

Report to: Partnership Board –Transport for the South East

Date of meeting: 19 March 2026

By: Chair of Transport Forum

Title of report: Advisory Panel and Transport Forum Update

Purpose of report: To update the Partnership Board on the Transport Forum and Advisory Panel

RECOMMENDATION:

The Members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the recent work of the Transport Forum and Advisory Panel

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper provides an update on plans for the next meeting of TfSE's Transport Forum, as well as an update on the activity of TfSE's Advisory Panel, which brings together representatives of TfSE's thematic groups.

1.2 This paper provides an update on the recent meeting of TfSE's Transport Forum which took place on 12 March in London.

2. Transport Forum

2.1 The Transport Forum is TfSE's wider stakeholder group. It meets in person approximately twice a year, as and when there is a need to capture the views of stakeholders to support the delivery of a piece of TfSE's work.

2.2 The Transport Forum met on 12 March at Broadway House and the agenda focussed on three distinct work areas from Transport for the South East.

2.3 Following a request at the TfSE Universities Group to work more closely with Local Transport Authorities, the Transport Forum hosted a session on mapping the future transport priorities to inform Universities research.

2.4 Industry stakeholders set out their views on opportunities and challenges facing the transport sector, ahead of workshops with university stakeholders and the rest of the Transport Forum. Speakers included:

- Richard Higgins, Gatwick Airport
- Alastair Welch, Associated British Ports
- Sarah Borien, Network Rail
- Caroline Whitney, Community Transport Association

2.5 This brought together two groups of TfSE stakeholders to identify opportunities for collaboration and alignment in future work. This also provided an opportunity for TfSE to bring an update on the Centre of Excellence, including a review of the first 18 months since launch and how the CoE can bring TfSE partner organisations together.

2.6 TfSE also facilitated a session on devolution following feedback that this is a key area of unknown for many of our stakeholders. The session focussed on where responsibilities will lie and what this could mean for TfSE.

2.7 The final session provided an opportunity for TfSE to share with Transport Forum members progress on the refreshed Strategic Investment Plan. This focussed on the engagement which has gone into developing the refreshed Strategic Investment Plan and how it aligns and helps to deliver the five missions in the TfSE Transport Strategy.

3. Advisory Panel

3.1 TfSE's Advisory Panel brings together representatives of TfSE's thematic groups, giving them the opportunity to update each other on their group's work, and feed into the business of the Partnership Board. TfSE is currently rationalising the scope and activities of its thematic groups, as its work programme evolves.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Partnership Board note the work of the Transport Forum and Advisory Panel.

GEOFF FRENCH
Chair of the Transport Forum
Transport for the South East

Contact Officer: Jaimie McSorley
Email: Jaimie.McSorley@transportforthesoutheast.org.uk