

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: **Area Studies Progress Update**

Purpose of report: **To provide a progress update on the area studies programme.**

RECOMMENDATION:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the progress made with work on the area studies.

1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the five area studies.

2 Financial considerations

2.1 In May 2019 the Department for Transport (DfT) made a grant award of £500,000 to TfSE to take forward the technical work programme including the area studies. On 13 March 2020, the DfT approved a variation to the £500,000 grant, authorising TfSE to undertake additional preliminary tasks to ensure that a robust evidence base was in place for the area studies. The remaining funding available from the 2019/20 grant was sufficient to enable TfSE to proceed with commissioning one area study.

2.2 In August 2020 the DfT made a grant award of £1,225,000 to TfSE to take forward further elements of the technical work programme including the area studies. This provided sufficient funding to take forward two further area studies.

2.3 In March 2021 the DfT made a grant award of £1,225,000 to TfSE to take forward further elements of the technical work programme including the area studies. This provided sufficient funding to take forward the remaining two area studies.

3 Area studies background

3.1 The programme of area studies will identify where geographically, when in time, and under what conditions, packages of scheme interventions and wider policy initiatives should be implemented across the South East to deliver the 2050 vision set out in our transport strategy. The outputs from these studies will feed into the development of TfSE's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). Each of the packages presented in the SIP will identify a range of scheme options that will need to be subject to further study to identify which of these option should be introduced at any particular location.

3.2 The specific geographic location and movement types within scope for each study along with their sequencing and programme for delivery was agreed at the Partnership Board meeting on 22 October 2020. Five area studies are to be carried out; two focusing on orbital movements and three focusing on radial movements across the TfSE geography.

3.3 A programme showing the timescales for undertaking the studies and the Strategic Investment Plan is shown at Appendix 1. A diagram showing the stages and steps of work to be undertaken through the area studies, along with each study's relative progress is shown at Appendix 2.

4 Area studies progress update

Outer Orbital Area Study

4.1 The outer orbital area study commenced in August 2020 and work is progressing well. Stage B (evidence base development) which will set out the need for intervention and identify study specific aims and objectives is complete. Work is progressing well with Stage C (option generation and assessment). A long list of potential interventions was prepared, drawn from a variety of sources including review of other strategies/plans, stakeholder input, and wider thinking from the project team including various subject matter experts. These have been assessed against the agreed objectives using a multi-criteria assessment framework (MCAF), and the better performing interventions have been bundled into potential packages of interventions. Further assessment and modelling work to refine the packages is underway utilising the SEELUM model that was developed for the transport strategy.

4.2 The timescales for the outer orbital study have been further extended to allow for some refinement of the long list assessment and SEELUM modelling processes. This has had no impact to the overall area studies programme and lessons learned from this stage will be incorporated into subsequent area studies.

Inner Orbital and South Central Radial Area Studies

4.3 Mobilisation of the inner orbital and south central radial studies commenced in December 2020. Both studies are progressing well and benefitting from experience gained and lessons learned in the outer orbital study. Stage B (evidence base development) which sets out the need for intervention and identifies study specific aims and objectives is complete. Work has now started on Stage C (option generation and assessment) with long lists of potential interventions now being assessed against the agreed objectives using the MCAF.

South West Radial and South East Radial Area Studies

4.4 Following confirmation of the 2021/22 grant from DfT, the south west radial and south east radial studies commenced in May 2021. With much of the evidence base already prepared and with the benefit of lessons learned from earlier studies they are progressing at a faster pace and are close to completing Stage B (evidence base development) and are starting to identify their study specific aims and objectives. Work will soon start on Stage C (option generation and assessment) when long lists of

potential interventions will be prepared for assessment against the objectives once these are agreed.

5 Stakeholder engagement

5.1 Stakeholders have been engaged throughout the area studies development with area specific working group discussions providing the opportunity for detailed technical input and challenge from TfSE's constituent authorities and other key stakeholders as the work progresses. Initially these groups were set to meet on a monthly basis, but recognising the pressures this was putting on our constituent authorities, a more streamlined approach has now been adopted with a reduced number of working group meetings now scheduled at specific points in the programme where more targeted input and feedback is required. This revised format is working much better and we are receiving a high level of engagement from our constituent authorities who are providing valuable insight and challenge as the studies progress.

