

Report to: Partnership Board –Transport for the South East

Date of meeting: 27 January 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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- 1) Comment on the progress with the ongoing implementation of the Centre of Excellence;
- 2) Comment on progress with the work to implement the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy;
- 3) Comment on the progress with the delivery of the Future Mobility Strategy;
- 4) Comment on the progress with the delivery of the Regional Active Travel Strategy and Action Plan;
- 5) Comment on the progress with the delivery of the Freight, Logistics and Gateways Strategy;
- 6) Comment on the progress work on rail; and
- 7) Comment on the progress with work on decarbonisation.

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. Centre of Excellence

Context

2.1 The TfSE Centre of Excellence (CofE) was formally launched on 18 June 2024. It was co designed with our local transport authorities (LTAs), to ensure that it was tailored to meet their needs. The site has 15 sections which offer different types of support. These include webinars, data, resources, case studies, key tools and a chat forum.

Work to date

2.2 Areas for support were identified through a capability survey undertaken in April 2024. In response to this, bespoke work has been developed covering several topic areas. These include:

- seven training webinars on specific topics relating to business case development;
- guidance on how to 'prepare for climate change' with supplementary case studies;
- resources to support local authorities in securing development consent orders with supplementary case studies;
- a training webinar on the Sub-national Transport Body (STB) Carbon Assessment Playbook; and
- a training webinar on the STB Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Visualiser tool developed by Transport for the North.

2.3 A pipeline of future content is being maintained and new requests that are received will continue to be assessed through an 'ideas tracker' and if suitable, added and assigned to a subject matter expert to develop the required content.

2.4 Future content has been commissioned for completion before the end of March 2025 and will cover:

- Transport policy and strategy webinar: an introductory webinar for junior members of staff, with a follow up webinar for more senior staff members.
- Securing government funding: a proforma for LTAs to complete to aid decision making about whether to pursue an application for new government funding streams as they arise, with a view to saving officer time on decision making when it comes to business case development and submissions.
- Modelling active travel: expert advice on the first principles on modelling active travel including an overview of a vision and validate approach.
- Support with national plans and guidance: development of policy tools and frameworks that can be utilised by any authority.
- Carbon Assessment Playbook (CAP) Tool - follow up support: 1-2-1 support is being offered to local transport authorities on the use of the CAP tool that was launched earlier this year.

2.5 In addition to the items listed above, notifications about any new Government guidance that is published will be sent out via the CoE mailing list and chat forum. Where possible, the relevant policy representatives will be invited attend a webinar to present this new guidance to LTAs.

Monitoring and evaluation

2.6 In the period between September and November 2024 there were:

- 75 new sign ups (240 now in place in total)
- 44 new pieces of content (211 now in total).

- 1196 total unique site interactions
- 209 attendees at webinars hosted by TfSE

Further outputs from the monitoring and evaluation activity of the CoE can be found in **Appendix 1**. A further progress update on the development of the Centre of Excellence will be presented to the March 2025 Partnership Board.

3. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

3.1 Progress with the work to develop forecasts of the implications of the electrification of commercial vehicle fleets on the demand for electric vehicle charging infrastructure is set out in separate report under agenda item 8.

3.2 TfSE has recently commissioned the consultancy Steer, through the call-off contract framework, to undertake a 'state of the region' report that aims to establish the progress being made with the rollout of EV charging infrastructure across the TfSE area. The work will include engagement with LTAs to identify the key issues and challenges being faced with the rollout of future EV charging infrastructure. This intelligence will then be used to help inform TfSE's future work in this area. This piece of work is expected to be completed by March 2025. A further update on TfSE's work on EV Charging Infrastructure roll out will be presented at the next Partnership Board meeting in March 2025.

