

Chamber support for strategic transport routes to Southampton

In 2007 the Government set out its proposals for national long term transport planning by publishing “Towards a Sustainable Transport System” (TaSTS) with the intention of implementing the recommendations of the Eddington transport study, as well as following the findings of the Stern review on climate change.

The way forward was presented in four stages. First, transport policy and its aims needed to be clarified. Then challenges from these aims needed to be identified together with any possibilities for cross model options, followed by an appraisal on delivery of these options with regard to the transport aims and value for money. Five transport policy aims were set out at this first stage to meet the development principles of economic, environmental and social sustainability. These policy aims were:

- Support economic growth,
- Tackle climate change,
- Contribute to better safety, security and health
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Improve quality of life

The first step on the way forward was taken with the publication of “Delivering a Sustainable Transport System” for national consultation during February 2009. This sets out the Government’s proposed long term transport strategy from 2014.

The Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce has responded to the consultation expressing views concerning the proposed Strategic National Corridors for road and rail networks, which are very significant for Southampton as a major port, international transport hub and as a large urban area. The Chamber’s response is available on our web site www.soton-chamber.co.uk under News and Chamber Viewpoint.

Since its Transport Position Paper initiative for Southampton some five years ago, the Chamber’s Planning & Transport Committee has maintained an active interest in transport infrastructure issues for Southampton and the wider city region. It has participated in co-ordinating successful action on transport infrastructure at local, regional and even national level. The committee membership represents one united voice for transport and includes all the major players concerned with transport issues, as well as representatives from Southampton, Fareham and Eastleigh Councils.

Over recent years the Planning & Transport Committee’s presentations, consultation responses and participation have included the following topics and groups:

Southampton Local Transport Plans 1 and 2 covering ten years, Freight Transport for South Hampshire, Transport for South Hampshire Transport Infrastructure for PUSH Growth Targets, Eastleigh Passenger Transport Area Review, Southampton Rd Closure Business Liaison Meetings, Southampton Traffic Stakeholders Group, Southampton

Parking Strategy, Fareham Parking Charges Review, National Ports Policy and Southampton Airport Master Plan.

Furthermore, the Chamber was instrumental in lobbying and securing funding for the forthcoming railfreight upgrade works to be undertaken between Southampton and the West Midlands.

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