

Report to: Partnership Board –Transport for the South East

Date of meeting: 28 October 2024

By: Chief Officer, Transport for the South East

Title of report: Transport Strategy Refresh Update

Purpose of report: To provide an update on progress with the refresh of the transport strategy and seek agreement on the wording of the Vision and Missions for the strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- (1) comment on the progress with the work to refresh the transport strategy;**
 - (2) agree the wording of the Vision for the strategy;**
 - (3) comment on the wording of the Missions for the strategy;**
 - (4) comment on the approach to developing the policy route maps for the strategy; and**
 - (5) comment on the draft plans for the public consultation on the strategy**
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1. Introduction

1.1 At the July 2023 meeting, the Partnership Board agreed that a refresh of Transport for the South East's (TfSE) transport strategy should be undertaken. The timeline for the refresh is shown in **Appendix 1**. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the work that has taken place since the previous update to the Board in July 2024. Specifically, it sets out the emerging work on the refinement of the vision, missions, and the development of the policy route maps that will form the main part of the refreshed transport strategy. A draft final version of the Strategy is to be presented to the Board at a special meeting on 9 December 2024, after which it will be subject to a public consultation lasting twelve weeks.

2. Progress with the technical work

2.1 Since this last update there has been significant progress with the technical work to develop the strategy.

Partnership Board Task and Finish Group

2.2 As agreed at the July Board Meeting a Task and Finish Group has been established to assist with the development of this technical work between the quarterly Partnership Board meetings. It is made up of six Partnership Board

members (Cllr Paul Fishwick – Wokingham Council, Cllr Joy Dennis - West Sussex County Council, Cllr Trevor Muten – Brighton and Hove City Council, Cllr David Robey - Kent County Council, Cllr Lulu Bowerman – Hampshire County Council and Vince Lucas - Business Representative). The group has met twice since the July Board meeting and the way in which the involvement in the technical work is set out below. An officer working Group consisting of representatives of both TfSE's Senior Officer Group and Transport Strategy Working Group has also continued to meet on a monthly basis.

Scenario planning report

2.3 The final technical report on the scenario planning has been completed. This report identifies the different scenarios against which the policy route maps will be tested to ensure their robustness against a variety of different future

Updated Vision

2.4 The feedback from the previous Partnership Board meeting and the workshop that preceded it, was that the vision in the Draft Strategy needed further refinement. A number of specific comments were raised but the two key changes raised by the Partnership Board were that the vision needed to be more succinct and more specific to the South East.

2.5 Since that meeting, the Project Team has worked with members of the Partnership Board Task and Finish Group, and Officer Working Group to refine the wording. The proposed vision is contained in **Appendix 2**. It will be presented as a core vision statement, with supporting text providing context. Members of the Partnership Board are recommended to agree the proposed Vision set out in **Appendix 2**.

Updated Missions

2.6 It was agreed at the July 2024 Board Meeting that there would be five missions covering the following themes:

- Strategic Connectivity
- Decarbonisation
- Integration and Inclusion
- Sustainable Communities
- Resilience

2.7 In agreeing the themes for the Missions, Partnership Board stated its view that these missions should be underpinned by a high level of ambition and also identified that further refinement of the missions was required.

2.8 The Project Team has worked with the Partnership Board Task and Finish Group and the officer working group to develop and refine the wording of the mission statements and to define what the end state will be and what success would look like. The wording of these missions is presented in **Appendix 3** and Members of the

Partnership Board are recommended to comment on the wording of these Mission statements.

Policy Route Maps

2.9 The Project Team is working closely with the Task and Finish Group and officer working group to develop a series of Policy Route Maps, which will detail how each mission will be achieved. These Policy Route Maps will not detail specific schemes that need to be delivered in order to achieve each Mission but will scope out the policy packages that will be required to deliver them, and what these policy packages should seek to achieve (for example, a reduction in carbon emissions). These Route Maps are still in development.

2.10 We will continue to work with the Partnership Board Task and Finish Group and officer working group to refine these Policy Route Maps for inclusion in the draft Transport Strategy for presentation at the Special Partnership Board meeting on 9 December 2024. The Partnership Board is recommended to comment on the approach to the development of the policy route maps.

3. Public consultation

3.1 A consultation on the Scoping Report for the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal that will sit alongside the Draft Transport Strategy has taken place with statutory consultees. The consultation closed at the end of September 2024, and to date only one response has been received from Natural England that did not raise any issues.

3.2 The Project Team is currently working on detailed plans for the public consultation on the Draft Transport Strategy. The consultation would commence immediately after the December 9 Special Partnership Board meeting and would run for 12 weeks until early March 2025 so that it will close in advance of the pre-election period for the local elections in May 2025.

3.3 The details of this consultation exercise will be presented at the December Partnership Board meeting. An outline of the proposed approach is set out in **Appendix 4** and Members of the partnership Board are invited to comment on this.