4. Future Mobility Strategy

4.1 The latest meeting of TfSE's Future Mobility Forum was held online on 9 December 2024. The theme for the meeting was Procurement. There was a presentation from Richard Lock from Portsmouth City Council on Project Integrated Procurement, which covered key procurement principles, requirements, and solutions. The presentation also provided an overview of the changes that will be enacted by the Procurement Act 2023 which will go into effect in February 2025.

4.2 Conrad Haigh of Solent Transport was re-confirmed as Chair of the Future Mobility Forum for 2025 and the next meeting will be held on 10 March 2025. Meeting theme suggestions from the last meeting were presented to members and voted on. The themes selected for 2025 are Integrated Transport, Travel Hubs, Transport Resiliency, and Data. A further update on the progress of the work on future mobility will be given at the Partnership Board Meeting in March 2025.

5. Regional Active Travel Strategy & Action Plan

5.1 Development of the Regional Active Travel Strategy & Action Plan (RATSAP) began in July 2023 and was completed in September 2024. 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 RATSAP complements the work being undertaken by the LTAs and seeks to provide a regional picture of active travel and better join up ongoing work across geographical boundaries.

5.2 The draft RATSAP was presented to the Board in October 2024. Following questions and comments raised about the Strategic Active Travel Network map,

constituent LTAs and their district and boroughs who have developed Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) were invited to submit further comments on the map. This work is still ongoing and a further update on any changes that were requested will be provided at the next Partnership Board meeting.

5.3 As outlined in the action plan, meetings of the Regional Active Travel Steering Group are to be continued following completion of the RATSAP. 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 Steering Group met in December 2024 and the meeting focused on identifying the workstreams for RATSAP implementation in the coming year. Knowledge sharing and collaboration between Steering Group members was facilitated through roundtable updates. A further update on the progress of the work on active travel will be given at the Partnership Board Meeting in March 2025.

6. Freight, Logistics and Gateways Strategy

6.1 Work is underway to enhance the Alternative Freight Fuel Infrastructure (ALFFI) tool developed by Midlands Connect STB to improve its usefulness in the TfSE area. The tool can be used to rank and evaluate potential locations for public HGV alternative recharging or refuelling sites. The tool can show where there may be existing demand, where potential sites could be located and where the conditions could be right for additional sites. More local data is in the process of being added and a GIS map is being developed to show where these potential sites would be located in the TfSE area. Once this has been completed TfSE officers will be engaging with our local authority transport and planning officers to demonstrate the use of the tool.

6.2 Another meeting of the Wider South East Freight Forum covering the TfSE, England's Economic Heartlands and Transport East areas, was held on 14 November 2024. The meeting focussed on the ways in which freight and logistics operators and STBs are working to support decarbonisation in the freight sector. Presentations included DP World's project aimed at incentivising mode shift from HGVs to rail at Southampton Port and a presentation from TfSE about its development of ALFFI. A data sub-group is to be set up early in 2025 to explore ways in which freight and logistics operators could more of their data on their delivery network and HGV movements. The next meeting of the Forum on 6 March 2025 will focus on planning issues and ways to improve the process for the benefit of both freight and logistics operators and local authorities.

6.3 A final report on the study investigating the potential for modal shift of freight from road to short sea shipping is expected to be completed for presentation to the Board at their March 2025 meeting. A study examining the level of warehousing provision in the TfSE area are now expected to be completed in time for the Partnership Board meetings in June 2025. This is to allow sufficient time for engagement with stakeholders, including our constituent local transport authorities, on the findings of the work.

6.4 Work on the freight awareness programme has started. This work aims to increase the level of awareness of the needs of the freight sector in public sector organisations (especially those responsible for transport and spatial planning). It also

aims to provide a reference guide to enable the freight and logistics operators to work more effectively with public sector bodies and improve their understanding of their different roles and responsibilities. The work is being undertaken jointly across the TfSE, England's Economic Heartland and Transport East areas. The first phase of the work to be completed by the end of March 2025 is a needs assessment to scope out the content of the programme. This will be followed by a second phase consisting of a series of training events that can run over subsequent years subject to the availability of funding. A further update on TfSE's work on freight and logistics will be presented to the Partnership Board at their meeting in March 2025.

