

TfSE Partnership Board 21 July 2025 – 14:00-17:00 Minutes - *draft* ICE, Council Room

Partnership Board Members				
Cllr Keith Glazier (Chair) Leader East Sussex County Council	Cllr Simon Curry (Vice Chair) Cabinet Member, Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration Medway Council	Cllr Trevor Muten Cabinet Member for Transport, Parking and Public Realm Brighton & Hove City Council		
Cllr John Ennis Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport Reading Borough Council (representing BLTB)	Cllr Paul Fuller Isle of Wight Council	Cllr Lulu Bowerman Executive Member for Highways and Waste Hampshire County Council		
Cllr Matt Furniss Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure Surrey County Council	Cllr Joy Dennis Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport West Sussex County Council	Geoff French CBE Chair Transport Forum		
Vince Lucas Business Representative (Business Advisory Group co-chair)	Cllr Matt Boughton Leader Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (jointly representing District and Borough Councils)	Cllr Sophie Cox Leader Worthing Borough Council (jointly representing District and Borough Councils)		
Tom Cornwell National Highways On behalf of Richard Leonard	Stuart Kistruck Network Rail	Tom Cornwell National Highways		

Apologies:

- Cllr Osborne, Kent
- Cllr Peter Candlish, Portsmouth
- Cllr Eamonn Keogh, Southampton
- Dave Hooper, Network Rail
- Richard Leonard, National Highways
- Daniel Ruiz, Business Representative
- Mark Potter, South Downs National Park Authority
- Dan Taylor, DfT

Officers attended:

- Rupert Clubb, Transport for the South East
- Sarah Valentine, Transport for the South East
- Mark Valleley, Transport for the South East
- Keir Wilkins, Transport for the South East
- Jessica Lelliott, Transport for the South East



- Emily Bailey, Transport for the South EastElle Jewell, Transport for the South East
- James Gleave, Transport for the South East

Item	Action
1. Welcome and Apologies	
1.1 Councillor Keith Glazier (KG) welcomed Members to the meeting and noted apologies.	
1.2 Apologies were noted from Cllr Osborne, Cllr Candlish, Cllr David Keogh, Dave Hooper, Richard Leonard, Daniel Ruiz, Mark Potter and Dan Taylor.	
1.3 Rupert Clubb (RC) noted that the DfT had sent their apologies, however, they have provided an update on the recent LLM / MRN announcement:	
As most of you will have seen, the recent road scheme announcement identified a number of schemes within the MRN/LLM programme that have been cleared to go forwards and a number of other schemes in the programme which are under review. The DfT MRN/LLM team will be in contact to set out the process for this review, which will in part be seeking to understand whether the schemes remain priorities for the local authority concerned. Further detail on the process for the review will be communicated by the team in due course and I suggest that LAs work with TfSE in order to help present schemes most effectively within the review. The MRN / LLM team will be happy to brief TfSE and local partners on how this process will work once it is finalised.	
We encourage local partners to continue to work with TfSE on the delivery of this year's business plan, also taking into account the impact of Local Government Reform and wider devolution in your areas. We will share more information on future planning in due course once internal business planning has concluded, understanding the need for clarity as part of this.	
2. Minutes from last meeting	
2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.	
3. Declarations of Interest	
3.1 Cllr Glazier asked Board Members to declare any interests they may have in relation to the agenda. No interests were declared.	
4. Statements from the public	
4.1 Cllr Glazier confirmed that no statements from the public have been made.	