4. Financial considerations

4.1 As reported to the Board in May 2024, the total cost of the transport strategy refresh is forecast at £724,000. This cost is being met from the Department of Transport grant allocations for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

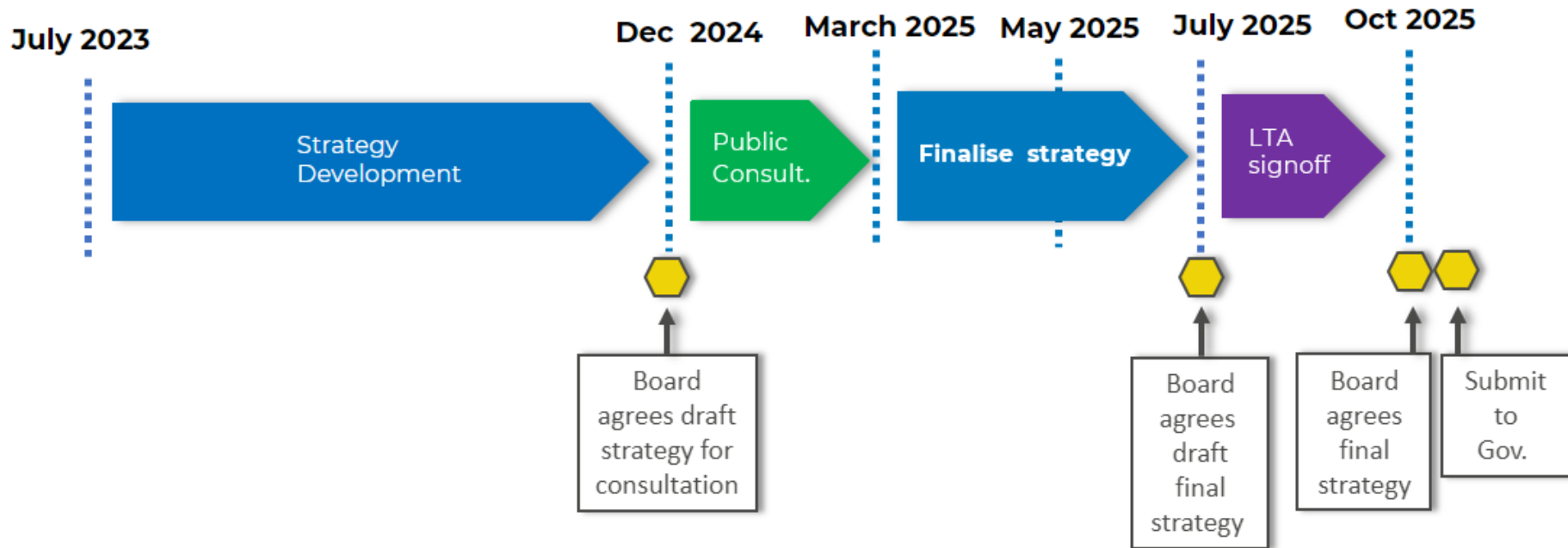
5. Conclusions and recommendations

5.1 In conclusion, work on the transport strategy refresh is progressing well, with significant progress on a number of elements of work ahead of the Special Partnership Board meeting on 9 December 2024. Partnership Board members are requested to comment on the progress with the development of the technical work, agree the wording of the Vision and comment on the Missions and the approach to the development of the policy route maps and draft public consultation plan.

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Appendix 1 – Timeline of Transport Strategy Refresh



Appendix 2 – Proposed Vision for the Transport Strategy

Our vision is for the South East to offer the highest quality of life and be a global leader in achieving sustainable, net-zero carbon growth.

To achieve this, we will develop a resilient, reliable, and inclusive transport network that enables seamless journeys and empowers residents, businesses, and visitors to make sustainable choices.

We will deliver this vision by driving strategic investment and forging partnerships that deliver sustainable transport, integrated services, digital connectivity, clean energy, and environmental enhancement.

Appendix 3 – Wording of the Mission Statements for the Transport Strategy

Strategic Connectivity

We will boost connectivity in the South East by enhancing strategic regional corridors, making our region's key towns, cities, and international gateways as easy to access by bus and rail as by car and HGVs, and ensuring all communities can access high-quality transport links and key services.



We will know we have succeeded when:

- ➔ The connectivity of the South East's strategic corridors – in terms of journey times and reliability – is comparable to those corridors that serve London.
- ➔ Our key towns, cities, and international are as accessible by bus and rail as they are by car, and rail freight is as competitive as road freight.

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Resilience

We will safeguard the South East's connectivity and work to maintain and enhance the reliability and resilience of our transport systems for future generations. We will do this by reinforcing infrastructure and networks against the threats of climate change, including extreme weather, and economic shocks.



