



Sheffield Chamber of Commerce

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SHEFFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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Transport Forum Minutes

Thursday 21st June 2018 – 9.30am – 11.30am

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Albion House, Savile Street, Sheffield S4 7UD

Minutes

Present

Peter Kennan – Chair of Transport Forum (PK)
Ian Appleby – Vice Chair of Transport Forum/PWC (IA)
Kevin Parkes – Amey Consulting (KP)
Katy Hyde - (Health & Care Working Together) (KH)
Emma Marshall – 3Squared (EM)
Tim Hale - Champion Hire Limited (TH)
Shaun Hessey - Peterman Fork Lifts (SH)
Nigel Shaw - Specialised Movers Limited (NS)
Sue Tilbrook - Mott MacDonald (ST)
Rufus Meakin - MSC R&D (RM)
Chris Morgan - Friends of Dore & Totley Station (CM)
Alex Bray – Cross Country Trains (AB)
Laura Etheridge – East Midlands Trains (LE)
Wayne Kite – East Midlands Trains (WK)
Ben Gilligan – SYPTE (BG)

Apologies

Sam Chapman – The Flow
John Young – Stagecoach Yorkshire
Graham Micklejohn – Transpennine Express
Nigel Wragg – Supertram
John Bowes – Mott MacDonald
Rob Cole – Sheffield Sustainable Kitchens



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Sheffield Transport Strategy

There was a discussion on points that needed to be raised when it came to completing the Chamber's submission on the Sheffield Transport Strategy.

- Transport to hospitals. More specialist care being centralised in Sheffield means more need for patient and family transport. Limited parking means that adequate public transport access needs to be available. The main issues are pricing, routes, seamless connections and access to information. More remote parking with shuttle bus access is needed and park & ride connections must serve the hospitals.
- Offloading for commercial vehicles. Recognising the likely need for more restrictions on private vehicles accessing the city centre, the need to control emissions and the likelihood of more low emission zones, the needs of commercial vehicles must not be neglected by the City Council. NS made the point that moving equipment and files from office to office is time consuming and needs parking and waiting on the day of the move. SH made the point that offloading plant often leads to delays to other traffic including public transport but there is no system to notify and seek derogations from the City Council. Parking tickets have become a fact of everyday life and there is no collaborative approach applied. Hauliers were quite prepared to share tracking data with the City Council and to operate more collaboratively with Urban Transport Control to ease delays for road users for moves that have to be made. Striking a balance between abusing the system and enabling the commercial functioning of a city have to be agreed.
- Bus Lane review: it was noted that some bus lanes were felt to be un-necessary. BG noted that a bus lane review had been undertaken and he would check whether it could be made available to better inform responses to the Sheffield Transport Strategy.
- Arising from discussions at a Digital Leaders event, it was noted that there could be better rail to road interface around Sheffield Railway Station. The rail operator knows when the heaviest loaded trains will arrive and depart and real time running information is available to Sheffield UTC. There ought to be a way to ensure signal settings are adjusted to ease the flow into and out of the station at these critical times.
- Poor air quality at Sheffield Station is, at least in part, the result of old diesel taxis. The quality of the taxi fleet must be improved to reduce emissions.

Rail Updates

- East Midlands Franchise: – PK summarised the work the Chamber was doing. The Chamber was talking to Stagecoach, Arriva and Abellio, the 3 shortlisted bidders about 1) reduced peak time journey times; 2) Environmental considerations including servicing facilities in Sheffield City Region; 3) changing the times of the fast morning business train to an earlier pre-0900 time slot; 4) improved comfort in the new train fleet by specifying a wider body shell, and better 4G access; 5) arising from splitting the Liverpool to Norwich service at Nottingham, there was the possibility of the new Nottingham to Norwich service starting back at Sheffield and that service also serving Cambridge.
- Cross Country Franchise – There had been a consultation event with over 20 invited stakeholders present, on 19th June at Sheffield Chamber. The main issues identified were pricing of tickets and congestion (seat availability). BG noted that SYPTC were very concerned about the possible loss of the use of Travelmaster tickets on Cross Country services, as part of a campaign to drive down commuter usage on Cross Country services. A list of 10 key points for the new franchise were being put together by public and private sector bodies in Sheffield City Region.
- East Midlands Trains update: The May 2018 timetable change had been a success. The Market Harborough works are progressing well and there will be modest journey time improvements possible when they are completed. 3 new High -



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Speed Trains had joined the fleet to give more capacity. A new entry to platform 1b at Sheffield station is being built and the toilets on that platform are being refurbished. It was pleasing to see that Sheffield had been voted one of the top 10 stations in the UK.

- Cross Country update – there had been some modest improvements in journey times north of Sheffield. IA noted some falling off in performance of morning southbound peak services, due to apparently congestion at Crofton depot.
- Trans-Pennine Express – Many more 6 Car trains from Sheffield to Manchester will be introduced from later in autumn 2018. CM noted that 92 passengers boarded a recent morning service to Manchester at Dore & Topley, an extraordinary increase in usage of the station.
- Northern – The well reported problems on the May 2018 timetable change had badly impacted on Sheffield, where the biggest problems were the reduced services on the regular strike days.
- Network Rail – IA reported back on a visit to York to see NR’s Route MD for the Midland Main Line. Arising from that the MD is to visit Sheffield on 25th October 2018 to look at HS2, Tram Train and to talk about digital rail signalling. PK also noted that he had been to see NR in Manchester about the Hope Valley Line improvement works and it seems to be agreed that the works will be completed by December 2021.
- Supertram/Tram Train – Tram Train should launch in Autumn 2018.
- HS2 – not a lot new to report at this stage.
- Hope Valley Upgrade – it is suspected that the speed limit on the line could be increased from 70mph to 90mph for all passenger services and this was being pursued with NR. The enhancement works should also lead to the line being re-signalled as far as Earles Sidings (Hope cement works) and control will then pass to York from Manchester.
- Digital railway: EM reported about the Digital Leaders Event. The conclusion was that there was plenty of data about rail and road movements but that it was not being fully harnessed. An example was the point made earlier in these minutes and another was about better digital signage at rail stations to show train formations and stopping places on the platform (to assist speedier boarding and to reduce passenger stress).

Road Updates

- Trans-Pennine Roads – We have not heard anything further on the progress following the recent consultation about the scheme to improve connections from the M67 to the start of the A628 Woodhead road.
- Progress on the A6 to Manchester Airport link from Hazel Grove was noted. This will hopefully improve journey times to and from Manchester Airport from south and west Sheffield.
- Streets Ahead/Amey – Amey were thanked for tabling comprehensive responses to the questions posed at the last meeting. KP noted that some work was being undertaken on why there had been some deterioration of certain road surfaces.
- Buses: A new fleet of ultra-low emission buses was being introduced and the introduction of the Buses for Sheffield brand was noted. TH noted that he found the audio-visual displays on route 120 to be annoying but BG noted that general feedback had been positive.

Air Update

- The final stage of the link road to DSA had just opened and that would further reduce journey times from Sheffield to the airport. Flybe had now introduced a regular flight to Belfast City, WizzAir had just announced their first route from DSA



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to Hungary and TUI's Summer 2019 offer included flights to Florida, DSA's first long-haul passenger destination.

Any Other Business

- Concern was expressed at the unreliability of ticketing and other equipment at the Q-Park at Sheffield Station. BG said he would check if he had contact details for Q-Park management for the car park.

2018 Meeting Dates

Dates for 2018 Meetings are included below. All will be held at Sheffield Chamber of Commerce:

- Thursday 20th September
- Thursday 6th December

