

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: **Lead Officer’s Report**

Purpose of report: **To update the Board on the recent activities of Transport for the South East**

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***RECOMMENDATION:***

**The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the activities of Transport for the South East between October 2021 - January 2022.**

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**1. Introduction**

1.1 The main focus of work for TfSE in recent months has been concentrated on identifying how TfSE can take forward work on future mobility, transport decarbonisation and bus back better; bringing together the area studies into four strategic programme outline cases based around four revised geographies; and securing consultants to begin work on the draft strategic investment plan (SIP).

1.2 Alongside this, a programme of engagement has been formulated as the area studies come to a conclusion in early 2022 and the draft SIP is prepared for public consultation in summer 2022.

1.3 As noted previously, bids were also submitted for additional funding for some specific DfT workstreams and for the comprehensive spending review. To date, TfSE has not received news on the success of either of these bid submissions.

**2. National policy**

Forthcoming national policy

2.1 Although it was expected in Autumn 2021, the Levelling Up White Paper (includes devolution) has been delayed and is now expected in spring 2022.

2.2 In addition, the Local Authority Toolkit (following on from the Transport Decarbonisation Plan) will now be published in early 2022, and again, this will be critically important in providing that guidance to local authorities and regional bodies.

2.3 The DfT is also expected to publish the Future of Transport: Rural Strategy in 2022. Although there is no publication date as yet, this will be an important policy document for the TfSE geography.

**3. Work of Transport for the South East**

Strategic investment plan

3.1 Work is now underway on producing the draft strategic investment plan for consultation in June 2022. Further detail on the consultants, timeline and programme of work can be found in agenda item 10.

#### Joint STB work

3.2 The focus for joint STB working and discussions in recent weeks has been centred on the four workstreams which the DfT has asked all STBs to consider. We are hoping for an announcement soon on which of our bids to the workstreams has been accepted.

3.3 The Chief Officers of the STBs have established regular meetings to identify areas where collaboration is appropriate and to ensure we are joined up in relation to emerging policy developments.

3.4 Work in the sub-groups on rural mobility and freight are also still continuing.

#### Events

3.5 Highways UK took place on 04 November 2021 in Birmingham. I spoke as part of the Directors of Strategy panel where discussions covered future mobility, electric vehicles, charging infrastructure and whether road investment can be part of the future.

#### TfSE Team

3.6 From 11 March 2022, Jasmin Barnicoat, Project Manager will be taking maternity leave. The temporary role required to cover the Project Manager position was externally advertised and I am pleased to confirm Emily Bailey was successful and has taken up this position from the beginning of January 2022 in order to receive training before Jasmin departs.

## **4. Conclusions and recommendations**

4.1 In conclusion, 2022 will be an important year for TfSE with the technical work and stakeholder engagement achieving some key milestones and the publication of some significant policy documents from Government.

4.2 The Partnership Board is recommended to note the activities undertaken by TfSE.

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