



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)

TRANSPORT FOR WOKING

20th FEBRUARY 2008

KEY ISSUE

This report proposes the establishment of "Transport for Woking"; a multi agency forum to address and make recommendations on the movement needs for Woking.

SUMMARY

Surrey County Council, in its role as the highway authority, is seeking to establish a new collaborative body, Transport for Surrey. This new body will initially act as an advisory body to the County Council. Woking Borough Council is keen to work collaboratively with Surrey County Council in addressing movement needs in the Borough. Following informal joint member and officer discussions it is proposed that "Transport for Woking" (TFW) is formed to facilitate local collaborative working between the two Councils and other interested parties. TFW will have an additional focus on the role of Woking town centre due to its status in the regional transport and economic strategy as a transport "Hub". TFW will initially stand alone as an advisory body to the Local Committee (Woking) but in due course will form part of the structure of Transport for Surrey.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to agree that:

- (i) The context of Woking as a "Hub", as outlined in **Annex 1**, be agreed;
- (ii) "Transport for Woking" be established;

- (iii) The terms of reference, as set at **Annex 2**, be approved;
- (iv) The initial priorities of “Transport for Woking” be agreed as: -
 - Pedestrian and Cycle access to and across the Woking town centre for a radius of two kilometres from Woking railway station;
 - North/South movement across Woking town centre, particularly through Victoria Arch;
 - Enhancement of bus and taxi facilities in close proximity to Woking railway station;
 - Railway infrastructure improvements with particular regard to access to airports; and
 - The Public Realm in Woking town centre with particular regard to its future management and maintenance.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council, in its role as the highway authority, is seeking to establish a new collaborative body, Transport for Surrey. This new body will initially act as an advisory body to the County Council. Woking Borough Council is keen to work collaboratively with Surrey County Council in addressing movement needs in the Borough.
- 1.2 Woking Borough Council, as part of its Local Development Framework, has drafted a Core Strategy for Woking, which has been the subject of significant public engagement and consultation. An integral part of the rationale for the Core Strategy is the emerging South East Plan and the concept of Woking as a “Hub”. Set out at **Annex 1** is the background and context for Woking as a “Hub” and its relationship with the proposed “Transport for Woking” multi agency partnership.
- 1.3 The Local Committee and the Borough Council have held a number of informal discussions on collaborative working with a view to securing long term improvements in Woking. This, together with Surrey County Council’s ambition for “Transport for Surrey”, has resulted in officers considering how best to take forward the interests of both the Borough and the County in addressing the needs of the citizens of Woking. The proposal to establish “Transport for Woking” is the result of this dialogue.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Extensive work has been undertaken by both the Borough Council and the County Council considering the movement and transport needs of Woking. The opportunity for sustainable growth in Woking has been identified in the draft Core Strategy for Woking and the emerging South East Plan.
- 2.2 The absence of a suitable forum to bring together statutory and other stakeholders to discuss, coordinate and promote transport related activity in Woking is considered to be a major barrier to successfully securing sustainable growth. The Borough Council and the County Council are keen to secure effective collaboration to secure sustainable growth and to achieve improved outcomes for citizens. It is considered that “Transport for Woking” would provide such an opportunity and would, in due course, feed into a Surrey wide approach to the Sustainable Community Strategy as part of “Transport for Surrey”.
- 2.3 The draft terms of reference for “Transport for Woking” are set out at **Annex 2**. These draft terms seek to create a flexible multi agency partnership with a clear focus on enhanced movement in the context of Woking as a “Hub”.

- 2.4 Wide membership of the partnership will be encouraged but will be balanced by seeking to ensure that those that participate do so to make a difference. Whilst seeking wide engagement it is important to maintain a focus on adding value and delivering tangible improvements.
- 2.5 Whilst Transport for Woking will need to develop its own programme of priorities and initiatives it is suggested that its initial focus be in the context of the Local Development Framework and Woking town centre as a transport “Hub”, with particular reference to:-
- Pedestrian and Cycle access to and across the Woking town centre for a radius of two kilometres from Woking railway station;
 - North/South movement across Woking town centre, particularly through Victoria Arch;
 - Enhancement of bus and taxi facilities in close proximity to Woking railway station;
 - Railway infrastructure improvements with particular regard to access to airports; and
 - The Public Realm in Woking town centre with particular regard to its future management and maintenance.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 An options appraisal has not been undertaken. It is considered that this was not necessary as the objective of enhanced collaboration through “Transport for Woking” was mutually shared and would positively contribute to the work Surrey County Council, as the highway authority, was seeking to undertake across Surrey.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Members and officers of the Local Committee (Woking) and Woking Borough Council have contributed to discussion in the formulation of this report.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no new financial implications arising from this report. It is considered that through “Transport for Woking” more effective use may be made of existing resources and thereby enhance value for money for citizens of Woking.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report does not give rise to any equality or diversity implications. Any proposals brought forward under “Transport for Woking” will address equality and diversity implications.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report does not give rise to any crime and disorder implications. Any proposals brought forward under “Transport for Woking” will address crime and disorder implications.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 This report presents an opportunity for enhancing collaborative working between Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council together with other stakeholders and agencies. The Local Committee (Woking) is requested to acknowledge the role of Woking as a “Hub” (**Annex 1**), support the establishment of “Transport for Woking”, approve its terms of reference (**Annex 2**) and agree its initial priorities (paragraph 2.5 above).

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To enable the establishment of a multi agency partnership forum; “Transport for Woking”.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 If the Local Committee (Woking) supports the establishment of “Transport for Woking” the Executive of Woking Borough Council will be invited to do likewise. If approved by both bodies officers will coordinate invitations to other agencies and stakeholders to join the partnership.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

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