5. Governance

- 5.1 RC introduced the item and requested nominations for Chair of TfSE for 2025/26. Cllr Keith Glazier was proposed, seconded and there being no further nominations was elected.
- 5.2 Cllr Glazier sought nominations for Vice-Chair of TfSE for 2025/26. Cllr Simon Curry, Medway was proposed, seconded and there being no further nominations was elected.
- 5.3 Cllr Glazier sought nominations for Chair of the Transport Forum for 2025/26. Geoff French was proposed, seconded and there being no further nominations was elected.
- 5.4 Cllr Glazier sought nominations for the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for 2025/26. Cllr Joy Dennis was proposed, seconded and there being no further nominations was elected.
- 5.5 Cllr Dennis sought nominations for membership of the Audit and Governance Committee. The Partnership Board agreed to the following membership:
 - Cllr Joy Dennis Chair
 - Cllr Trevor Muten
 - Cllr Matt Furniss
 - Daniel Ruiz
 - Vince Lucas
 - Geoff French
- 5.6 The Partnership Board agreed to co-opt for 2025/26: the Chair of the Transport Forum; Business Advisory Group Representatives Vince Lucas and Daniel Ruiz; Mark Potter nominated by the National Parks and other protected Landscapes; two people nominated by district and borough authorities; Richard Leonard representative for National Highways, Dave Hooper representative for Network Rail and Gary Nolan representative for Transport for London.
- 5.7 The nominations for the two people nominated by district and borough authorities were confirmed as Cllr Sophie Cox and Cllr Matt Boughton.
- 5.8 The Board agreed to allocate voting rights of one vote each for the two Business Advisory Group representatives, the Chair of the Transport Forum and the nominated representatives of the district and borough authorities and the protected landscape.
- 5.9 The recommendations were **agreed** by the Partnership Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

The constituent members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:
(1) Nominate and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the period of one year;



- (2) Agree to co-opt the following roles for a period of one year to the Partnership Board:
 - a. The Chair of the Transport Forum
 - b. Two people nominated collectively to represent business.
 - c. A person nominated by the National Parks and other protected landscape designations;
 - d. Two people nominated by the district and borough authorities; and
 - e. A representative from National Highways, Network Rail and Transport for London.
- (3) Allocate voting rights of one vote each for the two Business Advisory Group representatives, the Chair of the Transport Forum and the nominated representatives of the district and borough authorities and the protected landscapes;
- (4) Appoint for a period of one year the Chair for the Transport Forum;
- (5) Appoint a Chair and agree membership of the Audit and Governance Committee for a period of one year; and
- (6) Note the request for members to return completed register of interest forms.

6. Annual Report 2024/25

- 6.1 Keir Wilkins (KW) set out the Annual Report format which is following the same as last years.
- 6.2 KW highlighted that the Audit and Governance Committee asked us to capture the local transport funding in our region, the figures broadly remained the same as last year.
- 6.3 The recommendation was **agreed** by the Partnership Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to sign off the Annual Report 2024/25 and agree to publish it on the Transport for the South East website.

7. Business Plan 2025/26

- 7.1 KW set out the TfSE Business Plan for 2025/26, noting that the final finance carry forward figures have been included.
- 7.2 Cllr Simon Curry (SC) noted that the TfSE Business Plan identifies all the issues and priorities correctly and praised the value of TfSE's Business Plan in setting local plans.
- 7.3 Cllr Trevor Muten (TM) asked in relation to the Analytical Framework work whether Local Authorities will have access to the data? In response to this KW confirmed that the intention is we will develop data and models centrally, and it will be shared through the Centre of Excellence and be accessible to all TfSE's constituent authorities, free of charge.
- 7.4 The recommendation was **agreed** by the Partnership Board.

RECOMMENDATION:



The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to approve the updates to the TfSE's Business Plan for 2025/26, following the end of year carry forward figures for 2024/25.

8. Transport Strategy

- 8.1 Mark Valleley (MV) presented to the Partnership Board the recent feedback following the public consultation exercise and the proposed changes to the Draft Final Transport Strategy and its associated Integrated Sustainability Appraisal.
- 8.2 MV noted the rationale for the refresh, the extensive engagement that has taken place and the 2050 vision which is supported by the three goals that reflect the three pillars of sustainable development.
- 8.3 MV discussed the public consultation exercise:
 - 12-week public consultation ran from 10 December 2024 7 March 2025
 - Briefing meetings with key stakeholders on request were held
 - Eight 'Strategy roadshows' were carried out around the region in February 2025.
- 8.4 MV shared the analysis of responses to the consultation, which saw a total of 866 responses with 111 being from organisations and 755 from individuals. MV discussed the key themes raised in the responses from key stakeholders and individuals.
- 8.5 MV highlighted the drafting changes to the Final Draft Transport Strategy with a number of specific drafting requests received seeking clarification, additions or deletions. Minor amendments were also requested to two of the maps.
- 8.6 MV set out the next steps for the Transport Strategy:
 - Isle of Wight, Hampshire County Council and Kent County Council seeking agreement to the final version – August/September 2025.
 - Final Transport Strategy presenting to the Partnership Board 27 October 2025.
 - Submission of the Transport Strategy to Government October 2025
 - Ongoing review of TfSE's technical work programme to focus on Mission delivery.
- 8.7 The Partnership Board members raised the following points:
 - Cllr Paul Fuller Pleased to see the IoW ferries as a long-term priority whilst noting its also short too with the island being reliant on the ferries.
 - Cllr Joy Dennis queried the definition of a 'just transition' decarbonisation. In response to this MV explained it's about ensuring the journey to decarbonisation is fair and equitable to everyone.
 - Cllr Simon Curry conscious that change happens quickly with Lower Thames Crossing now happening, the impact to Medway and North Kent and the publication of the decarbonisation strategy.



