

Report to: **Partnership Board –Transport for the South East**

Date of meeting: **21 March 2022**

By: **Chair of the Transport Forum**

Title of report: **Transport Forum Update**

Purpose of report: **To summarise the Transport Forum meeting of 8 March 2022 and inform the Board of the Transport Forum’s recommendations.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to:

- (1) Note the recent meeting of the Transport Forum; and**
 - (2) Note and consider the comments from the Forum.**
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1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Partnership Board on the most recent meeting of the Transport Forum.

1.2 The meeting took place virtually on Tuesday 8 March 2022 and was attended by more than 35 members of the Forum.

2. Feedback from the Transport Forum Meeting on 8 March 2022

Area Studies Update

2.2 The forum received a brief update on the area studies progress as most attendees have been present at recent meetings. The development of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) is well underway and the area studies that have been developed will bridge the gap between the transport strategy and the investment plan. It also identifies what interventions are needed where and when they need to happen so that we can reach our vision.

Development of the SIP narrative

2.2 The forum were presented with the developing SIP narrative. The forum was asked for comment on the outline narrative, stressing the importance of feedback during the forthcoming consultation which was detailed within the presentation. It highlighted the key themes that the SIP will have as well as the role that the SIP will play for the South East for the next 30 years. The SIP will act as the golden thread for the region, bringing the local voice to government.

The forum were asked to contact the TfSE secretariat with any further feedback on the draft narrative.

Additional DfT Workstreams

2.3 The forum were provided an update on the work of the Sub-national Transport Bodies (STB) that was requested by the Department for Transport (DfT). This included the four additional workstreams; decarbonisation, local capacity and capability, bus back better and EV Infrastructure strategy. The emphasis behind these work streams was heavily focused on levelling up within the STB area.

2.4 The timescales per project were presented, as well as the funding that has been awarded. TfSE requested an allocation of funding for £500,000 from DfT and we are pleased to announce that we have been given £600,000 which highlights the quality of these bids.

Updates

2.5 The Forum were provided a brief update on the freight, logistics and gateway strategy which highlighted how TfSE are working closely with the DfT, as they have been undertaking their own work on the future of freight. As a result of this partnered working, not only with the DfT but other sub-national transport bodies, we now have a clear vision for how the sector should develop moving forward.

2.6 The forum was also provided with an update on the decarbonisation forum and work that has taken place. The three areas of technical works that have been identified are:

- 1) A carbon budget for the TfSE area
- 2) Pathways to achieve zero emissions for surface transport in each of our constituent authority areas and,
- 3) Finally, an assessment of the effectiveness of existing future policies that would need to be pursued for those identified pathways.

2.7 The forum were updated on the progress of our future mobility action plan and that a further package of work has been agreed with WSP and our consultant team to deliver a number of these actions and it is hoped this will be completed by June 2022, dependent on our CSR funding which is yet to be confirmed.

2.8 The forum were also advised on the three consultations that we have responded to since the last forum.

Review 2022 Transport Forum work plan

2.17 The Forum reviewed the proposed 2022 Transport Forum work plan. Additional items were suggested for inclusion in the plan including:

- Active Travel & Active Travel England to present (potentially request Chris Boardman)
- Sustrans to present on why active travel is important for both local journeys and as part of a bigger journey.
- Connection between transport and land use planning.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Board note the successful virtual meeting of the Transport Forum and the important communication link this provides TfSE with its key stakeholders.

3.2 It is recommended that the Board note and consider the comments raised by Forum members.

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Transport for the South East

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