

Report to: Partnership Board –Transport for the South East

Date of meeting: 2 February 2026

By: Chief Officer, Transport for the South East

Title of report: Centre of Excellence Progress Update

Purpose of report: To provide a progress update on the Centre of Excellence

RECOMMENDATION:

The Members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the progress being made with the delivery of the Centre of Excellence.

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the delivery of the TfSE Centre of Excellence.

2. Progress update

2.1 Since the previous Partnership Board in October, we have made significant progress in delivering the 2025/26 Centre of Excellence Work Plan. Progress has been made against the seven support areas, with 22 bespoke webinars or events held across the topics. Please see **Appendix 1** for more detail on the sessions.

3. Forthcoming Activity

3.1 Between this Partnership Board meeting and the meeting scheduled for March, seven webinars are already scheduled in Local Transport Authority calendars. These cover electric vehicle seminars, awareness of emerging technologies, and authority-led contributions, including How to Use the Carbon Assessment Playbook Tool in Local Transport Plan Development delivered by Brighton & Hove City Council.

3.2 A more comprehensive overview of commissioned activity is provided in **Appendix 1**. New commissions are underway across improving sustainability and achieving net zero, network review and design, and understanding national plans and policy, with experts appointed and inception meetings held. Further sessions will be scheduled and added to officers' diaries as delivery progresses.

4. Engagement activity

4.1 The Centre of Excellence continues to work with National Highways, Network Rail, and universities to share assets, showcase regional and national expertise, and

bring together innovation and academic insight to support Local Transport Authorities.

4.2 We are planning to engage with universities at TfSE's upcoming Transport Forum, to help them to develop their forward work plans around the region's transport priorities. Content from universities' work could be showcased on the Centre of Excellence in future years.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

5.1 Monitoring and evaluation evidence shows full engagement from all 16 Local Transport Authorities, high and repeat use of Centre of Excellence resources, strong satisfaction and usefulness scores, and early evidence of value for money through efficiency savings. Detailed performance data is provided in **Appendix 2**.

6. Finance Update

6.1 At the date of this Partnership Board, £78,688 will have been spent from the total £251,759 budget. Expenditure is forecast to reach £201,371 by March 2026, with the remaining funding allocated to subject matter expert support. A £50,388 carry forward into 2026/27 is forecast.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

7.1 The Members of the Partnership Board are recommended to comment on the progress being made with the delivery of the Centre of Excellence.

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Chief Officer

Transport for the South East

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Appendix 1 – Centre of Excellence update

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this appendix is to provide further information on several updates since October's Partnership Board meeting on the Transport for the South East (TfSE) Centre of Excellence.

2. Delivery against the Centre of Excellence Work Plan 2025/26 since October Partnership Board 2025

2.1 Between November 2025 – January 2026, the Centre of Excellence hosted 22 webinars and events that supported three of our eight support areas.

Impacts of Devolution on Buses

A webinar and supporting report were delivered to help LTA officers understand the implications of devolution and the changing policy landscape for the planning and delivery of local bus services.

AI in transport planning

A programme of activity was delivered to build understanding of the role of artificial intelligence in transport planning, ranging from introductory content to technical and academic perspectives. This has been an area of rapidly increasing interest among officers.

Modelling and Forecasting

Four technical webinars were delivered covering TAG guidance, active travel modelling, and spatial planning.

Awareness of Emerging Technologies

A new flagship webinar series was launched to improve awareness of emerging transport technologies, including electric vehicles, shared mobility, data and digital systems, Mobility as a Service, and autonomous vehicles. To date, we have delivered three out of five.

EV seminars

Additionally, from feedback received through the TfSE EV Forum, we have delivered two out of a four-part webinar series. The topics covered included:

- Costing and pricing of public EV charging – understanding and managing the disparity.
- Developing public infrastructure to support the electrification of light commercial vehicles.

Future Transport Zone

We were pleased to promote the webinar series from Solent Future Transport Zone on the recent projects they had undertaken. All webinars were promoted through the Centre of Excellence, and materials and recordings are now hosted on our site for posterity.

