

A bold vision for a brighter future

A 30-year transport strategy
for the South East of England.





Transport: the thread that connects us all

The South East is a vibrant, hugely successful region. It acts as a powerful motor for national prosperity, adding more to the UK economy than any region outside London. Our ports, airports and cross-Channel rail links connect Britain to Europe and the rest of the world. Our roads and railways help tie the country together. Our people and businesses drive innovation across a range of high-growth industries.

But that success has come at a cost. Growing congestion and a historic lack of investment means our transport network is under intense strain. Across our region, new housing is being

hampered by inadequate road and rail links. Deprived coastal communities are cut off from growth and opportunity by poor transport connectivity.

A better transport network can affect profound change – connecting people with jobs and training, helping businesses reach markets, bringing family and friends closer together. It can unlock new housing and jobs and help cut carbon emissions. That's why investing in transport is not an end in itself. It is an investment in people, in business, in our environment and our shared future.

Now, more than ever we are determined to make it happen.



What is Transport for the South East?

We're the sub-national transport body for the South East of England. Our partnership brings together 16 local transport authorities, five local enterprise partnerships, 46 district and borough authorities and a range of wider stakeholders from the worlds of transport, business and the environment.

Together, we're dedicated to creating an integrated and sustainable transport system that makes the South East more productive and competitive, improves the quality of life for all our residents and protects and enhances our unique natural and built environment.

Our ambition is to become a statutory body with the powers and funding to drive our strategy forward and help the South East reach its full potential.

By speaking with one voice on our region's transport priorities, we're able to make a strong case to government for the investment the South East needs.

Why statutory status matters

We're putting a proposal to the government to make Transport for the South East a statutory sub-national transport body.

Why does this matter? Because this gives us greater powers and funding certainty required to make our strategy a reality. We will be able to directly influence national transport strategy and investment decision-making to benefit our region – allowing us to transform the transport system for the South East.

“ Our strategy will help the South East's economy more than double over the next thirty years, providing new jobs, new homes and new opportunities – all supported by a modern, integrated and sustainable transport network. ”

Cllr Keith Glazier, Chair,
Transport for the South East

A transport strategy for a more connected, productive and sustainable South East

We think that to achieve a flourishing economy you need a bold, future-focused transport strategy built around people and the places they live, work and do business.

Our mission is to grow the South East's economy by delivering a safe, sustainable and integrated transport system. This approach is not only designed to make the South East more productive and competitive, but also to improve people's quality of life, and access to opportunity. And we are clear that it can't be done at the expense of our precious natural environment.

To support our vision for a net-zero carbon South East by 2050 at the latest, we will work together to develop fully integrated transport, digital and energy networks. This cannot be achieved by considering transport in isolation, but rather in conjunction with skills, innovation, housing, commercial development, and other civic infrastructure. Our partnership is best placed to do just that.

This is where the journey starts towards a brighter, more sustainable future for the South East.



We're on a journey to a sustainable South East

This strategy is an important waypoint on a longer journey, culminating in the publication of our strategic investment plan for the South East in 2022. This will set out, for the very first time, a prioritised programme of investment for our area, created by those who know it best.

The building blocks of the strategic investment plan will come from a series of area studies. These will see us working with partners at a local level to understand the specific schemes and initiatives which will help us deliver our vision. We'll also feed in the results of two key thematic studies – covering future mobility and freight & logistics – to build a comprehensive, effective and futureproof investment plan.

The bold, future-focused transport strategy we need

In the past, transport strategies were devised on a "predict and provide" basis. Planners made forecasts about future transport demand based on past trends, with investment focused on expanding existing transport systems.

We're taking a different approach. By deciding on the future we want for our region, we'll be able to plan a transport system that helps make it happen – putting people and places, not vehicles, at the heart of what we do.

Driving the UK economy:



£183 billion
Gross Value Added
(GVA) and growing

Backing high growth
sectors could deliver
£450 billion GVA

and create
474,000
jobs

Highest productivity in
the UK outside London:



4.3 million
jobs



7.6 million
people

368,000
businesses



Developing a
regional strategic
investment plan



Delivering
the plan



An ambitious vision for the South East

Vision statement

By 2050, the South East of England will be a leading global region for net-zero carbon, sustainable economic growth where integrated transport, digital and energy networks have delivered a step change in connectivity and environmental quality.

A high-quality, reliable, safe and accessible transport network will offer seamless door-to-door journeys enabling our businesses to compete and trade more effectively in the global marketplace and giving our residents and visitors the highest quality of life.

