

**TfSE Transport Forum
30 June 2020
Minutes**

Item
<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p>
<p>Geoff French (chair) welcomed the Transport Forum to the meeting. A special welcome was made by the Chair to those who have recently joined TfSE's Transport Forum.</p> <p>This meeting was held virtually, and Geoff explained how it would be managed.</p>
<p>2. Minutes from Previous Meeting</p>
<p>The minutes from the previous Transport Forum meeting were agreed.</p>
<p>3. Feedback from April Shadow Partnership Board Meeting</p>
<p>Geoff provided attendees with a brief update on the April Shadow Partnership Board meeting. The meeting was held virtually on Thursday 23 April. Lucy Dixon-Thompson (TfSE) updated the Board on the final outcome of the TfSE draft Transport Strategy consultation. The Board also looked at the top themes that emerged from the consultation and reviewed the key drafting changes to the strategy.</p> <p>In addition, the Board were updated on the TfSE financial position for the 2019/20 revenue budget. It was confirmed that grant funding for this current financial year had still not been received from the Department for Transport. Rachel Ford (TfSE) ran the Board through three different funding scenarios that TfSE could face for this new financial year. These covered receiving a grant of £1 million, £500,000 and £0.</p>
<p>4. Covid-19 – identifying a 'new normal'</p>
<p>Mark Valleley introduced this agenda item and explained to attendees that at the last Shadow Partnership Board, Board members felt that TfSE needed to take account moving forward the potential impacts of the Covid-19. In response to this, Steer have been commissioned to carry out some further work on this topic which tries to anticipate what the potential recovery from Covid-19 will look like.</p> <p>Steven Bishop (Steer) delivered a presentation which provided attendees with a summary from the scenario planning workshop that took place in June.</p> <p>Geoff French reiterated the need for the work to embrace a good range of the possibilities that might emerge from the scenarios.</p>

Forum members raised the following points:

- **How can we ensure that the model is robust in this very changing world?** Steven agreed that this is a critical point and explained that Steer are very keen to work with the Transport Forum to ensure that the most up to date information is being considered in the model.
- **Are we a little bit early for carrying out this scenario development work? Should we wait a bit longer to see how things pan out with winter to consider?** Steven explained that part of the scenario-based approach allows the consideration of different eventualities. There is an urgency to looking into this piece of work now in terms of ensuring that the interventions come forward in the upcoming Area Studies workstream.
- **Should this work not be done before the overall Transport Strategy is finalised?** Mark Valleley explained that the Transport Strategy was drafted prior to Covid-19. The Transport Strategy scenario of “A Sustainable Route to Growth” is still valid as it looks out to 2050. This piece of work which looks at a shorter timescale will be used to inform the Area Studies work.

Geoff French reminded attendees that any further questions can be sent directly to the TfSE secretariat after today’s meeting.

5. Work Programme Update

Rob Dickin (TfSE) provided an update to attendees on the Future Mobility workstream. WSP and Steer have been awarded this piece of work to develop a Future Mobility Strategy and Action Plan. RD explained that a Future Mobility Steering Group has been set up to oversee the development of the Future Mobility Strategy. The first Future Mobility Steering Group is taking place on Wednesday 1 July.

Mark Valleley informed attendees that TfSE have now issued an invitation to tender for the undertaking of 5 area studies. MV confirmed that a preferred supplier has been identified, but the process for announcing is currently in the standstill period. This news should be announced at the upcoming Shadow Partnership Board in July. Due to uncertainty around funding, TfSE are in a position to initiate the work on one area study, this will be the planned Outer Orbital Area Study.

Geoff French confirmed that future work on the freight workstream is currently on hold due to the uncertainty around funding.

Rachel Ford updated attendees on the latest progress made with TfSE’s Proposal to Government. It has been agreed by the Shadow Partnership Board that TfSE will submit the Proposal to Government at the same time as the Transport Strategy is published. RF confirmed that TfSE have now received formal letters of consent from the 16 constituent authorities within the TfSE area. Both the final version of the Proposal to Government and Transport Strategy will be going to the Shadow Partnership Board for sign off in July.

6. Carbon Impact Assessment Methodology

Mark Valleley explained that as part of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal that went alongside the Transport Strategy, a very high-level assessment of the potential impact from the Transport Strategy on carbon emissions was produced. TfSE now need a more detailed approach on how to assess the impact of the interventions that will be identified as part of the Area Studies. TfSE have initiated a piece of work which will allow the development of a methodology that can be used in the Area Studies to assess the impact of interventions on carbon emissions.

Steven Bishop delivered a presentation to attendees on the context of this work. Attendees were split into small groups to discuss and develop the new scenarios that would identify the required fleet conversion rates, and the measures which would be required to facilitate net zero on a range of timescales including 2030, 2040 and 2050.

Group facilitators provided feedback to the whole Transport Forum on the key outcomes from the small group discussions. It was confirmed that feedback from these sessions will help support the report produced by Steer and the enhanced version of SEELUM.

Forum members raised the following points:

- **Attendees felt that 15 minutes was not enough time for the workshop activity to be developed properly.**
- **It was acknowledged that from an environmental perspective, we need to try and speed up net-zero before 2050.**
- **From a freight perspective, new technology is needed within this sector. Investment is needed in the development of fuels like hydrogen.**
- **Attendees felt that more discussion workshops were needed on the Transport Forum going forward.**

7. Forum comments for the Shadow Partnership Board

Geoff French informed attendees that the upcoming Shadow Partnership Board meeting will take place on Thursday 16 July. It was confirmed that there will be a report written to the Shadow Partnership Board on the outcomes of this Transport Forum.

Forum members raised the following points:

- **Concerns that the strategy does not place sufficient focus on rural areas and that Board members may wish to consider a thematic study to address this.**
- **The assumption that there will be 2.1% per annum growth in GVA per worker is not considered to be realistic. Steven Bishop confirmed that feedback had also been received to say this was not ambitious enough.**
- **The 2050 vision can be realistic provided TfSE are innovative in their approach.**

8. AOB

Geoff French confirmed that the next Transport Forum will take place on Tuesday 06 October 2020 13:00 – 16:00

