

**Emailed to:**[ltf@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ltf@westsussex.gov.uk)

8 October 2021

Dear Sirs,

**Transport for the South East (TfSE) response to West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-2036 consultation**

I am writing to you as lead officer for [Transport for the South East](#) (TfSE) in response to the consultation on your West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-2036.

TfSE is a sub-national transport body which represents sixteen local transport authorities in the South East of England. These are Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Medway, Surrey, West Sussex, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton, and the six Berkshire unitary authorities. These authorities are represented on the Partnership Board, which is its decision-making body, along with representatives from the region's five Local Enterprise Partnerships, district and borough authorities, protected landscapes, Highways England, Network Rail and Transport for London.

TfSE provides a mechanism for its constituent authorities to speak with one voice on the transport interventions needed to support sustainable economic growth across its geography. High-quality transport infrastructure is critical to making the South East more competitive, contributing to national prosperity and improving the lives of our residents.

TfSE welcomes the opportunity to comment on the West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-2036. As you will be aware TfSE published a thirty-year transport strategy for the South East in July 2020, which sets out an ambitious vision for our area in 2050. As one of our constituent authorities, West Sussex County Council has been fully involved in the development of our strategy and we very much value the contribution that has been made to the development of the strategy as well as the ongoing support for the wider work of TfSE.

We are therefore very pleased to see our transport strategy referred to within the wider policy context in which your plan sits, and also that the challenges and key issues identified within your plan align well with the strategic goals, priorities and objectives set out in our strategy.

Our transport strategy seeks to deliver sustainable economic growth that achieves the right balance between the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. This means that any intervention in the area's transport networks to address connectivity challenges must ensure that the environment is protected and where possible enhanced and that opportunities to



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improve the health, wellbeing and quality of life for everyone are realised. The ambition and shift in approach set out in our strategy includes the need to move away from a predict and provide approach based on planning for vehicles to one based on planning for people and places. It involves a shift towards a decide and provide approach to transport provision based on choosing a preferred future with preferred transport outcomes encapsulated in our 2050 Vision.

Transport is the single biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the south East and across the UK. This needs to change, so our transport strategy includes a commitment to meet the Government's target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. To achieve this and our wider 2050 vision, we need to make better use of the infrastructure we already have – reducing the need to travel through increased investment in digital and other technology and providing alternative ways for people to go about their business through increased investment in public transport and active travel.

The Government has recently published its Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP) which sets the government's commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK. It is clear that in order to deliver the commitments set out in the TDP bold actions will be necessary. We note that the both the vision and objective 7 set out in your plan state that “the transport network will be on a pathway to net zero carbon by 2050”. However, in line with the TDP and the TfSE strategy we would encourage and support you making a firmer commitment to achieving that target in the final version of your plan.

Overall, whilst we welcome the vision you set out in your Transport Plan, there is an opportunity to include more of the ambition and the shift in approach articulated in our transport strategy translated through to the objectives and policies that follow from the challenges and key issues identified in your plan.

We look forward to working together with you as you continue to develop your plan, and we would be happy to discuss any opportunities for further collaboration and sharing of data to our mutual benefit. This will help ensure that our studies and your transport plan align in their thinking and outputs.

This is an officer response. The TfSE Shadow Partnership Board next meets on 18 October 2021 when it will consider this response. A further iteration of it may follow after that meeting.

Yours sincerely,

**Rupert Clubb**

Lead Officer

Transport for the South East



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