

ADEPT South West Sub National Board – 12 April 2019

The South West Sub National Board met on the 12 April 2019 and welcomed Hannah Bartram, ADEPT's Chief Operating Officer, to the meeting, who updated the Board on proposals for the network's new operating model.

The Chair updated the Board on recent announcements from the DfT including those relating to highways funding, station funding through Access to All and the future of mobility strategy. The Board then received an update on the Sub-National Transport Bodies, Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway. The Board heard how both were progressing well with their scheme prioritisation for the Major Road Network and Large Local Majors. Collaboration between Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway is continuing to ensure that they remain completely aligned.

The Board then received an update on the work of the South West Highways Alliance (SWHA) from Mark King at South Gloucester. The SWHA were reviewing its purpose and reflecting on the Alliance's achievements and challenges. Reflections were that there had been some joint procurement but that this remains challenging, there had been successes in influencing policy and some standardisation across the region such as permitting. The Connect and Share event last June was also well attended and the Alliance would look to do this again. Training events were also seen as valuable and there was an emerging work stream on road safety.

Eifion Jones from the Heart of the South West (HotSW) LEP then presented an update on the development of the Local Industrial Strategy. HotSW are part of the wave 2 development of Local Industrial Strategies. Eifion updated the Board on some of the emerging themes coming from the development of the LIS. Following external challenge three initial areas had been identified:

1. Clean energy
2. High tech engineering (e.g. marine, aerospace, photonics)
3. AI / Big data (e.g. health tech)

Work will continue to develop these further with government prior to submission.

In summary, the Board's discussions highlighted the importance of ongoing collaborative working between Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway as vital to ensure cross boundary working on shared priorities for the STBs. The Board noted the contribution made by the SWHA and acknowledged the lack of funding for highways maintenance costs. The Board supported the view that this needed to be longer term and more sustainable through 4/5 year settlements. HotSW LEP has been invited to return to the October Board meeting to provide an update on the development of the LIS.