

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: **Business Representation**

Purpose of report: **To agree the Business Representation arrangements for the Transport for the South East Partnership Board**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- (1) Agree to establish a Business Advisory Group**
 - (2) Agree to delegate the development of a Terms of Reference to the Chief Officer in consultation with the current business representatives.**
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1. Introduction

1.1 The Partnership Board agreed the constitution for Transport for the South East in its shadow form in June 2017 and a revised constitution in December 2019. The constitution sets out proposals for the structure and composition of the Partnership Board. It was agreed that the arrangements should be reviewed on an annual basis.

1.2 The Government announced the dissolution of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in August 2023. The TfSE Partnership Board currently has two LEP Board members who are co-opted to the Partnership Board to collectively represent the five LEPs. Currently this role is undertaken by Daniel Ruiz from Enterprise M3 LEP and Vince Lucas from South East LEP.

2. Business Representation

2.1 The constitution allows for the constituent authorities to appoint any person not being an elected Member of one of the Constituent Authorities as a non-voting Co-opted Member of TfSE. No person may be appointed as a Co-opted Member unless all the voting Members of TfSE agree to do so.

2.2 These arrangements have ensured that businesses, district and borough councils and protected landscapes are represented on the Board and are involved in the decision-making process.

2.3 The dissolution of the LEPs provides an opportunity for the Partnership Board to consider future business engagement.

Business Advisory Group

2.4 To allow the business voice to continue to be represented on the Board and involved in TfSE's decision-making process, we propose establishing a Business Advisory Group. As part of this transition, it is proposed the Partnership Board maintain Daniel Ruiz and Vince Lucas as co-opted members of the Board and they work with the Chief Officer to establish a Business Advisory Group. This will include the development of a Terms of Reference for the group.

2.5 The Terms of Reference will ensure the Business Advisory Group represents a diverse mix of businesses, touching all corners of the south east region and the industries that power our economy. It will also aim to include business representation groups.

2.6 The Terms of reference will be brought to the July meeting for endorsement and adoption. Should any amendment be required to the constitution these will be also brought forward at the July board meeting. In order for this to happen, the Board will also need to ratify an amendment to TfSE's constitution to amend the current wording around LEPs and updated to reflect representation of the Business Advisory Group.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Members of the Partnership Board are recommended to agree the arrangements set out in this report for the creation of the Business Advisory Group.

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Transport for the South East

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