- Cllr John Ennis asked whether EV charging is a short or a longterm priority. In response to this MV explained is both, with a specific workstream on this working to support our constituent authorities with EV charging.
- Cllr Lulu Bowerman in relation to the IoW ferries recently met with MP Caroline Dinenage in relation to water taxis – would make sense to link in with the IoW.
- Cllr Trevor Muten raised the average age of respondents to the
 consultation and asked if any lessons learnt had been undertaken to
 engage with those under 25? In response to this MV confirmed that
 effort went into securing responses form younger people and we will
 continue to look at this for future consultations, as securing
 responses from younger people is a wider issue across local
 government.
- Vince Lucas raised the bottlenecks around Kent in relation to Lower Thames Crossing – ensuring that schemes are not forgotten and needing to have solutions ready to go so that work is not disadvantages by Lower Thames Crossing.
- Cllr Sophie Cox welcomed the inclusion and integration mission.
- 8.8 RC thanked James Gleave for the work put into the creation of the Transport Strategy.
- 8.9 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- (1) Note the outcomes of the public consultation, as set out in the Consultation Report; and
- (2) Agree the proposed changes to the Transport Strategy and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal to reflect the feedback received in response to the public consultation.

9. Centre of Excellence Work Plan for 2025/26

- 9.1 Emily Bailey (EB) presented to the Partnership Board noting the progress made in developing and delivering the Centre of Excellence to date and to agree the work plan for 2025/26 and the eight priority support packages identified.
- 9.2 EB highlighted that the Centre of Excellence has celebrated its one year anniversary, the annual report highlights key statistics with over 290 users now signed up.
- 9.3 EB shared the eight priority support packages identified:
 - Al in Transport Planning
 - Modelling and forecasting
 - Awareness of emerging technologies
 - Network review, design and planning
 - Understanding of national plans and policy
 - Improving sustainability and delivering net zero
 - Prioritisation of transport schemes
 - Impacts of devolution and LGR on buses



- 9.4 The Partnership Board members raised the following points:
 - Cllr Sophie Cox Useful for District and Boroughs to be included in the webinar on network design and planning. EB confirmed they will be invited.
 - Cllr Matt Furniss asked in relation to measurable outcomes. In response to this EB confirmed that the capability scores can be shown across the skills not just compared to last year and measures what they want to see as an increase.
 How are we not overlapping with our work and is there a reason for not allocating 50% of the budget?
 In response to this EB confirmed that we work closely and sharing resources with organisations like the Bus Centre of Excellence.
 TfSE's Centre of Excellence will fill gaps in their work and deliver support that is specific to the South East. Not allocating funding allows us to have a contingency in case any new priority measures emerge, or we want to deepen work in a certain area, based on the feedback of Local Authorities.
 - Cllr Trevor Muten welcome the modelling forecasting and Al. In relation to transport planning and data sharing is this part of the focus to capture as good as data as possible?
 In response to this EB explained data sharing is through the region, all using the same source something for us to keep under review. Active travel, on a regional scale does this include pedestrians?
 In response to this EB explained that the regional travel survey diary includes active travel, working with active travel England too to access the Centre of Excellence.
 - Cllr Simon Curry Bus forum in September will we discuss the work we do and scaling up / franchising?
 In response to this EB confirmed that operators are invited which allows them the opportunity to comment, they were also invited to the enhanced partnerships forum too last year.
 - Cllr Lulu Bowerman thank you from the Hampshire officer team.
 Asked if Partnership Board members could have a session / training on a specific subject. EB confirmed we will explore this.
 - Cllr Paul Fuller Delivery is so important and enhancing our LTA capacity have we had any thoughts on this?
 In response to this EB explained that all LTA were interviewed alongside a survey in April. Responses are being explored through the steering group.
- 9.5 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- (1) Note the progress made in developing and delivering the Centre of Excellence to date as set out in the Centre of Excellence Annual Report 2024/25; and
- (2) Agree the Centre of Excellence Work Plan for 2025/26 and the eight priority support packages identified.