This vision is our destination.

To reach it we have identified clear strategic goals, important priorities to focus on – and essential principles that must underpin all of our ideas and actions.



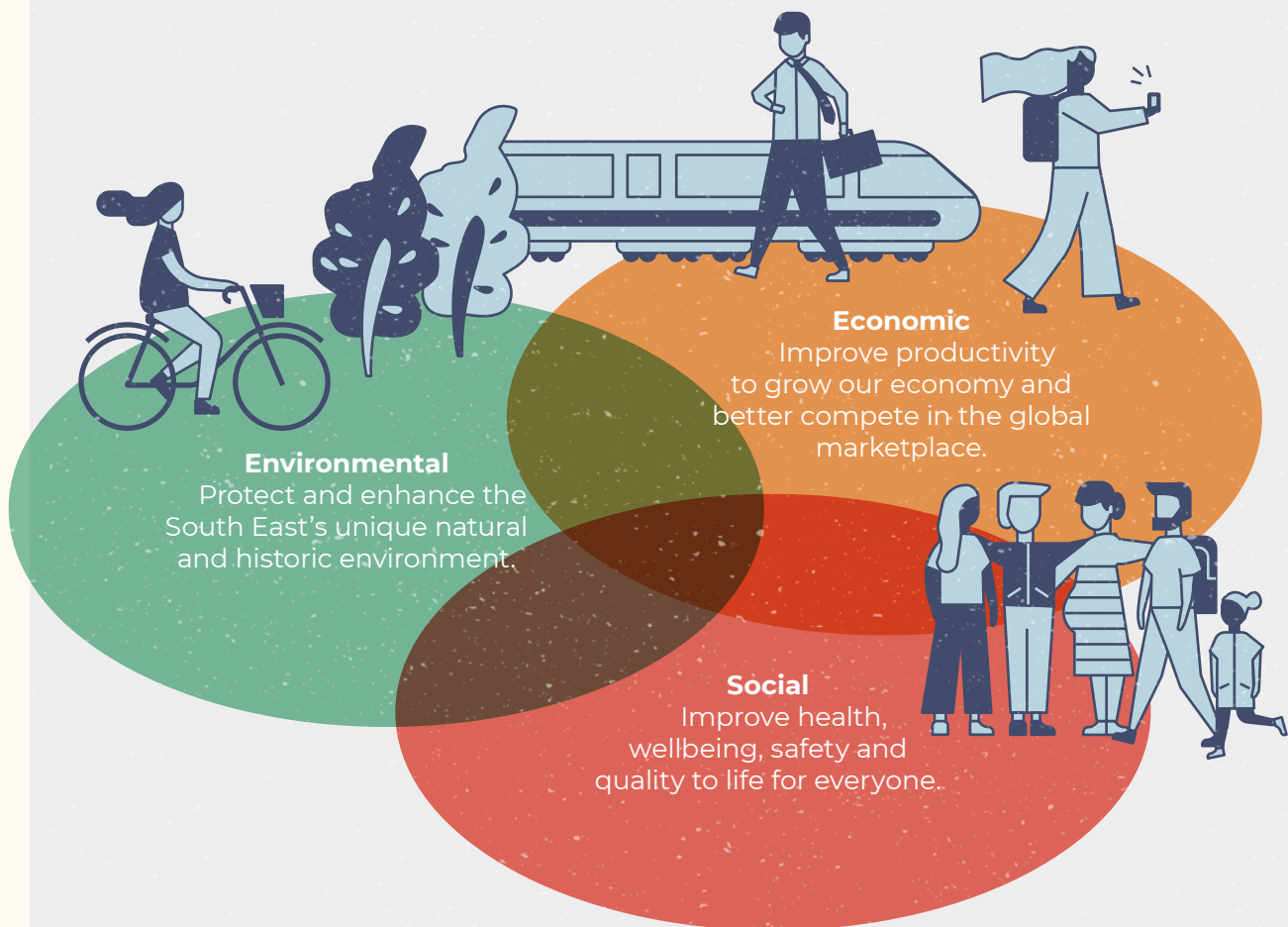
The strategic goals, priorities and principles behind our vision

Our strategy for transport in the South East is built from three elements.

1. The three **goals** we need to achieve to realise our vision.
2. Our **priorities** to achieve these goals.
3. The five **principles** that underpin our strategy.

Our goals and their priorities

The three goals of our strategy are around the ● Economy, ● Society and the ● Environment. Our priorities are the areas we will focus on to achieve these goals.



