

**Transport for the South East
Partnership Board Meeting**

Minutes - AGM

Monday 13 July 2026, 11:00-17:00

In person – One Great George Street, London

Item		Time
1	Arrival and Refreshments	11:00-11:30
2	TfSE Introductory Session	11:30-12:30
3	Lunch	12:30-14:00
4	TfSE Partnership Board AGM	14:00-17:00

Partnership Board Members

Cllr Simon Curry (Deputy Chair) Cabinet Member, Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration Medway Council	Cllr Pete Morley Deputy Leader East Sussex County Council	Cllr Trevor Muten Cabinet Member for Transport, Parking and Public Realm Brighton & Hove City Council
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<i>Dan Taylor</i> <i>Deputy Director</i> <i>Department for Transport</i>	Cllr Erika Woodhurst-Trueaman Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport West Sussex County Council	Cllr Spencer Dixon Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport Kent County Council
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Cllr Steve Forster Executive Member for Highways and Passenger Transport Hampshire County Council	Cllr Peter Candlish Cabinet Member for Transportation Portsmouth City Council	Alice Darley Regional Strategy Lead National Highways
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Daniel Ruiz
Business Representative
(co-chair Business Advisory group)

Apologies: Dave Hooper (Network Rail), Cllr Peter Osborne (Kent County Council), Cllr Andy Woolley (East Sussex County Council), Cllr Jacqui Rayment (Southampton City Council), Cllr Matt Furniss (Surrey County Council), Cllr Julie Jones-Evans (Isle of Wight Council), Cllr John Ennis (Reading Borough Council), Cllr Matt Boughton (Tonbridge and Malling), Mark Potter (SDNPA), Vince Lucas

Officers:

Rupert Clubb, Transport for the South East
Sarah Valentine, Transport for the South East
Mark Valleley, Transport for the South East

Kate Over, Transport for the South East
Joshua Jiao, Transport for the South East
James Boyes, Transport for the South East
Jaimie McSorley, Transport for the South East
Benn White, Transport for the South East
Eleanor Jewell, Transport for the South East
Daisy Scott, Transport for the South East



Item		Who
1	Welcome and Apologies 1.1 Councillor Curry (SC) welcomed Members to the meeting. Noted we have new members and encouraged all to introduce themselves at the start of the meeting 1.2 SC noted apologies from Dave Hooper (Network Rail), Cllr Peter Osborne (Kent County Council), Cllr Andy Woolley (East Sussex County Council), Cllr Jacqui Rayment (Southampton City Council), Cllr Matt Furniss (Surrey County Council), Mark Potter (SDNPA), Cllr Julie Jones-Evans (Isle of Wight), Cllr John Ennis (Reading Borough Council), Cllr Matt Boughton (Tonbridge and Malling) and Vince Lucas.	Cllr Simon Curry
2	Minutes from last meeting 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed	Cllr Simon Curry
3	Declarations of interest 3.1 SC asked Board Members to declare any interests they may have in relation to the agenda. Cllr Steve Forster declared personal interest in EV charging.	Cllr Simon Curry
4	Statements from the public 4.1 SC confirmed that no statements from the public have been made.	Cllr Simon Curry
For Decision		
5	Governance <i>(Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair, co-opting Board members and allocating votes)</i> 5.1 Rupert Clubb (RC) introduced the item and requested nominations for Chair of TfSE for 2026/27. Cllr Simon Curry was proposed, seconded and there being no further nominations was elected. 5.2 Cllr Curry sought nominations for Vice-Chair of TfSE for 2026/27. Cllr Peter Candlish, Portsmouth was proposed, seconded and there being no further nominations was elected. 5.3 The Partnership Board agreed to co-opt for 2026/27 Business Advisory Group Representatives Vince Lucas and Daniel Ruiz 5.4 The Partnership Board agreed to co-opt for 2026/27 a representative from South Downs National Parks to represent protected landscapes and one person nominated by district and borough authorities; representative for	Rupert Clubb

National Highways, representative for Network Rail and representative for Transport for London.

5.5 The Board agreed to allocate voting rights of one vote each for the two Business Advisory Group representatives.

5.6 Cllr Curry sought nominations for the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for 2026/27. Cllr Furniss, Surrey, was proposed, seconded and there being no further nominations was elected.