10. Strategic Investment Plan Refresh



- 10.1 Sarah Valentine (SV) presented to the Partnership Board advising on the methodology that is being proposed to update the Strategic Investment Plan.
- 10.2 SV provided an overview of the rationale for the refresh noting the changes since the first strategic investment plan.
- 10.3 SV highlighted the proposed targeted stakeholder engagement that would take place, noting that following the success of the transport strategy refresh Partnership Board Task and Finish group, it was proposed to set up a similar Member led group to provide strategic direction to the refreshed SIP.
- 10.4 SV explained the methodology and timeline to Partnership Board members, noting that it will begin in July 2025, and due to be complete May 2026 due to this being a light touch refresh.
- 10.5 The Partnership Board members raised the following points:
 - Cllr Trevor Muten raised a question regarding the proposal for a light touch ISA
 In response to this SV explained that at an outline proposal stage it is difficult to assess the exact impact a scheme may have, as for example, the exact habitat or environment impacted may not be known. Therefore, whilst it is good practice to undertake and ISA it will be light touch. Any individual schemes within the SIP that are subsequently taken forward will require their own assessment as they
 - Cllr Matt Furniss queried the cost of the refresh
 In response to this SV explained the SIP (and the area studies that
 provided the underpinning evidence) cost around £2m. We now have
 a more developed Analytical Framework and increased capability in
 house, which we will use where we can, however we will still need
 support through our technical call off contract.
- 10.6 The recommendation was agreed by the Partnership Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

are developed.

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to consider and approve the methodology and plan for the periodic update of the SIP.

11. Communications and Engagement Plan 2025/26

- 11.1 KW provided an overview of the 2025/26 Communication and Engagement Plan for TfSE.
- 11.2 KW highlighted two key areas for communications and engagement this year. The first is articulating South East's unique identity and needs which are separate from London, making the case for investment, as the voice for strategic transport in the region. The second being the changes to devolution and LGR, and the need to engage with the new mayoral authorities, and all stakeholders, telling them the story of TfSE and how we can support them.



11.3 The recommendation was agreed by the Partnership Board.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to consider and	
approve the Communications and Engagement Plan 2025/26. 12. Audit and Governance Committee Update	
12. Addit and Governance Committee Opdate	
12.1 Cllr Joy Dennis (JD) highlighted the recent meeting of the Committee who discussed the proposed workplans for the Centre of Excellence. The Committee also reviewed the Annual Report and provided feedback, changes were requested which have been updated.	
12.2 JD highlighted the feedback given on the finance position for TfSE, a number of comments were made, the committee wanted to assure the partnership board that they will be monitoring this carefully. The committee made some serious points on the confidence ratings.	
12.3 JD explained a healthy discussion took place on the risk register, with feedback around the devolution risk and the effects on TfSE and its role, these have been reflected in the risk register presented to the partnership board.	
12.4 The recommendation was agreed by the Partnership Board.	
RECOMMENDATION: The Members of the Partnership Board are recommended to comment on the discussions and actions arising at the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee. 13. Financial Update	
13.1 KW set out the financial position, noting the final carry forward figures for 2024/25.	
13.4 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
The Members of the Partnership Board are recommended to: (1) Note the final budget for 2025/26, following the final carry forward figure for 2024/25; and (2) Not the financial update to the end of Quarter 1 for 2025/26.	
14. Responses to Consultations	
14.1 RC provided an overview of the five consultation responses we have responded to.	
14.4 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board.	
RECOMMENDATION: The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to: (1) Agree the draft Letter of Support for Kent Sussex Connect; (2) Agree the draft response to East Sussex Coast and Marshlink Strategic Study's request for comment;	



- (3) Agree the draft response to Department for Transport Consultation "A Railway Fit for Britain's Future"
- (4) Agree the draft response to the call for evidence from the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation concerning the challenges being faced with the roll out of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: and
- (5) Agree the draft response to the consultation from East Sussex County Council on both their Freight Strategy and Rail Strategy.

