

Report to: **Partnership Board –Transport for the South East**

Date of meeting: **22 July 2021**

By: **Lead Officer, Transport for the South East**

Title of report: **Working towards a Strategic Investment Plan**

Purpose of report: **To note the proposed approach to developing the Strategic Investment Plan and agree delegated responsibility for the procurement process**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- (1) Note the proposed approach to developing the Strategic Investment Plan;**
- (2) Agree the expected outcomes from the Strategic Investment Plan;**
- (3) Agree to delegate authority to the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair, for the procurement of the Strategic Investment Plan; and**
- (4) Note that funding for the development of the Strategic Investment Plan has been awarded in the grant from the Department for Transport in financial year 2021/22.**

1. Overview

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Partnership Board on the development of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP).

1.2 The SIP will form the final part of the transport strategy, bringing together the outputs from the area studies and thematic studies, to become the blueprint for investment in the south east for the next 30 years.

1.3 The aim of the SIP is to identify the packages of interventions that will be needed to deliver the 2050 vision set out in the transport strategy using a recognised UK Government approach. It is important the SIP:

- supports the aim of the transport strategy in delivering sustainable economic growth;
- sets out a clear sequence and timescales for the packages of interventions identified as part of the area studies;
- presents a compelling case (strategic, economic, social, environmental) to Government and other funders for the delivery of the packages of interventions identified in the SIP; and
- identifies the potential cost of the proposed programme of investment.

1.4 This paper sets out the proposed approach to the development of the SIP, the intended outcomes and the procurement approach.

2. Working towards a Strategic Investment Plan

2.1 There will be a number of component parts of the SIP, each of which are outlined below.

Compelling narrative

2.2 The SIP will be the thirty-year investment blueprint for the south east. It needs to make the case to decision makers, primarily Treasury and DfT, but should also be easily understood by a range of audiences including residents and businesses.

2.3 The document will need to promote the south east and demonstrate the benefits of continued investment in the region, demonstrating to the Government that levelling up should not just be applicable to the north and midlands.

2.4 There will be cross cutting themes built into the SIP, including decarbonisation and economic recovery.

Technical core

2.5 The technical core will bring together the area studies and thematic work. It will set out where, when, and under what conditions packages of schemes, interventions and wider policy initiatives should be implemented to deliver the transport strategy and achieve the vision for 2050.

2.6 The SIP will consider packages of interventions, rather than individual schemes, e.g. mass transit, rail, active travel and highway-based packages in specific geographic locations. The SIP will advocate a multimodal approach, with the need for all elements of these themed packages to be delivered to ensure that their potential benefits are realised in full.

2.7 The SIP will also consider the different ways that these packages could be funded and financed, as well as the timescale for their development and delivery and responsibilities of different stakeholders. There will be clear and measurable performance indicators to monitor the success of the SIP implementation.

Consultation exercise

2.8 The STB legislation sets out the need to undertake a 12-week public consultation on the transport strategy, with a focus on statutory consultees.

2.9 This exercise will help to gain wider support for the SIP and ensure that stakeholders, including constituent authorities and delivery partners, have been able to provide formal feedback.

2.10 Once the responses to the consultation have been analysed and any revisions made, the Board will be asked to agree the final draft SIP. Constituent authorities and

other Board members will then be given the opportunity to take the final draft version of the SIP through their own governance processes. It is anticipated that this will happen in late 2022/early 2023 depending upon the meeting cycles of each organisation. Following constituent authority approval, the Board will have the opportunity to sign off the final SIP for submission to Government.

TfSE Governance and Responsibilities

2.11 It is important to ensure that TfSE has the right governance structures, staffing structures and capabilities and organisational framework to deliver the SIP. Arup have been appointed to lead an exercise reviewing the current TfSE structures, governance and organisational mission. This will report to the Board in October 2021 and will be used to inform the SIP development.

2.12 The expected **outcomes** from the SIP are:

- That the SIP will be given due regard in investment decisions made by Government and delivery partners; and
- That the transport strategy, SIP and associated evidence base will be adopted as regional strategic transport policy.

3. Proposed budget for the development of the SIP

3.1 The SIP will be a critical document for TfSE when making the case for future funding and investment in the south east. The grant funding award from the Department for Transport (DfT) makes provision for the development of the SIP, with £160,000 allocated to the development of the main SIP document and £20,000 allocated for the public consultation exercise. A further £20,000 will be used from the area studies budget to bring together the outputs from all five studies to form the technical core of the SIP.

3.2 It is likely that the bid to DfT for grant funding in 2022/23 – hopefully as part of a multi-year settlement in the spending review – will include a further request for funding to finalise and publish the SIP.

4. Procurement of the SIP

4.1 The procurement of the SIP will follow East Sussex County Council procurement rules. As such, the process will follow a written request for quotation (RFQ).

4.2 It is intended that the procurement process takes place in early autumn, with the contract period running until early summer 2023.

4.3 Members of the Senior Officer Group have been asked to form part of the procurement panel, being involved in the scoring process and interviews.

4.4 It is proposed that responsibility for the procurement exercise and associated decision-making process are delegated to the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair. This will allow the procurement process to proceed in advance of the next Partnership Board meeting in October 2021, at which time a full update on the appointment will be given to the Board.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 The Partnership Board are recommended to note the proposed approach to the development of the SIP and agree the intended outputs of the document. Board members are also asked to delegate authority for the procurement process to the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair.

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