

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

Date of meeting: **24 January 2022**

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

Title of report: **Strategic Investment Plan Progress Update**

Purpose of report: **To provide a progress update on the Strategic Investment Plan**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- (1) Note the outcome of the procurement exercise;**
- (2) Note the progress on the procurement exercise to appoint a consultation specialist; and**
- (3) Note the progress with the Strategic Investment Plan to date.**

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. It was not possible to provide an update on the procurement process at the October 2021 Board meeting as the standstill period was in place. This report provides an update on the appointment and progress to date.

2. SIP Procurement

2.1 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.

2.2 Members of the Senior Officer Group were offered the opportunity to form part of the procurement panel, being involved in the scoring process and interviews. Bidders were expected to complete the RFQ template and invited to participate in a clarification interview process. A total of eight bidders were invited to participate in the RFQ and two submissions were received.

2.3 Following the completion of the RFQ process, a consortium of Steer and KPMG have been appointed to lead the work.

3. SIP Update

3.1 The SIP will set a credible framework for delivering the vision and objectives of TfSE's Transport Strategy and the packages of interventions developed by TfSE's area and thematic studies.

3.2 The programme of interventions set out in the SIP will be wide-ranging in terms of modes, locations, and delivery models. There will likely be individual schemes that have net funding needs of varying sizes. The overall investment requirement is, however, likely to be very significant and will need to be delivered over a 30-year period.

3.3 As the final step of TfSE's plan to deliver its Transport Strategy, one of the key objectives of the SIP will be to provide the basis for securing local, regional, and national agreement to this significant investment programme, how it will be delivered and –crucially –how it will be paid for.

3.4 There will be a five-stage approach to developing the SIP:

- Stage A: Mobilisation;
- Stage B: SIP Background;
- Stage C: SIP Development;
- Stage D: Consultation; and
- Stage E: Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (and close out).

3.5 Project mobilisation has completed and Steer have progressed into Stage B, which involves undertaking a review of the technical work completed to date, the future development of TfSE and the wider context for the SIP. This work will run alongside the final stages of the area studies and will conclude in March 2022.

3.6 Stage C is a substantial element of the process, involving the development of the SIP's narrative, content, and look and feel. It also involves the initial work to prepare for the consultation and the development of the funding and financing packages. There will be considerable opportunities for SOG and the Board to influence and guide this stage of the work, with a specific focus on the narrative.

3.7 Steer will be invited to the Board meeting in March 2022 to share their proposed approach to the development of the SIP and to update members on their progress.

4. Appointment of consultation specialist

4.1 The SIP will be subject to a full 12-week public consultation. The consultation for the Transport Strategy attracted over 3,500 responses and it is anticipated that a similar level of response will be received for the SIP.

4.2 Given the importance of the consultation exercise, it is proposed to bring in a consultation specialist to oversee the development of a digital consultation platform

and to lead the analysis of the results. This will help to ensure that the consultation reaches the relevant audiences, meets best practice standards and will be supported by the TfSE team through face-to-face events and communications activities.

4.3 The consultation specialist will work closely with Steer and KPMG to develop the consultation approach and ensure they receive the results in a timely manner to enable the draft SIP to be updated for the Board meeting in November 2022.

4.4 The procurement process for the consultation specialist commenced in December 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.

4.5 The successful bidder will be appointed in January 2022 and a verbal update will be provided at the Board meeting.

5. Budget implications

5.1 The contract value for the SIP is £150,000. This budget has been allocated from the DfT 2021/22 grant.

5.2 It is anticipated that the contract value for the engagement specialist will be between £25,000-£30,000. This is higher than anticipated as the scope of the work has expanded to cover a broader consultation exercise and the level of response that is expected. The additional funding for this will be met through underspend in the communications and engagement budget.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 The Partnership Board are recommended to note the outcome of the procurement exercise, note the progress in appointing a consultation specialist to lead the public consultation and to note progress to date.

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