15. Business Advisory Group

- 15.1 Vince Lucas (VL) explained that the BAG recently met on 18 June, where the group heard updates on the work TfSE have been undertaking. The BAG then had the opportunity to share their opportunities and challenges being faced by business and the impact on transport.
- 15.2 VL highlighted the key areas of work that the BAG has undertaken:
 - Case study on hydrogen buses
 - Supporting the refresh economic study for the western rail link to Heathrow
 - Looking at the economics of loW ferry
- 15.3 VL provided an overview of the first BAG summit which took place on Wednesday 9 July. The summit was attended by 50 various stakeholders and partnership board members along with industry experts. The summit sought views on tackling three key challenges that were identified by the BAG:
 - Rural transport
 - Energy availability
 - Access to International Connectivity
- 15.4 The Partnership Board members raised the following points:
 - Cllr Matt Boughton curious about the initial output from the summit

 a clear identity across the south east. Asked how much enthusiasm from business to help with the strategic work and in terms of making the case?
 - In response to this VL explained that business enthusiasm is there and that the South East has a lot unique characteristics, in particular that we are the UK's international gateway and we can grow the UK's economy, by investing in the South East.
 - Cllr Paul Fuller How and what engagement is there with the IoW ferries?
 - In response to this VL confirmed that co-chair Daniel Ruiz is handling this directly.
 - Cllr Joy Dennis attended the event, saw business representatives enjoying themselves networking and the discussion. The need for a voice came through clearly.
 - Cllr Simon Curry For future events could we consider changing venue around the region. VL confirmed that we would explore this.
 - Cllr Matt Furniss asked if the attendees of the summit could be shared. VL noted the challenges due to data protection legislation but said we would share what we were able to with Surrey.



15.5 The recommendation was agreed by the Partnership Board.	
RECOMMENDATION:	
The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to review and comment on the recent work of the Business Advisory Group.	
16. Advisory Panel and Transport Forum Update	
10. Advisory i aliei alid Transport i ordin opdate	
16.1 Geoff French (GF) provided an overview of the recent meetings of the	
Advisory Panel and Transport Forum.	
16.2 The recommendation was agreed by the Partnership Board.	
RECOMMENDATION:	
The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the recent	
work of the Transport Forum and Advisory Panel.	
17. Delivery of the Strategic Investment Plan	
17.1 The paper was taken as read.	
17.1 The paper was taken as read.	
17.2 The recommendation was agreed by the Partnership Board.	
RECOMMENDATION:	
The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to comment on	
the progress of a range of workstreams that support the delivery of the	
Strategic Investment Plan.	
18. Analytical Framework	
18.1 The paper was taken as read.	
18.2 The recommendation was agreed by the Partnership Board.	
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RECOMMENDATION:	
The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to comment on	
the progress with the development on analytical framework.	
19. Technical Programme Progress Update	
19.1 The paper was taken as read.	
19.2 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:	
(1) Comment on the progress with the work to implement the Electric	
Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy;	
(2) Comment on the progress with the Freight, Logistics, and Gateways	
Strategy	
(3) Comment on the progress with the work on rail;	
(4) Comment on the progress with the work on active travel;	
(5) Comment on the progress with the work on future mobility; and	
(6) Comment on the progress with the work on decarbonisation.	
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20. Communications and Stakeholder Engagement update	
20.1 The paper was taken as read.	
20.2 The recommendation was agreed by the Partnership Board	
RECOMMENDATION: The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to comment on the comms and engagement activity that has been undertaken since the last Board meeting.	
21. AOB	
21.1 No matters were raised.	
22. Date of Next Meeting	
19.1 KG noted that the next meeting will take place Monday October 27 th 14:00-17:00, ICE London.	