● Environmental priorities

- Reducing carbon emission to net zero by 2050 at the latest.
- Reducing the impact of, and the need to, travel.
- Protecting our natural, built and historic environments.
- Improving biodiversity.
- Minimising resource and energy consumption.

● Social priorities

- Promoting active travel and healthier lifestyles.
- Improving air quality.
- An affordable, accessible transport network that's simpler to use.
- A more integrated transport network where it is easier to plan and pay for door-to-door journeys.
- A safer transport network.

● Economic priorities

- Improving connectivity between major economic hubs, ports and airports.
- More reliable journeys.
- A more resilient network.
- Better integrated land use and transport planning.
- A digitally smart transport network.

The principles underpinning our strategy

We use five interconnected principles to identify the issues and opportunities that must sit at the heart of a sustainable transport strategy for the South East. They are the benchmarks against which all of our recommendations are judged.



Supporting sustainable economic growth – but not at any cost

Economic growth can significantly improve quality of life and wellbeing. Yet, if it's not carefully managed the consequences can be damaging. We support sustainable economic growth that leads to positive social and environmental outcomes.



Protecting the environment

We believe future economic growth should be decoupled from damaging environmental consequences. We need attractive, sustainable alternatives to the car and cleaner transport freight, while seeing how to manage demand. Land use and transport planning must be considered together, alongside planning for digital connectivity and power technologies.



Creating great places to live

For our cities, towns and villages to thrive we need a transport network that is fit for purpose. Networks that simply provide for movement along a corridor from place to place without taking into account the surroundings can have damaging social and environmental consequences.

When planning for our transport networks we need to think about their role in improving the places they serve where people can live and work with the highest quality of life.



Putting people first

A transport strategy that doesn't focus on the people who will use it is doomed to fail. We want to put passengers and freight users at the heart of it.

Understanding why people make different journeys and use different modes, routes and times to travel is vital. It's also about seeing the whole of a person's journey, not just focusing on one part. This will help improve how modes of transport are physically integrated, but also make planning and paying for journeys easier.



Planning regionally for the short, medium and long-term

This strategy draws extensively on the excellent work done by local planning authorities and local enterprise partnerships. We use this wealth of information to adopt a larger scale perspective that looks across the South East, and our connections with London and neighbouring regions.

By taking an holistic view of the transport system we can see how everything from the Strategic Road Network and intercity rail services to rural bus operations, all relate and interplay with each other. We can use this wide-lensed view to make suggestions that will have the biggest impact and highest chance of success.

Six types of journey. One sustainable strategy.

As we're developing our strategy and potential future investment priorities, we're considering the opportunities and challenges for different types of journey. Every one of the South East's 7.5 million people and 300,000 businesses is different, and their transport needs are equally unique. By considering how and why a wide variety of people travel and goods are moved, we've been able to identify six types, or legs, of journey.