7. Rail

7.1 Work continues on the Intermodal Rail Freight Study project covering the TfSE area. The study aims to develop a clearer understanding of the current and potential demand for increased intermodal transfer of freight between road and rail networks across the TfSE area. Engagement with stakeholders including local authority transport, planning and economic development officers, local freight and logistics operators, Network Rail and the Shadow Great British Railway will take place in January and February 2025. The project is due to be completed in March 2025.

7.2 The last meeting of the Wider South East Rail Partnership was held on 10 January 2025 bringing together the three STBs Transport for the South East, England's Economic Heartland and Transport East with DfT the Shadow Great British Railways, Network Rail and Transport for London (TfL). Updates were given on plans for a rail reform bill and the re-nationalisation of South Western Railway. The STBs' draft Position Paper setting out proposed aims, objectives and ways of working for the Partnership was discussed and the next stage agreed. A progress report was also given on the work that the STBs and TfL are undertaking to investigate how more passengers can be attracted to rail rather than use their cars for cross boundary journeys, including gaining a better understanding of current mode share and barriers to greater rail use.

7.3 Work on the development of Rail Strategy Scoping for the TfSE is due to commence in April 2025/26 subject to the availability of funding. This will aim to develop a stronger evidence base with which to advise the Secretary of State, Great British Railways and the Office for Road and Rail and its partner local authorities on the rail priorities for the TfSE area. A further update on the progress of the work on rail will be given to the Partnership Board Meeting in March 2025.

8. Joint work on decarbonisation

8.1 As reported to the Board in October 2024, the joint STB Carbon Assessment Playbook was launched in August 2024. The tool enables the baseline carbon emissions and trajectories to net zero in each of the LTAs to be identified. Each LTA is then able to assess the carbon reduction potential of the proposed transport interventions included in their local transport plans. To help LTAs become more proficient in using the tool, a programme of 1-2-1 support is being offered to enable representatives from the LTAs to meet the consultant that developed the tool to ask any questions they may have about its use. A further webinar on the practical use of the tool is currently being planned as well as a number of potential enhancements to the tool that are to be undertaken jointly by the STBs in 2025-6, subject to the availability of

funding. A further update on the progress of the development of the Carbon Assessment Playbook will be given at the Partnership Board Meeting in March 2025.

9. Financial considerations

9.1 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 and rail work are being funded from the DfT grant funding for 2024/25.

10. Conclusions and recommendations

10.1 Members of the Partnership Board are recommended to comment on 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 March 2025.