5.7 Cllr Curry sought nominations for membership of the Audit and Governance Committee. The Partnership Board agreed to the following membership:

- Cllr Matt Furniss- Chair
- Cllr Trevor Muten
- Cllr Erika Woodhurst-Trueman
- Daniel Ruiz
- Vince Lucas

5.8 Cllr Curry encouraged all members to complete register of interest forms.

5.9 The recommendations were **agreed** by the Partnership Board.

Recommendations

1) Nominate and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the period of one year;

2) Whilst having regard to legislative or other changes agree to co-opt the following roles for a period of one year to the Partnership Board:

- a. Two people nominated collectively to represent business.*
- b. A person nominated by the National Parks and other protected landscape designations;*
- c. A person nominated by the district and borough authorities; and*
- d. 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 nominated representatives of the district and borough authorities and the protected landscapes;

4) Appoint a Chair and agree membership of the Audit and Governance Committee for a period of one year; and

5) Note the request for members to return completed register of interest forms.

	Accountable Body Status 6.1 Cllr Curry welcomed RC to present on Accountable body status of TfSE. 6.2 RC explained East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is the current accountable body for TfSE staff, but ESCC will cease to be a local transport authority following the establishment of the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority. RC proposes accountable body changes to the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority subject to TfSE Board and SBSA Board agreement. 6.3 Cllr Muten (TM) highlighted that he agrees in principle to the move of accountable body but raised concern about whether unitary authorities will be represented on the Board. RC agreed that this issue will need to be addressed by the Board in the future. 6 6.4 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board. Recommendations <i>1) Agree, in principle, that accountable body responsibilities for TfSE should transfer from ESCC to the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority, subject to their agreement, with effect from an agreed implementation date;</i> <i>2) Note that any proposed transfer is expected to be a straightforward change in hosting arrangements under TUPE and the associated transfer of administrative, financial and contractual responsibilities;</i> <i>3) Authorise the TfSE Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Partnership Board, to work with ESCC and the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority to complete the detailed implementation arrangements and to report back to the Board as necessary.</i>	Rupert Clubb
7	TfSE Future Funding Model 7.1 RC explained TfSE current funding situation, and the need to develop new funding model that is comprised of a core contribution from constituent authorities and subscription model. Work is being undertaken to develop this model. The intention to bring more detailed proposal of this new model at the October board meeting. 7.2 Cllr Candlish (PC) noted recommendation one talks of core contribution and subscription model and questioned whether both will be referenced in the October Report? RC confirmed the report will confirm the new LA contribution and	Rupert Clubb

	asked members to consider whether and increased core contribution will be possible. 7.3 Daniel Ruiz (DR) seconded PC point and additionally raised concerns if the core contribution were to drop too low to sustain TfSE operations. 7.4 Cllr Forster (SF) raised concerns about the changing authority in Hampshire and voting on their behalf. Suggests we invite the chair of new authorities to the Board. RC agrees this is an important point, funding may eventually change to new strategic authorities and confirmed he is starting to have these conversations. 7.5 TM asked for clarification of how these models work in Transport for the North before the decision at the next board meeting. RC confirmed this will be case. 7.6 SC encouraged flexibility in this process, and that this is reflected in Annual Report and Business plan. 7.7 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board. Recommendations <i>1) Note the work underway to develop a future core contribution and subscription model for TfSE; and</i> <i>2) Note that a detailed proposal will be brought to the October 2026 Partnership Board for consideration and agreement.</i>	
8	Annual Report 2025/26 8.1 RC introduced the Annual Report to the board and brought attention to SIP within the report and how this document this vital to the region. Noted how report highlights how TfSE goes further than just being a strategic body through Centre of the Excellence and work in Rail and Freight. 8.2 SC highlighted collaboration between authorities is a vital element of the report. 8.3 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board. Recommendations	Rupert Clubb