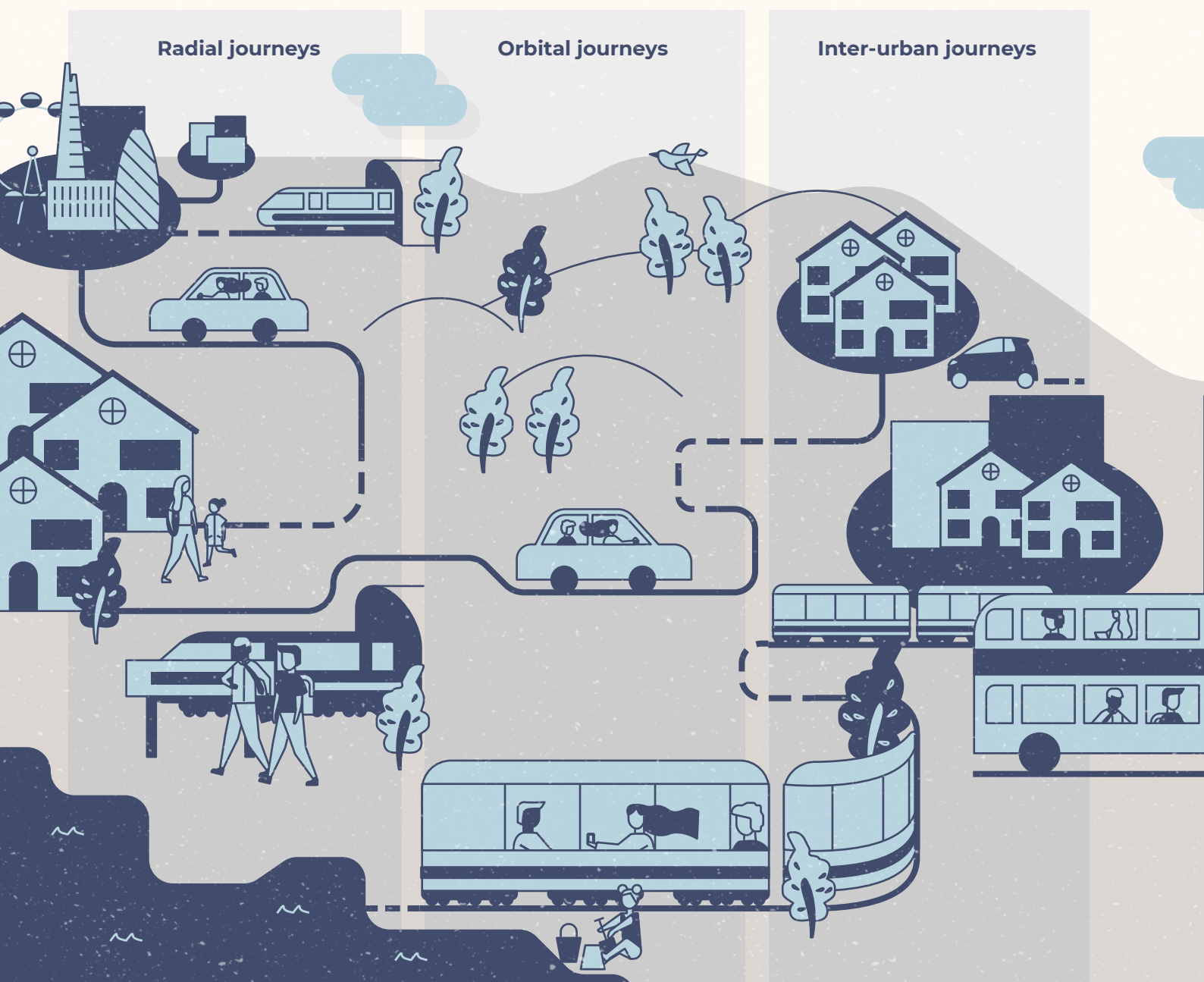
The potential solutions we have identified at this stage are not firm recommendations for investment – they will be explored further in our area and thematic studies as part of the process for developing our strategic investment plan.

What they do show is the kinds of interventions we'll be looking at with our partners,

and which are consistent with the goals, priorities and principles that underpin the transport strategy.

Radial journeys

These are longer journeys using major roads and motorways radiating from the M25 and main line railways to and from central London. They also include journeys between parts of our area and the South West and the south Midlands. Congestion, and overcrowding, as well as air and noise pollution where major routes pass through urban areas, are big challenges that need to be addressed.



Orbital and coastal journeys

These are longer east-west passenger journeys across the South East region. There are fewer roads and railways, and the routes that do exist have lower capacity than radial corridors. It's often faster and easier to travel via London than use orbital rail and road, so investment here needs to look at speeding up journey times by rail in particular.

Inter-urban journeys

These are medium-distance journeys between our main towns and cities or connecting with major roads and motorways. Bus is the primary means of public transport but growing congestion could harm the viability of services. Support for the bus sector is vital, as is better integration between public transport and cycling.

Local journeys

These are any type of short distance journey to destinations within the same village, town or city, including walking and cycling. They also include the first and last stage of longer distance journeys and are an important element of other journeys. Better connected and low-cost public transport is essential to reduce congestion and pollution and improve safety in urban areas, and increase connectivity in rural places.

International gateways and freight journeys

The South East's ports, airports and international rail links are vital to the UK economy and a major source of jobs and commerce. New public transport links to the airports in the region are needed, alongside improved

road and rail routes to our ports. We support investment in freight schemes to move goods from lorries and vans to rail and other lower carbon modes where suitable.

