longer term and needs to be monitored.

Island Line

21. In order to identify and develop options for reducing the cost of Island Line over the longer term the Council should work closely with First MTR, DfT Rail and Network Rail. Collaboration will need to address the following:

- o Resolution of the economic uncertainty of the Island Line;
- o Provide for modernisation with new/up to date rolling stock;
- o The future of the pier;
- o Consider arrangements where the IOW steam railway could have access to Ryde St Johns Road;
- o Modernisation of all stations;
- o Provision of integrated travel information systems and smart ticketing options across different modes of travel;
- o How improvements at Ryde Interchange could provide for access for Hovertravel passengers from a new platform layout at the station.

22. To support the modernisation of the Island Line, including the introduction of a 30-minute service frequency and investment in the future sustainability of Island Line.

23. Ensure Island Line remains part of the franchised National Rail Network.

Cycling and walking

24. To best inform investment in cycling and walking infrastructure, the Council should develop a Local Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy¹¹, to include the completion of the Newport – East Cowes route, linking to the new Isle of Wight College campus at Whippingham.

25. The Council should review the funding for maintenance of footpaths and bridleways.

26. The Council should consider working with partners to review and refresh the West Wight Cycle Route, recognising that it is a longer-term project with regard to delivery timescales.

27. The TITF recognises that the grants received for sustainable transport related work is important to the Island and recommends that The Council continues to build on its successful work in this area and continues to seek new and innovative projects which can promote sustainable transport on the Island and to bid for appropriate funding as it is announced.