

HASTINGS AND ROTHER TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

6 MARCH 2018

Present: Councillor Peter Chowney (Chair), Councillor Ian Hollidge, Sujeet Sharma, Tim Hickling, Deniz Musa, Mark Valleley, Bev Marks, Steve Manwaring, and Ian Sier

In attendance: Mark Horan and Alison Spring

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The group discussed sustainability and value for money with respect to the draft terms of reference.

The group approved an amendment to the third objective to include the need to facilitate housing and employment growth.

The group shared mixed views on how notions of sustainable transport be reflected in the objectives.

Action: Mark Horan to amend objective 2 and 3 to reflect discussions and circulate with the minutes.

Group Membership was also discussed. The group agreed that it would be appropriate to have two representatives from the Voluntary and Community sector from both Hastings and Rother.

Action: Rother colleagues to bring an additional representative to the next meeting.

The group confirmed that quarterly meetings proposed in the draft terms of reference would be appropriate.

Action: Mark Valleley agreed that he would confirm who would be representing ESCC on HARTAG for subsequent quarterly meetings.

2. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN - KEEPING INTERESTED GROUPS, STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS INFORMED

In regards to communications and press protocols, it was discussed that to ensure good communication between HARTAG and the wider community, a website and user forum would be set up. This would update on HARTAG progress and enable two way dialogue between HARTAG and a wide ranging group of stakeholders across Hastings and Rother.

The group noted that it would be important to cascade via e mail HARTAG updates alerting stakeholders as and when appropriate. It was also agreed that communications need to be measured and timely allowing interested parties to feed in their views and engage with HARTAG as required.

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Action: Alison Spring to continue discussions with Rother IT colleagues with a view to setting up the web based communications proposed.

In terms of reporting structure, it was agreed that the flow chart be amended to show further links from HARTAG to East Sussex County Council, and to show that the South East Sub Regional Transport Forum would be a branch of the South East Sub National Transport Forum.

Action: Alison Spring to amend the flow chart in the terms of reference to reflect the changes discussed.

The group noted that with the exception of the Quality Bus Partnership, there were no active service user groups specifically for buses across Hastings and Rother.

The group agreed that they would be interested in a public conference at an appropriate point in the future.

3. WORK PLAN PRIORITIES (MINI CONSULTATION REPORT)

The group discussed the findings from the mini consultation that sought views on what stakeholders felt HARTAG future priorities should be.

It was agreed that these findings should be shared via the communications means mentioned previously with stakeholders. The group felt it was important that when sharing the findings it would be necessary to communicate that the views received represented a snapshot in time.

The group discussed perceived strengths and weaknesses with the report findings and concluded that they were thankful that respondents had taken the effort to give their views and these will continue to inform discussions on HARTAG priority setting.

The group confirmed key areas in which HARTAG would seek influence: Roads, Rail, Walking and Cycling.

Furthermore the group identified four areas where it is intended that HARTAG would focus efforts and inputs:

- National Consultations
- The Sub National Transport Group
- East Sussex County Council and the transport and access package
- Planning policies.

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The group commented on the changes in the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) and noted that the consultation started on 5 March. Planning colleagues within the group suggested that it would be necessary to digest the proposed changes and consider a response.

Action: Sujeet and Tim to review the NPPF and consider appetite for response and scope for a shared response via HARTAG.

The group agreed that with discussions going on at East Sussex County Council and at the Sub-National Transport Forum, the HARTAG group should feed into appropriate consultations. It was noted of the need to look ahead for appropriate future consultation opportunities.

4. TRANSPORT FOR THE SOUTH EAST, AN OVERVIEW

Mark Valleley, Project Manager for Transport for the South East (TfSE) gave a presentation for Transport for the South East. The presentation detailed the aims and goals for the organisation, which were to facilitate commercial growth, as well as housing growth.

There are efforts to improve the current infrastructure in the south east, rather than adding to existing infrastructural networks.

Furthermore, TfSE seeks to anticipate the future of travel, with a plan of progress leading to 2050. The TfSE group was said to be made up of five economic bodies from across the South East and was stated to be seeking statutory status.

Questions were asked in regards to electric charging infrastructure, and whether there were plans for implementing it in the strategy. The reply was that there was currently no plan, but the organisation was ready to adapt to the changes, in regards to the government's plan for zero combustion engines.

It was made clear to the group that there were intentions to form a relationship with Highways England for future projects and strategic planning of roads in the South East.

As a reply to a question, it was stated that there would be an effort to keep local groups involved in future consultations and a formal launch and new website would assist in this regard.

Questions were raised in regards to the difficulty of balancing growth with hoping to increase connectivity to areas with high deprivation levels. It was noted that although this will be challenging there is the intention to achieve this.

Action: Deniz Musa to circulate presentation on Transport for the South East to the attendees.

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5. MAJOR ROADS NETWORK CONSULTATION - HARTAG RESPONSE

The discussion focused around the Major Road Networks and connections between towns in Hastings and Rother.

There were some changes that were to be made that are likely to be challenging, due to the effects of the new link road to Bexhill that will affect the road networks and offset traffic flows.

It was noted by the group that there was a need to identify where HARTAG want improvement in the road networks, and then offer a joint response from both Hastings and Rother authorities.

Action: Planning colleagues from each authority would assist Councillors draft their responses with a view that these would (if agreeable) be combined and submitted in the form of a HARTAG consultation response by close of the consultation on the 19th March.

7. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Date to be confirmed by Rother colleagues with the intention that the next meeting would be held in Rother approximately three months from this first meeting.

Action: Alison/Tim to liaise with Rother admin colleagues and confirm date and time in due course.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 1.00pm)