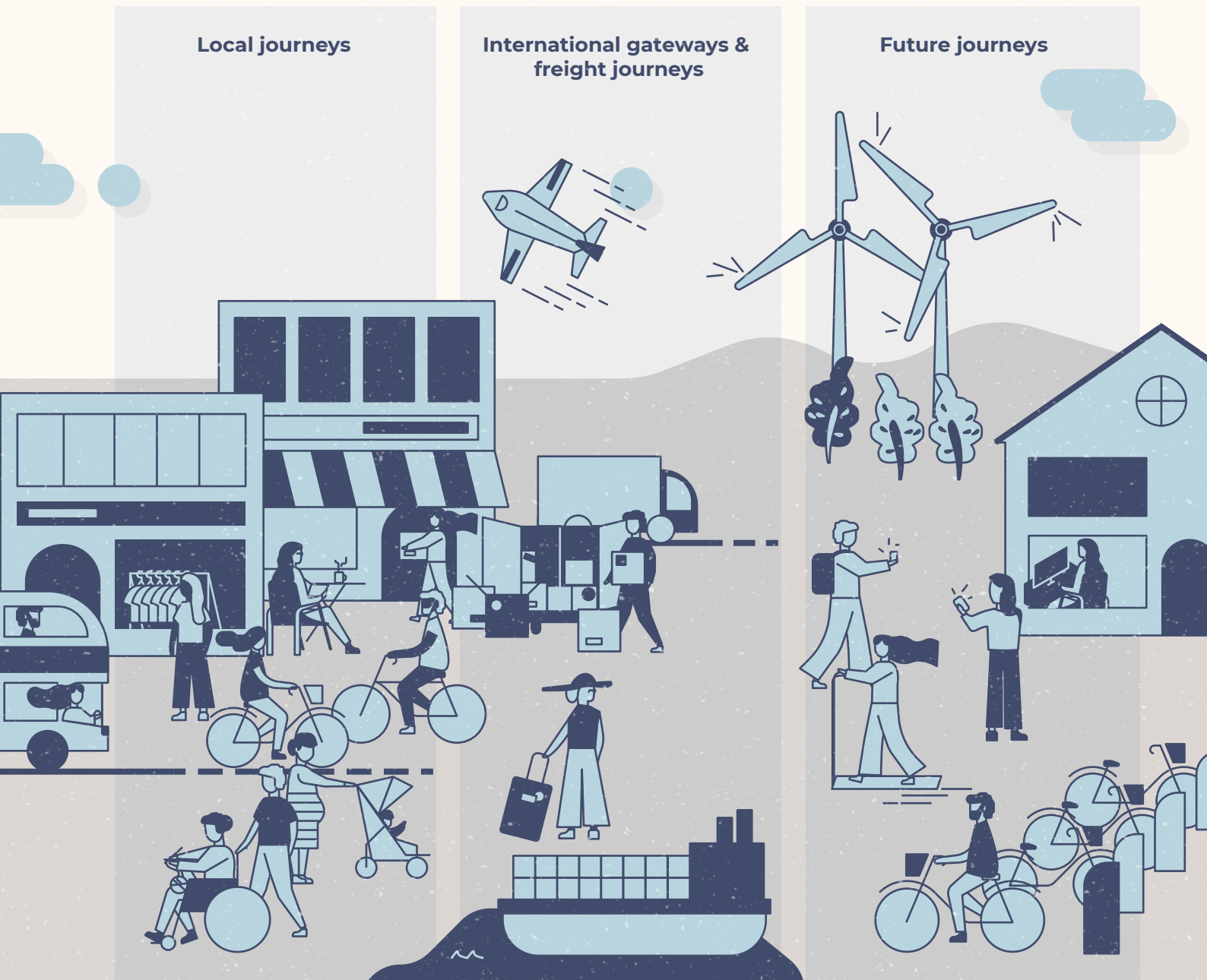
Future journeys

These are any journey using emerging technology – from e-scooters, shared-ownership car schemes and smart ticketing, to fully integrated 'mobility as a service' door-to-door multimodal journeys, paid and planned for in one go. This rapidly developing area could change all aspects of how we travel. We have commissioned a separate future mobility strategy to influence future initiatives.

Local journeys

International gateways & freight journeys

Future journeys





Making our plan a reality

Ours is a bold and ambitious thirty-year transport strategy for the South East. It's the culmination of unprecedented joint working by partners from across the public and private sector. And it sets out, for the first time, a shared vision of a more connected, productive and sustainable future for our region.

Yet this is just the start. We need engagement from key stakeholders to shape our understanding of what's needed to make our plan for the South East a reality.

Carrying out area and thematic studies

We will carry out a number of area and thematic studies to identify the specific schemes and policy initiatives that will be needed in different parts of the region. They will assess the impact of these measures against the transport


strategy's economic, social and environmental goals, including carbon emissions in the South East. Alongside the area studies, we will carry out two thematic studies: one on freight and international gateways, and the second on future mobility. Your engagement in this process will be essential to its success.