RUPERT CLUBB

Chief Officer

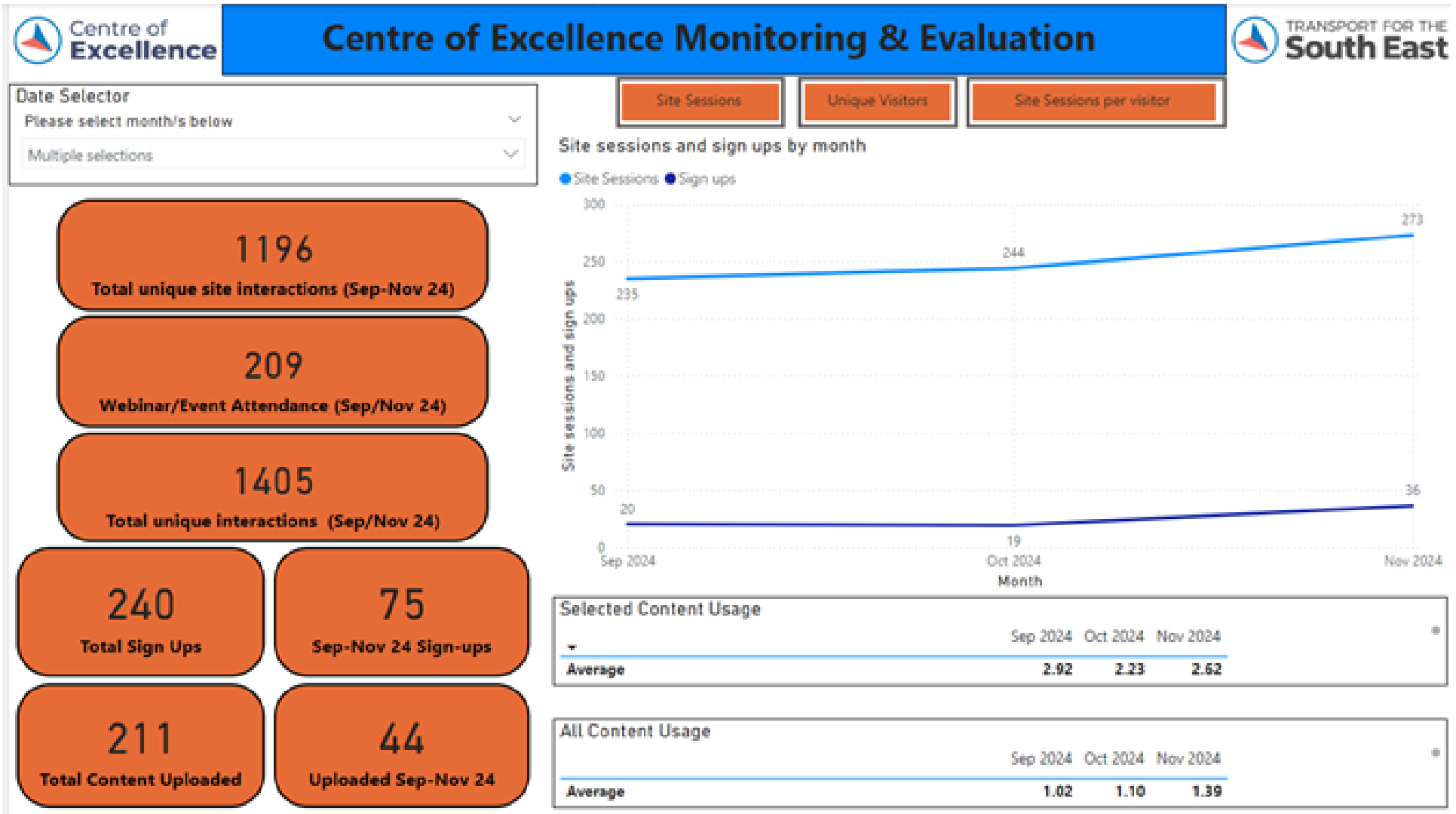
Transport for the South East

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Appendix 1- Centre of Excellence Monitoring and Evaluation September 2024 – November 2024



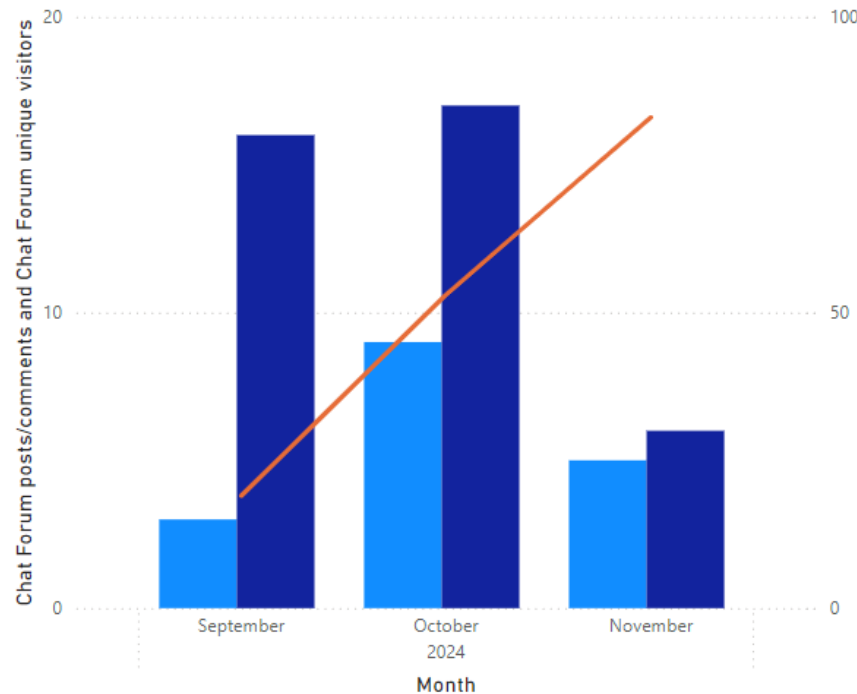
Date Selector for chat forum interaction

