

Emailed to:

Jon Wheeler, Team Manager - Infrastructure Planning & Place
East Sussex County Council
jon.wheeler@eastsussex.gov.uk

14 December 2022

Dear Jon,

Transport for the South East response to East Sussex Local Transport Plan 4 initial consultation

I am writing to you in connection with the East Sussex Local Transport Plan 4 initial consultation.

Transport for the South East (TfSE) is a sub-national transport body (STB) 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 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 the development of the East Sussex Local Transport Plan 4. 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 you are also aware, we have recently consulted on our draft Strategic Investment Plan (SIP), which provides a framework for investment in strategic transport infrastructure, services, and regulatory interventions across the South East in the coming three decades. As one of our constituent authorities, East 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 your ongoing support for the wider work of TfSE.

TfSE's SIP sits at the regional planning level, bridging the gap between national and local government. This approach includes increasingly close alignment between the TfSE Transport Strategy and SIP with local transport plans to ensure individual community needs are well understood and that projects at every scale complement each other, avoiding waste and duplication of effort wherever possible. Whilst the updated government guidance for LTP development is still awaited, we hope that it will indicate that the relevant STB transport strategy should be taken in account during the development of LTP's.

You will also be aware of our Area Studies work that sets out the key issues, challenges and opportunities across the area, and shows how targeted interventions will enable TfSE and its partners including East Sussex County Council to deliver TfSE's Transport Strategy. East Sussex features in three of the four area studies (Solent and Sussex Coast, London to Sussex Coast and Kent Medway and East Sussex) and we would encourage you to consider this work as you develop your LTP.

We are pleased to see that the overarching themes that will inform the development of your LTP and the future of transport in East Sussex, align well with the strategic goals and priorities identified in our Transport Strategy and with the investment priorities set out within our SIP.

Our transport strategy and SIP seek 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 improve the health, wellbeing and quality of life for everyone are realised.

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. However, there will still be a need for targeted investment on our congested road and rail networks to relieve pinch points.

We look forward to working together with you as you undertake the development of your LTP, 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 strategy and SIP, and your emerging LTP, align.



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This is an officer response. The TfSE Shadow Partnership Board next meets on 23 January 2023 when it will consider this response. A further iteration of it may follow after that meeting.

Yours sincerely,

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Transport for the South East



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