

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

Date of meeting: **30 October 2023**

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**

RECOMMENDATION:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the activities of Transport for the South East between July – September 2023.

1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of work for Transport for the South East (TfSE) in the last quarter has been on the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) delivery plan and the wide range of technical work to support our local transport authorities. TfSE has also continued to provide the solid evidence base for our transport strategy refresh and other work streams. A review of the Transport Forum has all taken place and this will support our engagement with stakeholders for our technical work. The annual conference also took place in September with good attendance and a speech from Richard Holden MP, Minister for Transport.

1.2

2. Partnership Board updates

2.1 There are five new board representatives (outlined below).

- **Dr Beccy Cooper, Leader Worthing Borough Council**, District and Borough Authority representative (*replacing Cllr Colin Kemp*)
- **Councillor Matt Boughton, Leader, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council**, District and Borough Authority representative (*replacing Cllr David Monk*)
- **Councillor Jason Brock, Leader, Reading Borough Council**, BLTB representative (*replacing Cllr Tony Page*)
- **Tim Burr**, South Downs National Park representative (*replacing Ian Phillips*)
- **Councillor, David Robey, Deputy Cabinet Member Kent County Council** (*replacing Cllr Dan Watkins*)

3. National policy

3.1 The Transport Select Committee released their report on strategic road investment with a recommendation to engage with sub-national transport bodies (STBs). Local Transport Plan guidance has been further delayed. When the guidance is issued TfSE

will be supporting the DfT with local authority workshops. DLUHC published their letter to confirm their decision to transfer Local Enterprise Partnership core functions to combined and local authorities.

3.2 The Prime Minister recently announced the deadline for selling new petrol and diesel cars will change from 2030 to 2035. In doing so, he reiterated the commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. With the Transport Strategy refresh any policy changes will be taken into consideration.

3.3 At the time of writing, there are further announcements expected which will be fed into our transport strategy refresh.

4. Work of Transport for the South East

4.1 As outlined above, the Transport Forum review has been completed for consideration by the Board and work is underway on the technical workstreams through our recently agreed call off contract.

4.2 The SIP delivery plan has been well received and we are currently offering our delivery partners the opportunity to test out the story map function.

4.3 Work has also begun with consultants on the refresh of the transport strategy.

Joint STB Work

4.4 The joint STB chief executives met in July and September. We are working on issues that have a bearing on all STBs and where, working with government, we are able to influence better outcomes for transport, including how national policy relates to regional ambitions.

4.5 As previously identified, all the STBs are also collaborating on a variety of different projects, those involving TfSE are outlined below:

- TfSE, Transport East and England's Economic Heartland joint work on producing a decarbonisation toolkit
- 7 STBs working on alternative fuelling station locations for road freight vehicles
- 7 STBs working jointly on decarbonisation

4.6 All projects are proceeding well, and more information can be found in the technical programme update report - Agenda Item 14.

Events

4.7 The annual conference "Connecting the South East 2023" took place in September. The conference was opened by Cllr Glazier who introduced the Minister for Transport, Richard Holden MP, who delivered his ministerial address to attendees. There was a clear message to boost transport in the South East and build on recent investments and he also endorsed the work of Transport for the South East. The event was well attended with more than 200 stakeholders joining us for the day. We hosted a number of panel and presentation sessions alongside three workshops during the course of the day.

4.8 We continue to attend key conferences to share both our vision for the South East and the Strategic Investment Plan.

South East Rail Partnership

4.9 Following the agreement of the Board, work continues on the establishment of the South East Rail Partnership and we anticipate its first meeting to be before the end of the year.

4.10 We recently joined with our colleagues in England's Economic Heartland and Transport East to sign a letter prepared by the Campaign for Better Transport calling on the Mayor of London to halt the planned withdrawal of the Day Travelcard.

TfSE Team

4.11 Further to the update given at the March 2023 Partnership Board meeting, the TfSE Programme Manager role is vacant and interviews will be taking place in October.

4.12 Interviews have taken place and we have successfully recruited three members of staff. They are; Jessica Lelliott, Executive Officer, Lewis Milligan, Project Manager - Scheme Development and James Gleave, Transport Strategy Manager.

4.13 In addition, interviews for an Analysis Manager have taken place and we hope to be able to confirm an appointment shortly.

4.14 Lucy Dixon-Thompson, Stakeholder and Engagement Manager, will be leaving TfSE on 27 October to start a new role in WSP. Recruitment is underway for an Engagement Manager with interviews taking place in October.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

5.1 The Partnership Board is recommended to note the activities undertaken by TfSE between July – September 2023.

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