

Notes of online meeting held on 23rd July 2026 at 9.30am

Present: Cllr Rob Wilson (Chair), Cllr James Owen, Adele Nightingale, Cllr Mark Owen, Arren Roberts, Ben Fieldhouse, Richards Davies, Joe Bubb.

WSP representative Julian Moss joined for the Bus Service Review item.

Apologies: Cllr Care Johnson, Judy Bourne, Zoe Mortimer

1. Welcome and Introduction

Rob Wilson welcomed attendees and outlined the purpose of the meeting and main discussion items.

2. Movement Strategy

Discussion focused on ensuring that the strategy becomes a delivery tool rather than a further evidence-gathering exercise. Group members highlighted the importance of producing a document capable of directing future investment decisions and supporting funding bids, including opportunities arising from Local Transport Grant funding and other external funding programmes

The proposed governance and commissioning arrangements were discussed. It was noted that if Oswestry Town Council were to act as the commissioning body, this would need to be considered formally by the Town Council. Members also noted the need to identify potential contributions and funding opportunities from partner organisations to support commissioning of the work.

Actions

- FOG members to review the draft scope for the Movement Strategy and provide comments to Joe Bubb by **31st July**.
- Joe Bubb to collate comments and prepare a revised scope for consideration.
- Partners to explore potential funding contributions and other funding opportunities to support commissioning of the strategy.

3. Bus Station Improvements Update

An update was provided on progress with the Bus Station Improvements Programme. It was noted that elements of the scheme form part of a wider county-wide procurement exercise and revised delivery dates are awaited.

Actions

- Richard Davies is awaiting confirmation of the revised programme and will provide an update once dates have been received
- Adele Nightingale to recirculate the previously prepared costs for wrapping existing bus station signage proposals.
- Richard Davies and Adele Nightingale to discuss funding arrangements and the placing of orders for agreed enhancement measures.
- Adele Nightingale to prepare a first draft communications update on behalf of FOG regarding the Bus Station Improvements Programme.

- Draft communications to be reviewed by Richard Davies, Joe Bubb, Arren Roberts and Gareth Proffitt before wider circulation to FOG partners for comment.

4. Governance

Members discussed future governance arrangements for FOG and how the group can best support delivery of projects arising from the Future Oswestry Plan, including the proposed Movement Strategy. There was broad agreement that governance arrangements should be refreshed and clarified so that the group is better placed to oversee strategic priorities and support delivery activity.

It was agreed that further work is required before detailed proposals are considered.

Action

- Joe Bubb to prepare and circulate a draft governance proposal for comment by members ahead of the September meeting.
- Governance arrangements to be a substantive agenda item for discussion at the September FOG meeting.

5. Bus Service Review (WSP)

Julian Moss at WSP provided an update on the ongoing Oswestry Bus Service Review and emerging options being considered as part of the study. These options include opportunities to improve existing services, amend routes and consider the case for new services where evidence supports this.

Discussions included travel catchments, key destinations and existing travel patterns, including links to employment locations, housing growth areas, Gobowen Station, RJAH and the town centre. The relationship between bus services and active travel routes was also discussed, recognising the need for future recommendations to support wider movement and connectivity objectives.

Actions

- WSP to undertake further analysis of the emerging options and prepare indicative costs over the coming month.
- WSP and the Passenger Transport Team to bring a further update to FOG when additional option appraisal work has been completed.
- Consideration to be given to wider stakeholder engagement once options have been developed further.

6. Partner Updates

Due to time constraints the Partner Updates item was not formally covered during the meeting.

Action

- All partners to provide any updates for circulation to the group via email for information.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Action

- All members to advise Joe Bubb of any dates in September that they are unavailable to assist with scheduling the next in person meeting in September.