

ADEPT South West Sub National Board – 31 January 2019

The South West Sub National Board met on the 31st January 2019. As part of the information exchange David Ralph, Chief Executive of the Heart of the South West LEP drew the Board's attention to the upcoming Westminster Hall debate on the South West economy on the 5 February being led by Gary Streeter MP. This was being promoted by the LEPs and CBI. The Board also welcomed James Sloane from the CBI who provided a brief update on the development of their transport plan.

The Board then received an update on the Sub-National Transport Body's; Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway. The Board heard how both were progressing well to develop their regional evidence base and economic studies. Work on Large Local Majors and the Major Road Network is in its early stages but collaboration between Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway is continuing to ensure they are completely aligned. Both Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway are also now attending the national STB forum which is an invaluable source of information and learning.

David Glinos from the DfT then provided an update on the transport announcements from the autumn budget and offered to facilitate conversations on the MRN with the DfT for those local authorities who were interested. Joshua Monahan Devolution and Regions Lead, Williams Rail Review then presented an item on the Rail Review providing details on the background and scope of the Review. Board members had the opportunity to question and raise any concerns. This was a welcome opportunity as the Review is currently in listening mode and at the evidence gathering stage.

Board members then received a series of presentations, firstly from Joel Murray and Peter Noyce at DEFRA on the key points in the Resources and Waste Strategy, outlining future consultations and further opportunities to engage. The Board expressed broad support for the proposals however concerns were raised regarding additional costs to local authorities and the need to ensure sufficient time is made available for responses. The final presentation was given by Simon Earles, Planning and Sustainability Director at Bristol Airport who updated the group on the next phase of growth at Bristol airport. The planning application is currently with North Somerset with the consultation having closed on the 26 January.

The discussions highlighted a number of key points. The importance of the ongoing collaborative working between Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway which is vital to ensuring cross boundary working on shared priorities for the STBs. The Board should also continue to engage with the DfT on the Rail Review and DEFRA on the consultations as part of the Resources and Waste Strategy to ensure that the voice of Local Authorities continues to be heard.