- Where do Mobility Credits have the biggest impact?
- Micro Consolidation: Lessons From Delivering Logistics Innovation
- The Right Fit: Selecting and supporting businesses in travel change initiatives
- Micromobility parking: Selecting sites and making them happen
- Successful procurement for innovation projects in emerging sectors
- Lessons Learned from the Breeze MaaS Trial

Other bespoke content

- West Sussex and Kent County Council Active Travel Capability Assessment Showcase
- Brighton and Hove and West Sussex presentation on becoming a Chartered Transport Planning Professional
- Using Vivacity as an AI tool – local authority case studies
- Using the STB Carbon Assessment Playbook in Local Transport Plan Development – Brighton and Hove presentation
- Active Travel England webinar on their Cycling Walking Infrastructure Strategy 3 consultation with TfSE's local transport authorities
- CityScience training session on Cadence tool, with free use via the TfSE CoE website

3. Monitoring and Evaluation – September–November 2025

3.1 The Monitoring and Evaluation framework demonstrates strong engagement with the Centre of Excellence and provides early evidence of value for Local Transport Authorities (LTAs).

3.2 Between September and November, the website recorded 1191 site sessions and 759 unique visitors (accumulatively across the three months), indicating repeat use. A total of 48 new user sign-ups were recorded during this period, bringing total sign-ups to 367.

3.3 User engagement was spread across key areas of the site, with consistent traffic to events, resources, webinars, key tools, and case studies, demonstrating broad interest rather than reliance on a single content type. Increased interaction was also observed within the online forum, particularly during October, suggesting growing confidence in peer-to-peer engagement.

3.4 By November, 395 resources had been uploaded, with 66 new items added between September and November. The most accessed content related to data

science training, carbon assessment tools, active travel forecasting, and bus policy, aligning closely with known capability gaps.

3.5 Feedback collected from webinars and case studies shows consistently high satisfaction and usefulness scores. Average scores were 4.34 for satisfaction and 4.37 for usefulness (out of 5), with several sessions achieving scores of 5.0. This provides assurance that the support delivered is meeting officer needs and contributing to changes in understanding and practice.

3.6 Based on time savings reported by users, estimated efficiency benefits for LTAs between September and November total approximately £303,920, providing early evidence of return on investment from the Centre of Excellence model.

3.7 The monitoring and evaluation data indicates that the Centre of Excellence is achieving strong engagement across all authorities, delivering relevant and high-quality support, and beginning to demonstrate measurable benefits in terms of efficiency and capability building.

4. Finance update

4.1 As at the date of this Partnership Board, the Centre of Excellence will have spent £78,688 of its total £251,759 budget. Expenditure to date includes delivery of the support packages (webinars, training courses, case studies), production of the *Impacts of Devolution on Buses* report, and costs associated with in-person events, including venue hire and catering.

4.2 Total expenditure is forecast to reach £201,371 by the end of March 2026, with remaining spend fully allocated to subject matter expert support to address Local Transport Authority capability gaps. This results in a projected £50,388 budget carry forward into 2026/27.

