

Report to: **Partnership Board – Transport for the South East**  
Date of meeting: **22 July 2024**  
By: **Chief Officer, Transport for the South East**  
Title of report: **Technical Programme Progress Update**  
Purpose of report: **To provide a progress update on the ongoing work to deliver the technical work programme set out in the 2024/25 business plan**

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***RECOMMENDATIONS:***

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- (1) Note the progress with the work to implement the regional electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategy;**
  - (2) Note the progress with the work to develop a regional active travel strategy;**
  - (3) Note the progress with the delivery of TfSE’s future mobility strategy;**
  - (4) Note the progress with the delivery of TfSE’s freight, logistics and gateways strategy; and**
  - (5) Note the progress with the joint work on decarbonisation.**
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**1. Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the delivery of a number of elements of the Transport for the South East (TfSE) technical work programme.

**2. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy**

2.1 In March 2023, the Partnership Board approved TfSE’s regional electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) strategy. Following on from the publication of the strategy and accompanying action plan, work is now underway to implement the action plan.

2.2 In December 2023, work was completed on the development of a methodology that will be used to help assess the future impact on a public charging infrastructure network from vehicle fleets across the TfSE area. Work is currently underway on the process for delivering a series of forecasts that will look to understand the additional demand that vehicle fleet operations could place on the south east’s future publicly available charging network. This work is expected to be completed in summer 2024. A further update on the development of this

forecasting activity will be shared with the Partnership Board at their meeting in October 2024.

2.3 Transport for the North (TfN) are currently in the process of rolling out the EVCI Visualisation Tool that they have developed to other Sub-national Transport Bodies (STB). The tool provides users with localised information on projected electric vehicle uptake and charging infrastructure requirements. TfSE will be the first STB to receive a version of this tool and following roll out, the national data sets that support the tool will be regularly updated by TfN. A training workshop will be facilitated by Transport for the South East and Transport for the North in order to introduce the platform to local authority officers in September 2024.

2.4 As set out in the Finance Update report (Agenda Item 8) there have had to be some adjustments to the 2024-25 work programme to reflect the fact that the grant allocation was less than had been profiled. As a consequence, the further development of the development of the existing EVCI Locate tool will not now proceed in 2024-25. A provisional allocation of £60k had been made for this.

2.5 A further update on the progress of TfSE's work on EVCI will be given at the Partnership Board Meeting in October 2024.

### **3. Regional Active Travel Strategy**

3.1 As reported to the Board in May 2023, work began on the development of TfSE's Regional Active Travel Strategy and Action Plan (RATSAP) in July 2023, with the work due to be completed by July 2024.

3.2 The aim of the RATSAP is to make walking, wheeling, and cycling an attractive, accessible, and realistic choice for more journeys undertaken across the TfSE area. The strategy will complement the work being undertaken by the local transport authorities (LTAs) through the delivery of their Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans.

3.3 To date the RATSAP Steering Group has held three outcome-driven meetings. The Steering Group is comprised of representatives from each of the 16 constituent LTAs, as well as national and strategic partners including Active Travel England, Homes England, National Highways, Network Rail, Sustrans, and Transport Action Network. The project team has also worked with all 16 LTAs to gather data for the strategy's evidence base.

3.4 During the last 3 months the project team has finalised the third report on Network Appraisal (formally Network Prioritisation) and drafted the final RATSAP document. The RATSAP is currently under review by Regional Active Travel Steering Group members and will undergo finalisation before being presented for approval to the October 2024 Partnership Board meeting.

## **4. Future Mobility Strategy**

4.1 The latest meeting of TfSE's Future Mobility Forum was held on 17 June 2024. The theme for the meeting was Shared Mobility. There was a presentation from Jonathan Scherzer from the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA), located in Albany, New York State, USA on their suite of shared mobility programmes that are all owned and operated by them, a transport authority, rather than individual operators.

4.2 In March 2024, a Request for Quotations (RFQ) was issued for development of a Mode Propensity Tool. Bidders had until 05 April to submit their tenders. A tender evaluation meeting took place on 30 May and a subsequent clarification meeting was held on 14 June. At this time we will not be proceeding with awarding the work as the evaluation process revealed that the proposed approach would not meet all our needs and particularly those of our constituent local transport authorities. There were also some issues with the availability of sufficiently robust data on which to build the tool. As a consequence of this we will now to identify an alternative way forward with this work that may involve going out to the market with a revised RFQ at some point in the future. A further update on the progress of the work on future mobility will be given at the Partnership Board Meeting in October 2024.

## **5. Freight, Logistics and Gateways Strategy**

5.1 As reported to the Board in May 2024, a mapping tool is being developed jointly by a number of STBs to identify current and future refuelling sites offering both recharging and access to alternative fuels for HGV vehicles. The tool will identify current and potential sites along the strategic and major road network in the TfSE area. The tool was made available to TfSE in June 2024 and we are now planning on how we can introduce it to our local authority partners in Autumn 2024.

5.2 The second Wider South East Freight Forum covering the TfSE, England's Economic Heartlands and Transport East areas was held in person in London on Thursday 20 June 2024. The meeting focussed on the challenges associated with the decarbonisation of the freight and logistics sector, in particular the issues that the Forum members need to influence/address that are not covered by existing plans and activity. It also sought to identify and any new activity that Forum members and STBs could support or undertake to speed up progress on decarbonisation across the wider South East.

5.3 The two studies investigating the potential for modal shift of freight from road to short sea shipping and the level of warehousing provision in the TfSE area are due to be completed during Summer 2024. Reports on the key findings and next steps from both studies will to be reported to the Partnership Board in October 2024.

5.4 As set out in the Finance Update report (Agenda Item 8) there have had to be some adjustments to the 2024-25 work programme to reflect the fact that the grant allocation was less than had been profiled. As a consequence, the level of expenditure on the freight awareness programme work that will commence in 2024-25 will be reduced by £65,000.

5.5 A further update on the progress of the work on freight and logistics will be given at the Partnership Board Meeting in July 2024.

## **6. Decarbonisation**

6.1 As reported to the Board in May 2024, TfSE, Transport East (TE) and England's Economic Heartland (EEH) are working collaboratively to develop a Carbon Assessment Playbook. This will identify baseline carbon emissions and trajectories to net zero in each of the LTAs in the three STB areas. Each LTA will then be able to assess the carbon reduction potential of the proposals to be included in their local transport plans.

6.2 Work on the development of the tool is now complete and it will be launched on at a joint event on 23 August 2024. All the constituent authorities in the TfSE area will be invited to the launch. Following this and feedback from users work will then commence to identify further refinements that are needed to the tool. A further update on the progress of the development of the Carbon Assessment Playbook will be given at the Partnership Board Meeting in October 2024 .

## **7. Financial considerations**

7.1 The decarbonisation work set out in this report has been funded from the additional in-year funding awarded to TfSE in January 2022. The future mobility strategy, freight strategy, electric vehicle strategy implementation work, regional active travel strategy development are being funded from the DfT grant funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations**

8.1 The Partnership Board is recommended to note the progress that has been made with the various elements of the TfSE technical programme set out in this report. A further progress update report will be presented to the Board at their meeting in October 2024 .

**RUPERT CLUBB**

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