Please select month/s below

Multiple selections

Chat Forum interaction

● Chat Forum posts/comments ● Chat Forum unique visitors ● Posts as a % of unique visitors



Number of unique visitors per component home page

Title	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Total Sep-Nov 24
resources	14	14	18	46
case-study	13	13	16	42
forum	16	17	6	39
key-tools	11	9	14	34
webinars	11	10	13	34
events	13	6	10	29
data	7	3	17	27
qualifications-and-courses	5	5	12	22
funding	4	4	6	14
procurement	2	5	7	14
consultations	2	3	6	11
contact	2	1	6	9
new-to-the-sector	2	2	5	9

Number of unique visitors for specific pages

Title	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Total Sep-Nov 24
key-tools- carbon-assessment-playbook	13	11	11	35
webinars- department-for-transport-(dft)- abods-training	0	0	25	25
webinars- evci-	15	8	0	23
case studies- red-routes	14	5	2	21
key-tools- stb-ev-charging-infrastructure-framework	7	5	5	17
resources- guidance-preparing-for-climate-change-	7	7	3	17
webinars- launch-of-the-stb-carbon-assessment-playbook	12	2	2	16
resources- department-for-transport-business-case-preparation- modelling-and-appraisal-self-assessment-toolkit	0	0	15	15

Selected Content Usage

Month	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24
case studies- walking-and-cycling-index	0.00	1.00	6.00
case studies- strood-interchange-pre-feasibility-study	2.00	3.00	1.00
case studies- shared-transport-evidence-base-(for-local-plan-development)	0.00	0.00	2.00
case studies- school-streets-scheme	3.00	7.00	3.00
case studies- red-routes	14.00	5.00	2.00
case studies- pla-zero-emission-crossings-â€”-thames-river-crossing-study	4.00	2.00	2.00
case studies- newhaven-port-access-road-business-case	1.00	0.00	1.00
case studies- lower-thames-crossing-development-consent-order	1.00	2.00	2.00
case studies- local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans-community-consultation-and-engagement	3.00	5.00	1.00
case studies- gatwick-northern-runway-development-consent-order	4.00	1.00	2.00
case studies- fastrack-extension-and-optimisation-study-part-1	5.00	1.00	0.00
case studies- climate-assembly---brighton-&-hove	1.00	1.00	1.00
case studies- a22-major-road-network-carbon-management-plan	0.00	1.00	11.00
Average	2.92	2.23	2.62

Content Feedback Scores

Content	Satisfaction Score	Usefulness Score
Deep Dive Decarbonisation and climate resilience (Business Case Development Series)	4.25	4.67
Funding & Financing Webinar (Business Case Development Series)	4.63	4.50
How to review a business case webinar (Business Case Development Series)	4.33	4.11
Modelling Approaches Webinar (Business Case Development Series)	4.00	3.33
Strood Risk Approach Webinar	4.50	4.00
Average	4.34	4.12