Developing a strategic investment plan

The outputs of the area and thematic studies will be brought together and prioritised to feed into a strategic transport investment plan for the South East. This will be developed in partnership with stakeholders from across the region including Highways England and Network Rail.

Getting statutory status

We're submitting a proposal to government for Transport for the South East to become a



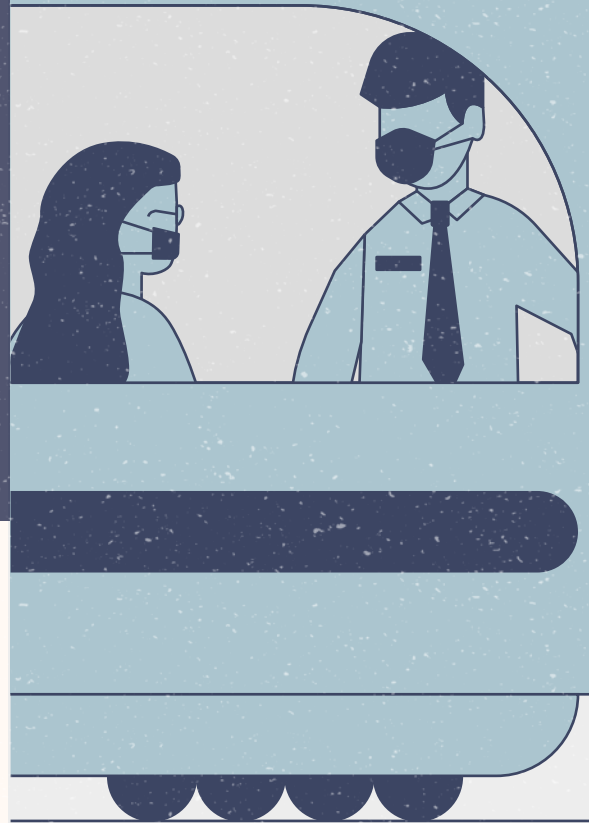
We're pushing for statutory status because it allows us to become a truly empowered champion for the region, able to make the strongest case for transport investment. The powers and responsibilities we are seeking are essential to delivering our vision for the South East.

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Securing funding

Transport for the South East aims to operate a mixed funding model. Staff and operational costs are funded by contributions from our constituent authorities, while our technical programme is funded by the Department for Transport via an annual grant.

Our partners are clear that a more formalised, multi-year financial commitment is needed from government for us to operate efficiently and effectively and drive forward our strategy. Statutory status should enable this to happen.



Understanding the impacts of Covid-19

Our vision for 2050 represents the future we want for our region. But we can't ignore the unprecedented impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy and our day-to-day lives and what it could mean for our future investment priorities.

That's why, before embarking on our area studies, we carried out an important piece of work looking at a range of potential 'unlocking' scenarios and how they could affect employment, business activity and travel patterns here in the South East.

We talked to a number of our key partners to help get a detailed picture of how our region's economy – and the millions of people who make it tick – might respond.

The results of this work will allow us to test that the schemes and initiatives put forward in our area studies deliver the best outcomes for our region – helping us move towards that vision for 2050 while also supporting economic recovery in the South East and across the UK.

**Working
together for
a better
South East**

A bright future awaits the South East. Our bold and ambitious transport strategy will breathe life into the economy in a sustainable way, while putting people and the places they live, work and do business, at its heart.

Yet for this strategy to succeed we need to work together. We need your input and ideas on which schemes, initiatives and policies to prioritise our investment. So please come and be part of our vision for a better South East.

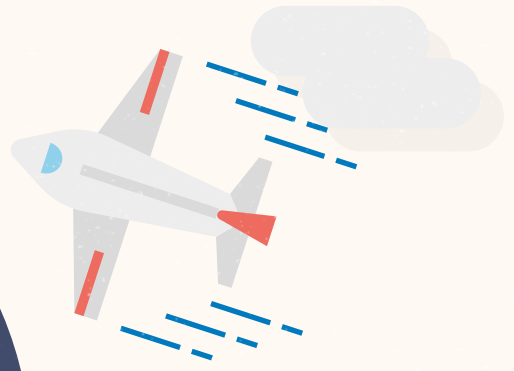
With your engagement and involvement we can speak as a single, powerful voice and deliver our shared vision for the people, businesses and communities of the South East.



Find out more
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