We will know we have succeeded when:

- ➔ The transport network is well-maintained and has the capacity and agility to manage, absorb, and recover from major disruptions quickly, and when the risk of major failures occurring is reduced.

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Inclusion and Integration

We will create an inclusive and integrated transport network in the South East that offers affordable, safe, seamless, door-to-door connectivity for all users.



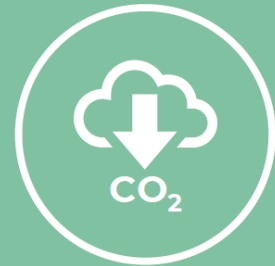
We will know we have succeeded when:

- ➔ Everyone can affordably travel where they need to go, when they need to go, and customer satisfaction with all aspects of the transport network is high across all sections of society

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Decarbonisation

We will lead the South East to a net zero future by 2050 by accelerating the shift to zero-emission travel, incentivising sustainable travel choices, and embracing new technologies to reduce emissions and combat climate change.



We will know we have succeeded when:

- ➔ We will know we have succeeded when all surface transport trips made across the South East are net-zero emission by 2050 (at the latest), and we have not exceeded our carbon budgets up to this point.

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Sustainable Development

We will champion transport interventions that unlock investment opportunities, enable sustainable growth, and create vibrant and well-connected communities.



We will know we have succeeded when:

- ➔ All major developments are served by high quality sustainable transport infrastructure and services – including high-frequency public transport and active travel routes – benefitting existing, regenerating, and new communities.

Appendix 4 – Draft Transport Strategy Consultation Plan

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Appendix is to outline the consultation plan for the forthcoming public consultation on the Transport Strategy and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA). The overall aim of the consultation is to engage key stakeholders and the public in a consultation process on the draft transport strategy and its associated integrated sustainability appraisal.

2. Approach to the consultation

The primary mechanism for receiving feedback on the draft Transport Strategy and ISA will be a web-based questionnaire that will seek views on a number of aspects of the draft Strategy including the Vision, the Missions, the policy route maps that support them and the proposed approach to delivery.

A number of mechanisms will be used to engage with all of TfSE's stakeholders and members of the public. These will include:

- a launch webinar;
- a meeting of the Transport Forum on the draft transport strategy
- meetings with representatives of hard-to-reach groups
- in person roadshow sessions to encourage members of the public to engage in the consultation and respond
- online surgeries giving potential respondents the opportunity to ask questions and refine their draft responses prior to submission
- attendance at existing TfSE meetings, including the Business Advisory Group, Universities Meeting and Funding and Financing Group to promote the consultation and encourage responses

A Communications Plan for the consultation is being developed that will set out the promotional activity that will be undertaken to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage people to respond. This will include press releases, social media activity, briefing packs and podcasts as well as the production of promotional material including a short non-technical summary of the Strategy.

A consultation report will be prepared once the consultation has ended. This report will:

- summarise how the consultation was undertaken,
- summarise key findings from the responses received, and,
- make recommendations about possible amendments needed to the draft Transport Strategy to take account of the comments received.

A copy of the consultation report will be submitted to the Partnership Board at the July 2025 meeting

3. Key Audiences

The table below summarises the key audiences for the strategy in order of importance.

Priority	Stakeholder Group
1	Constituent local transport authorities, Department for Transport, statutory bodies (Network Rail, National Highways) bodies on the Partnership Board (South Downs National Park, Transport for London)
2	MPs, Borough & District Councils, Public Transport Operators, Non-Transport Government Departments, Trade Associations, Major International Gateways, Neighbouring STBs, Representatives of Strategically – Focussed Groups covered by the Equalities Act, Transport Focus
3	Representatives of Associations of Town and Parish Councils, Representatives of business, Civic Society Groups, Representatives of Local Groups covered by the Equalities Act, Representatives of Strategically focussed User Groups, Professional Institutions (e.g. RTPI, CILT, CIHT, TCPA), CVS.
4	Area-specific business groups, charities, local area groups, non-transport or impact assessment specific groups. Representatives of locally focussed user groups, town and parish councils, charities
5	Members of the public

4. Key Dates

The key dates for the consultation process are set out in the table below.

Date	Activity
9 December 2024	Special Partnership Board to agree the draft Transport Strategy for public consultation
11 December 2024	Public consultation due to commence (subject to Board agreement) Launch Webinar
January 2025 – March 2025	Programme of engagement events to promote the consultation and seek responses
7 March 2025 (TBC)	Consultation closes
March 2025 – July 2025	Prepare consultation report and identify proposed amendments to the strategy.

21 July 2025	Presentation of Draft Final Transport Strategy to the Partnership Board
July 2025 October 2025	Kent and Hampshire County Council take Draft Final Strategy to their Cabinet/Full Council
27 October	Final Transport Strategy agreed by the Partnership Board for Submission to Government