

Report to: Partnership Board –Transport for the South East

Date of meeting: 27 January 2025

By: Chief Officer, Transport for the South East

Title of report: Transport Strategy Refresh

Purpose of report: To provide an update on the development of the Draft Transport Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to comment on the progress being made with the consultation on the Draft Transport Strategy.

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the development of the Draft Transport Strategy and supporting Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) following the Partnership Board's decision that they should be published for public consultation.

2. Background

2.1 At the Partnership Board meeting on 9 December 2024, the Partnership Board agreed that the Draft Transport Strategy and associated Draft ISA should be subject to public consultation for a period of 12 weeks. The overall timeline for the development of the Transport Strategy is shown in **Appendix 1**.

3. Public Consultation

3.1 The public consultation on the Draft Transport Strategy and ISA commenced on 10 December 2024 and will conclude on 7 March 2025. A range of engagement activities are currently taking place to encourage organisations and individuals to respond to the consultation.

3.2 On 10 December 2024, the consultation commenced with a launch webinar. This was attended by 153 people from a range of different stakeholders including local authorities, business groups, representatives from socially excluded groups and representatives of local MPs. In addition to introductions from the Chair of the Partnership Board and the Chief Officer, there was a presentation on the strategy content, followed by a panel discussion including Partnership Board Members (Cllr Joy Dennis from West Sussex County Council and Daniel Ruiz) alongside Dan Taylor from the Department for Transport.

3.3 On the same day, the online questionnaire survey went live and within 24 hours nearly 50 responses had already been received. A verbal update on the number of responses that have been received will be given at the Partnership Board meeting.

3.4 The TfSE Team are also running several Strategy Roadshows across the region, to encourage members of the public to respond to the consultation. An update on the locations that are to be visited will be given at the Partnership Board meeting

3.5 The TfSE team will be running a number of strategy surgery sessions that will provide key stakeholders with the opportunity to ask questions in advance of submitting their consultation responses. A special session of the Transport Forum will take place on 30 January 2025, in person in London. This will include an interactive workshop to help the participants in formulating their response to the consultation, as well as capturing feedback from the Transport Forum members that can be fed into the consultation report.

3.6 TfSE have been approached by several organisations to either take part in one of their meetings, or run a dedicated engagement workshop with them. Expressions of interest have been received from the following organisations:

- The Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (South East Branch)
- The Transport Planning Society
- Logistics UK
- Gatwick Airport
- Kent and Medway NHS Trust

4. Communications Activity

4.1 A communications campaign is underway to encourage people and organisations to respond to the consultation. This includes the following:

- a promotional video informing people about the strategy and encouraging them to respond to the consultation;
- an ongoing social media campaign, including short video on the draft Transport Strategy content;
- press releases shared with the technical press, and press across the region;
- briefing packs shared with communications teams within our partners, for them to share with their local press contacts, as appropriate;
- editions of the TfSE Podcast focussing on the draft Transport Strategy.

5. Consultation report

5.1 As reported at the 9 December Partnership Board meeting, a consultation report will be prepared once the consultation has ended. This report will:

- summarise how the consultation was undertaken;
- present an analysis of the responses to the online questionnaire survey and the written responses received;

- identify key findings from the questionnaire survey, written responses, workshops, roadshows; and,
- make recommendations about possible amendments that may be needed to the draft Transport Strategy and ISA to reflect the feedback received.

5.2 A copy of the consultation report will be submitted to the July 2025 Partnership Board meeting, alongside a copy of the Draft Final Transport Strategy and ISA. The covering report will identify any proposed changes to reflect the feedback received during the consultation for the Partnership Board to agree.

6. Financial considerations

6.1 As reported to the Partnership Board in October 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.

7. Conclusions and recommendations

7.1 In conclusion, following the approval of the Draft Transport Strategy and ISA for consultation, the consultation exercise has commenced and is ongoing until 7 March 2025. It is recommended that the Partnership Board comment on the progress with the consultation on the Draft Transport Strategy and ISA.

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Appendix 1 – Timeline for the Transport Strategy Refresh

