

Report to: Partnership Board –Transport for the South East

Date of meeting: 17 March 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 development of 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 concluded on 7 March 2025. A range of engagement activities were undertaken to encourage organisations and individuals to respond to the consultation.

3.2 On Thursday 30 January, a meeting of the Transport Forum was held, the purpose of which was to assist the Transport Forum in developing its own response to the Draft Transport Strategy. This forum was held at the Institution of Civil Engineers in London, and was attended by 25 members of the forum. The activities focussed on getting more detailed feedback from the forum members on each of the five missions included in the strategy. This included feedback on any areas of each of the missions that could be improved and anything that had been missed.

3.3 A series of Strategy Roadshow events have been held to engage with members of the public. All day events were held at the following locations:

- Portsmouth - Southsea Library - 3 February 2025
- Brighton - Jubilee Library – 5 February 2025
- Southampton- Central Library 12 February 2025
- Canterbury Library - 13 February 2025
- Guildford Library - 24 February 2025
- Wokingham Library - 25 February 2025
- Number 11, St Thomas's Square, Ryde – 28 February 2025
- Hastings Library – 3 March 2025

3.4 Popular themes raised by those attending these roadshows included the following:

- Buses, notably their reliability, the need for flat and integrated fares, and many people praising the quality of local bus services;
- Trains, notably issues with their reliability and cost of tickets;
- The need to invest in transport infrastructure of all types;
- The urgent need to invest in making sure transport networks were well maintained and resilient against the effects of climate change.

3.5 The TfSE team also offered a number of strategy surgery sessions that provided key stakeholders with the opportunity to ask questions in advance of submitting their consultation responses.

3.6 TfSE were approached by several organisations to either take part in one of their meetings, or run a dedicated engagement workshop with them. Engagement took place with the following organisations:

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

4. Communications Activity

4.1 A communications campaign was undertaken to encourage people and organisations to respond to the consultation. This included 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 now that 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. Following that Board meeting a number of constituent authorities may wish to take the agreed draft final strategy back through their decision making process. A final version of the Strategy and ISA will therefore be presented to the October meeting of the Partnership Board for agreement prior to submission to Government.

6. Financial considerations

6.1 As reported to the Partnership Board in January 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, the consultation on the Draft Transport Strategy and ISA has now concluded. The Partnership Board are recommended to comment on the progress with the finalisation of the Draft Transport Strategy and ISA.

RUPERT CLUBB

Chief Officer

Transport for the South East

Contact Officer: Mark Valleley

Tel. No. 07720 -040787

Email: mark.valleley@transportforthesoutheast.org.uk

Appendix 1 – Timeline for the Transport Strategy Refresh

