

Minutes

Name of meeting	Solent Gateways – Floating Bridge Project Board
Date and time	Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 11am
Venue	Cowes Harbour Commissioner's offices, Cowes
Present	Stuart McIntosh (SM) – Cowes Harbour Commissioners, Harbour Master Mark Slawson (MS) – Red Funnel, Fleet and Technical Director Sean Newton (SN) – IWC, Project Lead Andrea Jenkins (AJ) – IWC, Senior Surveyor John Roseveare (JR) – Parose Projects, consultant Apologies from Tim Light – King Harry ferry, Fal River, Cornwall

1.

History

Three naval architects and nine ship building companies attended a supplier's day in December 2014, which has helped to inform the procurement process for the floating bridge.

Procurement of the floating bridge is a two stage process. The first stage is the appointment of the naval architects for the outline design and project management of the construction. The second stage is the appointment of a ship building company to construct the floating bridge.

Appointment of Naval architects:

[REDACTED]

SM to email naval architects ITT to all. [REDACTED]

Timeline for appointment of naval architect:

- Evaluation 9 April 2015
- Report to procurement board (to confirm award of contract?)
- Instruction confirmed late (29) April, or first week of May if interviews are undertaken.
- NB: SM on leave for the first two weeks of April.

SN to organise interview dates for all bidders so that they are available, if required. [REDACTED]

Appointment of Ship Builder:

The PQQ states that a maximum of four parties will be shortlisted for the ITT/tender stage (the Naval architects will also be involved in selecting the shortlist).

ITT to be issued early August and submitted by late September.

Contract to be awarded in December 2015.

Detailed design, build and commissioning will be undertaken within ten months. It was agreed that this is a reasonable timescale bearing in mind that the bidders will have the outline design information during the ITT period.

2. Resubmission of Solent LEP Business Case

Deadline 24 April. (*Post meeting note: this deadline has now been delayed until July.*)

To be submitted as individual business cases under a single overarching business case. The floating bridge therefore needs a standalone business case within this.

A new spend profile is required. SN to forward to JR. [REDACTED]

Spend profile needed to incorporate the proposed charging regime (SN confirmed that this is due to start 1 April, although it will probably commence on 1 May 2015).

JR confirmed that the economic business case modelling is being undertaken by [REDACTED]

3. Risk Register

SN to populate and circulate to all. [REDACTED]

4. Benefits to the Harbour

SM explained that there is an issue with access to the River Medina due to the shallow depth of the water at the floating bridge crossing point, and the very tidal nature of the neck of the estuary. If the centre of the Medina could be increased in depth from its current 1.3 metre depth to 2.5 metres for a minimum stretch of 13 metres this would open up the accessibility and therefore use of the estuary/harbour substantially, which would therefore increase employment, etc., substantially. SM confirmed that this is the main/critical issue for CHC.

JR was very interested to hear of this and confirmed that it should be reported in the LEP Business Case.

5. **Expenditure**

IWC historically approved a [REDACTED] to pump prime the floating bridge procurement process. [REDACTED] has been spent to date (slipway surveys [REDACTED] plus [REDACTED] production of promotional material for the suppliers day).

6. **Charging Proposal for the Floating Bridge**

SN confirmed the proposals around a charging mechanism for the floating bridge:

If users turn up to the floating bridge casually and purchase a ticket at a machine this will cost 70p per return trip. Prepaid cards will potentially be able to be purchased at PayPoint outlets around the Isle of Wight.

Users of prepaid cards will effectively get a discount which will reduce the cost to 40p per return trip.

There will be free travel for concessionary bus pass holders and under 18's (approximately 40% of pedestrians).

SN has a meeting with ticket machine supplier next Monday to discuss this although the solution may be subject of a formal tender.

An indicative cost of a ticket system (depending on the final solution) has been indicated at between [REDACTED] to install. It should be noted that Pay Points will incur an ongoing revenue cost in addition to this.

Until ticket machines are put in place, a manual system will exist on the floating bridge and start at 40p per return trip.

It was suggested that SN investigate "Go Solent", a south Hampshire transport initiative. JR suggested it may be worth joining it. [REDACTED]

MS confirmed that RF may wish to also join in with this, as RF passengers will be using the floating bridge. MS to forward contact for either Lee Hudson (Revenue Director) or Jonathan Green (Marketing Director) to SN. [REDACTED]

SN to provide budget breakdown for the above (ticketing, project managing, internal recharge times, etc).

7. **Slipways**

SN confirmed that if minor/affordable works could be done to the existing slipways which would benefit the operation of the bridge. To be discussed further in due course.

SN has spoken to the EA regarding flood risk/raising water levels. The EA has confirmed that there is likely to be a 0.55 metre raise in water levels at the point of the floating bridge slipways over the next 100 years. SN confirmed that he would ask the naval architects to look at this and endeavour to mitigate the effect of it on the new floating bridge and slipways if affordable/possible. [REDACTED].

SM stressed that the design really must allow for this.

8. **Future Meetings**

It was agreed that Floating Bridge project Board meetings should alternate between the Cowes Harbour Commissioners offices and the Steering Group meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Red Funnel offices in Bugle Street, Southampton.

The next Floating Bridge project Board meeting is to be held on 6 May 2015, 11.30am-1pm at Red Funnel's offices, Bugle Street, Southampton, to follow on from the Steering Group meeting commencing at 10am.

The next meeting will be held on 3 June at the Cowes Harbour Commissioner's offices, Cowes at 12.30pm.

End.