

BLACKWATER VALLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT

13 April 2022

NOTES

Present:

Cllr David Beaman (Chairman)
Cllr Rod Cooper, Rushmoor Borough Council
Cllr Graham Eyre, Guildford Borough Council
Cllr Steve Forster, Hart Distric Council
Cllr Alan Oliver, Hart District Council
Cllr Richard Quarterman, Hart District Council
Cllr Mike Roberts, Rushmoor Borough Council
Cllr Valerie White, Surrey Heath Borough Council
David Wilby, SWR
Bill Withers, Hampshire County Council
Richard Davies, HOPPA
Edward Goose, GWR
Valerie Sexton

Apologies:

David Daniels, David Strunz and Cllr Chris Turrell

43 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced Richard Davies, General Manager HOPPA.

44 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

45 National Bus Strategy - Implementation of Bus Service Improvement Plan

The Committee were advised that Surrey and Hampshire had been unsuccessful in receiving any BSIP allocations. There had bene a £3bn pot for allocation which had been reduced to £1.2bn due to monies that had to be supplied during COVID and eventually £1.068bn had been allocated.

The Chairman had drafted a statement from the committee expressing their disappointment which had been circulated for comment. After consideration it was felt it was inappropriate for an advisory group to send such a statement and due to purdah it would not be allowed at this present moment. It was agreed the statement would not be sent and the Committee hoped that HCC and SCC would make representations after Purdah.

Lisa Cook echoed HCC teams disappointment and advised that SCC had also expressed the same. Both teams would be looking at what can be done going forward. DfT had offered the opportunity for unsuccessful bidders to have a

meeting to explain the reasons behind the decisions , which would be taken up by HCC and SCC.

HCC have an enhanced partnership with their bus operators and DfT had offered funding for an Enhanced Partnership Officer.

The Committee were also advised that HCC were carrying out a consultation on passenger transport for 8 weeks and had had received £6.4m funding for a zero emission vehicle scheme which, if successful, would be rolled out across Hampshire.

46 Local Transport Plans

Lisa Cook advised that Hampshire's Transport Plans were currently out for consultation.

David Wilby highlighted that DfT have rewritten their guidance on Transport Plans and there was additional funding available for this.

47 Service Changes due to staff shortages resulting from COVID, Stagecoach and other operator takeover of Guildford Area services

Martin McDougall was leaving to go to Hull but there was no indication who his replacement would be.

Edward Goose, GWR, advised there would be various timetable changes due. The 769 were not being rolled out at present.

Concern was raised by councillors that there was a large number of new stock just sitting there but were assured that things were moving forward.

Cllr Rod Cooper asked if the Reading to Gatwick route would be getting new stock and was advised this was planned but no date as yet.

He also asked that now the route to Gatwick was getting busier if the services would be revised? It was explained that there was still not enough demand for a third train.

48 Climate Change - Decarbonisation Strategies

There was nothing to report.

49 Other Bus Matters

Steve O'Neill was the new General Manager for Stagecoach.

50 Other Rail Matters

David Wilby, SW Railway, advised that significant work was taking place over the Easter break and details could be found on the Website.

The Committee were also advised the 41 service was due to change.

Cllr White advised that the Parish Council had been asked if they wished to adopt Badshot station and she would be interested in what advantages there was to them doing so? David Wilby highlighted the options and explained that the parish could do as little or as much as they wanted to do.

Cllr Rod Cooper commented on the reduction of trains travelling south. David Wilby explained that there were changes planned but the service providers needed to be as efficient as possible and changes were subject to the need/demand.

Edward Goose highlighted a new initiative to launch contactless ticketing around Windsor. This had included partnering with bus services for joint tickets.

51 Any Other Business

The Committee were informed that this was the last meeting to be chaired and clerked by Waverley Borough Council. Cllr David Beaman was thanked for his year as Chairman and the Committee looked forward to Cllr Chris Turrell from Bracknell Forest Borough Council taking over.

52 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be confirmed by Bracknell Forest Council for sometime in July.

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