	1) To sign off the Annual Report 2025/26 and agree to publish it on the Transport for the South East website.	
9	Business Plan 2026/27 9.1 RC introduced the Business Plan and notes how the draft version of this report was approved by a previous board in December 2025. RC highlights this report works as a transition plan now we have had confirmation of £1.5m funding from DfT before it ceases in 2027/28. 9.2 DR questioned whether there is there a plan to include rural strategies within this business plan or if this is embedded within other funding. RC highlighted work is being undertaken by Transport for the East, who are recognised as a lead STB on this issue. Therefore, funding for this is embedded within their work which TfSE can provide support on to our local authorities via the Centre of Excellence. DR suggested this isn't reflected in the report. RC agreed this point. 9.3 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board. Recommendations 1) To approve Transport for the South East's updated Business Plan for 2026/27, following the announcement of Government funding.	Rupert Clubb
10	Analytical Framework Update 10.1 SC welcomed Joshua Jiao (JJ). JJ provided a background of the analytical framework and update on this year's development plan. 10.2 TM raised whether walking data included in local level data within the framework. Additionally, he raised whether the modelling used within the framework only reflects individuals current positions to transport and whether it can include how differing factors will affect future choice. JJ noted that active travel modelling is difficult to undertake at a regional level due to the level of detail, and that it is more appropriately undertaken at a local level. This is supported by our LTA officers. Therefore, the TFSE analytical framework focuses on providing data and innovative methodologies to address data gap, enabling the development of more localised models and analysis. JJ also confirmed that the design of South East Transport Modelling System (SETMS) is capable of modelling different factors and their impacts on future travel choice. He noted that the next round of Regional Travel Survey will strengthen	Joshua Jiao

	the evidence base by providing better understanding of why and how people have changed their travel behaviour between 2024 and 2026. The data will then feed into SETMS enabling us to model how changes in various factors, such as infrastructure and travel costs, may influence future travel choices. Additionally, we are developing a set of regional future scenarios to help address uncertainties about the future. 10.3 SC highlighted this will be beneficial, and the importance of how we translate this data insight and capability into the right language to sell TfSE to others. 10.4 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board. Recommendations <i>1) To agree the revised plan and comment on the progress with the development of an analytical framework.</i>	
11	Advisory Panel and Transport Forum 11.1 RC noted Geoff French stood down at the last board meeting and as a result now is an appropriate time to review the Forum. Once this review has concluded a report will be provided to the board, as well as the opportunity to elect a new chair. He noted this is an important process to ensure stakeholder engagement maintains fit for purpose. 11. 2 The recommendations were agreed by the Partnership Board. Recommendations <i>1) Agree to a formal review of the Transport Forum and Advisory Panel; and</i> <i>2) Agree to seek the appointment of a new Chair for the Transport Forum following the completion of this review.</i>	Rupert Clubb
12	Finance Update 12.1 SC welcomed Sarah Valentine, SV provided a finance update for the Board for the year 2025/26 and proposed budget for 2026/27. 12.2 SV noted the end of year finance figures for 2025/26 were not available at March board when last finance paper	Sarah Valentine

was presented. These figures now available in the report. SV noted an underspend on the technical programme, but this is inline with the forecast provided in last report in March. This underspend was due to funding that had been committed but not completed within the 2025/26 financial year.

12.3 SV noted at end of financial year 2025/26 there was a carry forward of just under £1m. The proposed budget for 2026/27 is set out in this report and the business plan and there is a proposed budget of £3.5m, noting there has been an increase in reserve to cover any potential redundancies and manage risk in moving TfSE host authority.

12.4 SV noted the financial position for end of June 2026 is set out in appendix 3.

12. 3 The recommendations were **agreed** by the Partnership Board.

Recommendations

- 1) Agree the end of year position for 2025/26*
- 2) Agree the proposed budget for 2026/27 and;*
- 3) Note the financial update to end of June 2026.*

For Information

Electric Vehicle On-Street Charging Solutions

13.1 SC welcomes Benn White. BW provided an update on the work completed on EV charging solutions at a regional level.

13.2 BW highlighted that the report concludes there are many different approaches to EV charging across the region, and that this needs to be reflected in TfSE's engagement with local transport authorities on EVCI rollout. This approach will also be reflected in future work.

13.2 TM highlighted BHCC are passionate about on street charging and have explored the importance of density of public charging points. BW agreed that this is a good point and that different local authorities are trying to tackle this challenge in different ways. Engagement between officers to share best practice is included in our work plan for this financial year.