Date Selector
Please select month/s below

Multiple selections

Site Sessions

Unique Visitors

Site Sessions per visitor

759
Total site sessions (Sep-Nov 25)

66
Content uploaded Sep - Nov 25

303920
LTA savings (£) (Sep - Nov 25)

48
Site Sign Ups (Sep - Nov 25)

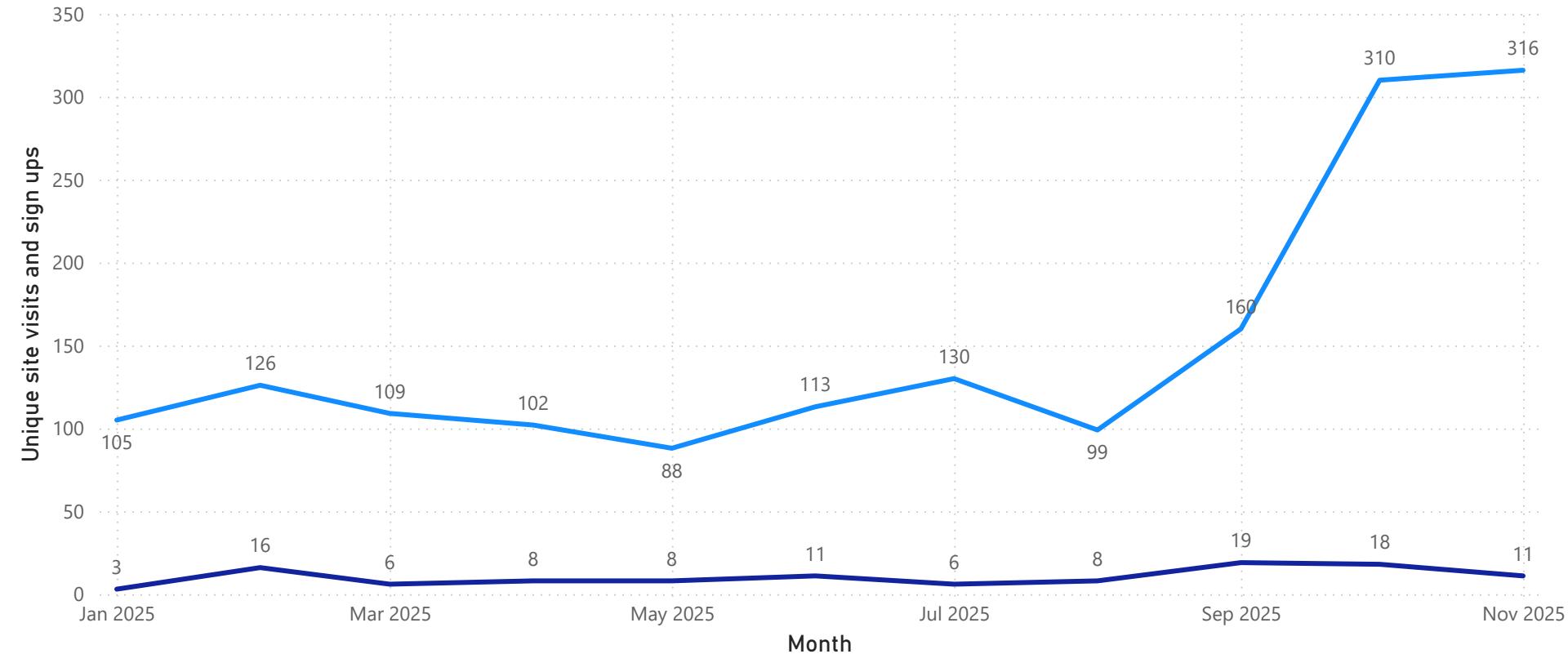
367
Total Sign Ups

395
Total Content Uploaded

16 (100%)
Number of LAs signed up

Unique site visits and sign ups by month

● Unique site visits ● Sign ups

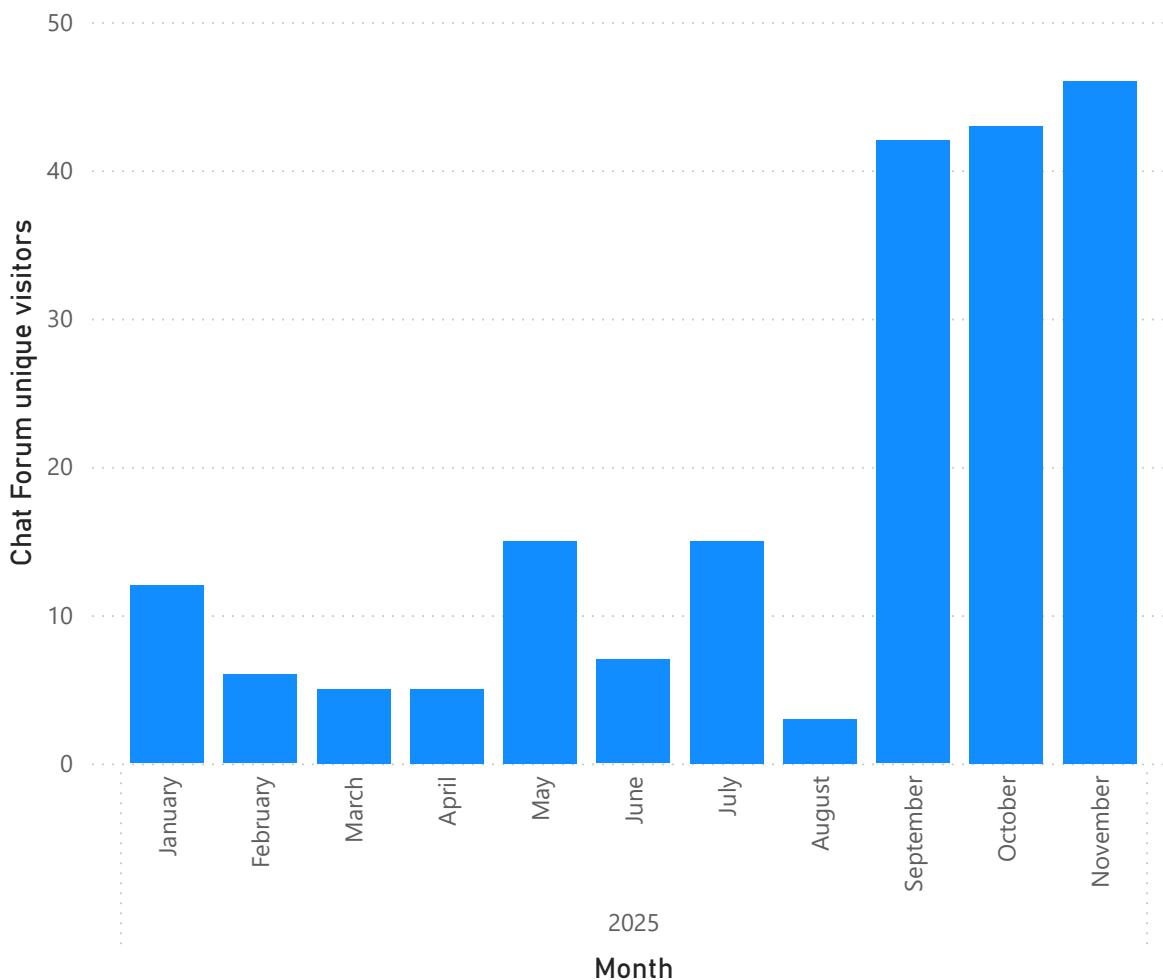


Date Selector for chat forum interaction

Please select month/s below

Multiple selections

Chat Forum interaction



Number of unique visitors per component home page

Title	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Total
events	17	19	10	46
resources	11	15	18	44
webinars	19	10	13	42
case-study	7	7	16	30
key-tools	10	6	14	30
data	2	8	17	27
qualifications-and-courses	9	6	12	27
forum	5	15	6	26
new-to-the-sector	0	4	5	9
consultations	0	2	6	8
funding	2	0	6	8
contact	1	0	6	7
procurement	0	0	7	7

Number of unique visitors for specific pages

Title	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Total
forumlocal-transport-authoritiesregister-your-interest-data-science-for-transport-planners-full-day-training-course-offer	42	9	0	51
key-tools- carbon-assessment-playbook	16	16	11	43
blog-postsforecasting-the-impact-of-active-travel-interventions	18	12	0	30
chatforum	0	28	0	28
groupgeneraldiscussion4745552a-dfd7-4d0b-b4b0-f997577ee429	0	28	0	28
groupebf048a5-3af2-4e0b-8b5a-2afaf7e89709discussion	0	26	0	26
resources- transport-for-the-south-east- -regional-travel-survey-report	0	26	0	26