

Rob Moran
Chair, Surrey Future

Emailed to:

nikki.nicholson@surreycc.gov.uk

4 March 2022

Dear Mr Moran,

Transport for the South East (TfSE) response to Surrey's 2050 Place Ambition

I am writing to you as lead officer for [Transport for the South East](#) (TfSE) in response to the consultation on Surrey's 2050 Place Ambition.

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, National Highways, 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 Surrey's 2050 Place Ambition. 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, Surrey 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 by the district and boroughs 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 the Place Ambition sits, and also that the challenges and key issues identified within the Place Ambition 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



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environment is protected and where possible enhanced and that opportunities to improve the health, wellbeing and quality of life for everyone are realised. The ambition and shift in approach set out in our strategy include 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 at the latest. 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.

We welcome the focus of strategic priority one which aligns with the priorities of our transport strategy. However, we would welcome further consideration to a number of key issues, including the impact of new and emerging technologies, requirements for EV charging infrastructure and rural accessibility.

It is acknowledged in the draft implementation framework that there are a number of local and countywide plans that will need to be considered in the implementation of the Place Ambition. We are in the process of developing the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for the region (due for consultation in summer 2022 and publication in March 2023). This will be a blueprint for strategic transport investment in the South East for the next 30 years and it is likely that this document will support some of the interventions set out in the Strategic Opportunity Areas. We are keen to continue to work with local authorities on the development SIP in coming months.

We look forward to working together with you as you continue to develop the Place Ambition, and we would be happy to discuss any opportunities for further collaboration.

This is an officer response. The TfSE Shadow Partnership Board next meets on 21 March 2022 when it will consider this response. A further iteration of it may follow after that meeting.

Yours sincerely,



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Lead Officer

Transport for the South East



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