13.3 SF noted that the EV market is moving very quickly and raised whether we as a group are engaged with stakeholders

Benn White

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	outside of local authorities within the industry to maintain up to date best practice. BW highlighted we are engaged with these external stakeholders, but it will be good to further enhance these relationships through our working groups. 13.4 PC highlighted the importance in sharing this learning with other regions, so as not to duplicate learning. BW confirms STBs do meet to discuss workplans in this area. PC further raised whether we are looking further than the UK. BW confirmed TfSE have engaged with organisations outside of UK but agreed the more information we get the better. 13.5 Peter Morley (PM) highlighted the issues of charging infrastructure in rural locations and how this being resolved. BW agreed this is an issue and there could be a role for TfSE to help authorities meet demand in rural areas and how best to monitor this. 13.6 SC highlighted the issues they have experienced in Medway as most streetlights are at back of pavement and the issue of commercial charging infrastructure. BW agreed commercial charging is an issue and highlighted TfSE is the leading STB in this area and completing work on identification of urban charging hubs. This report will be presented at a future board meeting. 13.7 The recommendations were noted by the Partnership Board. Recommendations <i>1) To note the content of the On-Street Charging – Emerging Solutions Study report.</i>	
14	Centre of Excellence Workplan 14.1 SC welcomes Mark Valleley who provided an update on the Centre of Excellence workplan for 2026/27. 14.2 MV noted there are a total of 350 register users on site and we have delivered 8 webinars and one in person training event since last board. Full details of these can be found in Appendix 1. 14.3 MV provided an update on the Capability Survey and highlighted that the workplan is structured from the results of this survey. These can be found in Section 4 of the Report and the full plan in Appendix 2. MV also noted that the monitoring and analytics for the site are set out in Appendix 3.	Mark Valleley

	14.4 MV highlighted the steering group for the Centre of Excellence are still meeting in order to engage with officers and ensure we are meeting their needs. 14.5 MV stated the funding allocation of £150,000 for the Centre of Excellence for 2026/27 with further detailed set out in Appendix 2. 14.6 The recommendations were noted by the Partnership Board. Recommendations <i>1) Comment on the progress being made with the delivery of the Centre of Excellence and;</i> <i>2) Comment on the work plan for 2026/27.</i>	
15	Technical Programme Update 15.1 MV provided an update on the progress of the technical programme, including work on EVCI, Freight, Logistics and Gateways, rail, and decarbonisation. 15.2 MV noted on-street charging work will move into phase two this year and will look at the practical application of the report presented to Board as well as commercial fleet charging work. 15.3 MV highlighted new Freight Awareness training programme will be launched on 15th July 2026, which was developed with CIHT and will be hosted through CoE. Work has also commenced on a development of a TfSE Future Freight Fuel Infrastructure Strategy. 15.4 MV noted work with the wider South East Rail partnership still continuing and currently focusing on introduction of GBR. TfSE also starting work on first mile/last mile rail integration study this year. 15.5 MV noted work is still taking place on the Carbon Assessment Playbook. 15.6 SF questioned whether TfSE have position on the political discussion on decarbonisation vs cost reduction. MV noted that bet zero is still mandated by the government, so TfSE work is focusing on enabling LTAs to meet these requirements.	Mark Valleley

	15.7 TM raised whether hydrogen fuels are still a focus for decarbonisation within electric fleets. MV agreed that TfSE are looking at all future fuels not just EV, so hydrogen are still in discussion, but there is less evidence this will be the solution. 15.8 SC was pleased to hear work taking place on decarbonisation noting work undertaken in Medway on this area has had real impact on local community. 15.9 The recommendations were noted by the Partnership Board. Recommendations <i>1) Comment on progress with the work to support local transport authorities with the introduction of electric vehicle charging infrastructure;</i> <i>2) Comment on the progress with the delivery of the Freight, Logistics and Gateways Strategy;</i> <i>3) Comment on the progress with the work on rail and;</i> <i>4) Comment on the progress with the work on decarbonisation.</i>	
16	Delivery of the Strategic Investment Plan 16.1 SV provided an update on a variety of workstreams that support delivery of the strategic investment plan, including communication of the SIP. 16.2 SV highlighted TfSE scheme development work has provided £800,000 to 14 schemes over the last 3 years. Whilst unfortunately with the removal of DfT funding there is no further funding available for this, SV explained that TfSE are committed to continuing to provide support for scheme development and are considering how this can best be done, particularly through the Centre of Excellence. 16.3 SV was pleased to note that 4 of the schemes in the Major Road Network programme under review have been confirmed as progressing, one scheme was removed by mutual agreement, whilst decisions are awaited on the remaining two. SV noted that since this report was drafted, final funding approval for the Kings Road Arches Scheme had been received, TfSE were pleased to have supported Brighton and Hove CC on their business case work and congratulated them on this milestone. 16.4 SV noted that DfT and National Highways (NH) had set out their priorities for the strategic road network through the	Sarah Valentine

