

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

Date of meeting: **13 May 2024**

By: **Chief Officer, Transport for the South East**

Title of report: **Chief 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 January - March 2024.

1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of work for Transport for the South East (TfSE) in the last quarter has been on the thematic projects and activities contained within the board pack including the centre of excellence and transport strategy refresh work.

1.2 The drafting of the annual report for 23/24 has been completed and will be presented to the Partnership Board.

1.3 The Partnership Board agreed the Local Authority Contribution amount for 2024/25 at the 30 October 2023 Board meeting. Officers will begin invoicing Local Authorities in May.

2. National Policy

2.1 In January, the Government announced a £500million funding package to significantly expand the country's electric vehicle (EV) charging network. The plan aims to install an additional 100,000 public charging points across the UK by the end of 2025.

2.2 In the Spring budget, the Chancellor announced the Government's manufacturing programme 'Auto2030', an increase in the rate of Air Passenger Duty (APD) for non-economy passengers and that the Government will be maintaining the fuel duty at the current levels for a further 12 months.

3. Work of Transport for the South East

3.1 Centre of Excellence work is underway with the site currently going through user testing. A launch event is being planned for June subject to approval from the Partnership Board.

3.2 Work is underway on the refresh of the Transport Strategy. The first public engagement exercise as part of the Refresh was launched as a survey and will be open until June 2.

Joint STB Work

3.3 The joint Sub-national Transport Body (STB) chief executives met in January and March and were joined by officials from Department for Transport (DfT).

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

- TfSE, Transport East (TE) and England's Economic Heartland (EEH) joint work on producing a decarbonisation toolkit for delivery in early May
- 5 STBs are working on identifying locations for alternative fuels for road freight vehicles
- 7 STBs working jointly on developing an approach to modelling freight movement within the UK
- 7 STBs working jointly on the development of a Common Analytical Framework that can be used to help develop business cases for transport scheme proposals.

3.5 All projects are proceeding well, and more information can be found in the technical programme update report - Agenda Item 18.

Events

3.6 The National STB conference was held in February, officers attended and a podcast was created from the event.

3.7 The first Transport Forum following the review was held on 11 April in London.

South East Rail Partnership

3.8 The first Wider South East Rail Forum was held on 9 February 2024. The meeting was well attended by England's Economic Heartland (EEH), Transport East (TE), Department for Transport (DfT), Transport for London (TfL), Network Rail (NR) and Great British Railways Transition Team (GBRTT).

3.9 The forum set out the vision for a South East Rail partnership, the STBs current positions were reviewed and an agreed forward look for future meetings.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 The Partnership Board is recommended to note the activities undertaken by TfSE between January – March 2024.

RUPERT CLUBB
Chief Officer
Transport for the South East

Contact Officer: Jessica Lelliott
Tel. No. 07701 394894
Email: Jessica.Lelliott@transportforthesoutheast.org.uk