

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

Date of meeting: **18 October 2021**

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

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

Purpose of report: **To note the progress on the procurement of the strategic investment plan**

RECOMMENDATION:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the progress on the procurement of the strategic investment plan.

1. Overview

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

1.2 At the July 2021 Partnership Board meeting, Board members agreed to delegate authority for the procurement of the SIP to the lead officer, in consultation with the Chair. Procurement commenced in September 2021, following the East Sussex County Council processes, and it is anticipated that an appointment will be made by the end of October 2021.

2. Working towards a Strategic Investment Plan

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

2.2 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.

2.3 The document will need to promote the south east and demonstrate the benefits of continued investment in the region. In part this is about levelling up communities within the south east but also, crucially, to demonstrate that levelling up in the south east will have benefits to the whole country.

2.4 There will be a 12-week public consultation on the draft SIP, which is intended to commence in June 2022. The final SIP will be published in March 2023, with

constituent authorities and co-opted Board members given the opportunity to take it through their own governance process for sign off in advance of that date.

2.5 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. Procurement of the SIP

3.1 As agreed at the Partnership Board meeting in July 2021, the Board delegated authority for the procurement process to the lead officer, in consultation with the Chair. The procurement process commenced in September 2021, following the East Sussex County Council procurement rules and the brief was issued in the form of a request for quotation (RFQ). Board members can request a copy of the RFQ from the TfSE secretariat.

3.2 Members of the Senior Officer Group were invited to form part of the procurement panel involved in the scoring process and interviews.

3.3 A total of 2 quotations were received by the deadline of 22 September 2021 and clarification interviews have been held with the bidders. A verbal update on the process will be provided at the meeting, although it will not be possible to announce the successful bidder as it will be in the standstill period.

3.4 A full update on the SIP proposals will be provided at the Partnership Board meeting in January 2022.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 The Partnership Board are recommended to note the progress on the procurement of the SIP.

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