	publication of the third Roads Investment Strategy (RIS3) SV noted that it is disappointing that RIS3 contains few schemes for delivery or development across the south east, particularly as our SIP identifies a number of areas where intervention is required. SV noted that TfSE have been engaged with NH throughout the RIS process and will continue to make the case for the necessary investment across the south east. 16.5 The recommendations were noted by Partnership Board. Recommendations <i>1) to comment on the progress of a range of workstreams that support the delivery of the Strategic Investment Plan.</i>	
17	Communications Plan 2026/27 and Communications and Stakeholder update 17.1 SC welcomed James Boyes. JB provided an update of the Communications Strategy. 17.2 JB highlighted most of work since last board has been focused on the outcome of the local elections. 17.3 JB presented the updated Communications and Engagement strategy, which now has a stronger focus on supporting local authorities and how to promote TfSE in a changing political landscape. TfSE has produced a new prospectus to aid in this endeavour. 17.4 JB explained Public Affairs work including letter to Secretary of state from former chair, as well as providing the Bexhill MP with information requested about the A21. Rupert Clubb attended Round table discussion with MPs from our region, and the team continues to engage with the Gatwick Diamond APPG. 17.4 JB provided social media and website update. TM questioned how TfSE are reaching out to younger people. JB highlighted we would need to look at messaging and resources in this area and RC added there may be a role for youth councils in each region. 17.5 Cllr Woodhurst-Trueman (EWT) asked JB how we are planning to engage more with local authorities. JB highlighted this new approach comes from feedback from LAs and the importance of continuing to develop these relationships. 17.6 Alice Darley (AD) asked whether TfSE was in contact with National Highways comms. JB said that he had monthly	James Boyes

	meetings with a member of the stakeholder engagement team. AD asked whether STBs still engage at business conferences, JB noted that this had decreased as reduced funding streams have limited our ability to attend these conferences and RC highlighted that we need to be more selective as to where we can add value. 17.7 PC raised that funding is a big issue and asked for clarification on our approach to engaging MPs. JB highlighted that with budget constraints the focus is now primarily on local authorities. RC confirmed we need to focus on where we can get traction. Dan Taylor (DT) explains funding landscape and agrees that MPs may be unlikely to be invested in the funding of the organisation as a whole but more likely to help with local schemes. Agreed with more focus approach. 17.8 EWT raised whether there are any plans to engage with utilities. RC noted this may not be an area for TfSE and suggested ADEPT a better source. 17.9 The recommendations were noted by Partnership Board Recommendations <i>1) to comment on the communications and engagement plan, and activity that has been undertaken since the last meeting.</i>	
18	Business Advisory Group 18.1 DR provided overview of Business Advisory group and the importance of the summit, which has been deferred until autumn. 18.2 RC highlighted how important this group is to TfSE and Daniel and Vince are in representing the business voice, encouraging board members to engage with them. SC also highlighted how important this voice will be in the future funding model. DR highlighted how business could be a potential funding stream in this model. 18.2 Recommendations were noted by Partnership Board. Recommendations <i>1) Note the progress of the Business Advisory Group</i>	Daniel Ruiz
19	AOB 19.1 RC thanked Mark Valleley and noted he is retiring after this board. He praised Mark for his support in the	Rupert Clubb

	establishment of TfSE and his instrumental work in its development. 19.2 SC provided best wishes on behalf of the board.	
20	Date of Next Meeting Monday 19 October 2026, 14:00-17:00, London	Rupert Clubb

DRAFT

TfSE Officers in Attendance

Rupert Clubb	Transport for the South East
Sarah Valentine	Transport for the South East
Mark Valleley	Transport for the South East
Eleanor Jewell	Transport for the South East
James Boyes	Transport for the South East
Jaimie McSorley	Transport for the South East
Benn White	Transport for the South East
Kate Over	Transport for the South East
Joshua Jiao	Transport for the South East
Daily Scott	Transport for the South East