5.2 An area study forum has also been convened for each study and these will meet three times during the study's progress to feed in wider stakeholder views at key points, including setting the objectives for the study and inputting into the long lists. To date there have been two forum meetings each of the outer orbital, inner orbital and south central radial studies and one meeting for each of the south west radial and south east radial studies, and there has been a very good level of engagement from those stakeholders attending these meetings.

6 Conclusions and recommendations

6.1 The Partnership Board is recommended to note the work undertaken to date and the progress made with the area study work programme. A further progress update on the area studies will be presented to the Partnership Board at the October 2021 meeting.

RUPERT CLUBB

Lead Officer

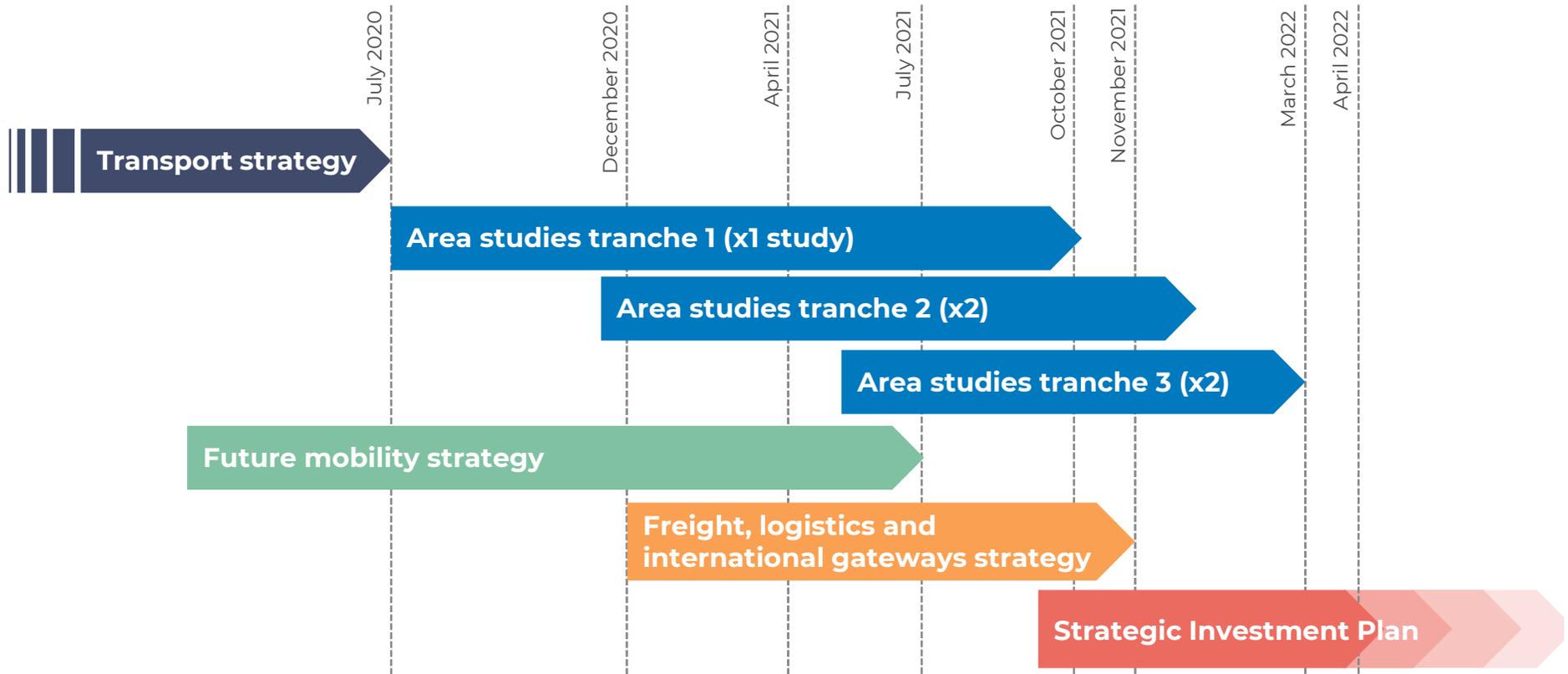
Transport for the South East

Contact Officer: Sarah Valentine

Tel. No. 07710 394355

Email: sarah.valentine@eastsussex.gov.uk

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

Area Studies progress

