

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

Date of meeting: **21 March 2022**

By: **Lead Officer, Transport for the South East**

Title of report: **Lead Officer’s Report**

Purpose of report: **To update the Board on the recent activities of Transport for the South East**

---

***RECOMMENDATION:***

**The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the activities of Transport for the South East between January 2022 – March 2022.**

---

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The focus of work for TfSE in recent months has been concentrated on shaping the SIP narrative and concluding the area studies with our consultants.

1.2 Alongside this, a programme of engagement has been formulated as we prepare the draft SIP for consultation in summer 2022.

1.3 Our funding for additional workstreams on Bus Back Better, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy and Local Capacity and Capability was agreed upon by the Board at our January meeting so we have progressed on the procurements with plans for all three workstreams.

**2. National policy**

Recent national policy

2.1 The ‘Levelling Up the United Kingdom’ policy paper was published on 02 February 2022. This high level paper identified the definition of levelling up and how wide reaching it is as an ideology. Data was provided to demonstrate the geographical disparities of the UK and 12 missions were outlined to guide the approach to levelling up that will be needed in the next decade.

2.2 Some interesting points to note were the proposals for a new, 3 level framework for devolution for local authorities, alongside the establishment of Levelling Up Directors and the creation of regional centres of excellence to provide bespoke support to local transport authorities.

2.3 TfSE will continue to make the case for infrastructure investment in the South East and will watch closely to see how the levelling up policy develops. The paper references

future engagement opportunities with local areas via Ministers and local panels, and TfSE will look to feed into these as appropriate.

### **3. Work of Transport for the South East**

#### Strategic investment plan

3.1 Work is now underway on producing the draft strategic investment plan for consultation in June 2022. Further detail on the timeline and programme of work can be found in agenda item 11.

#### Joint STB work

3.2 The focus for joint STB working and discussions in recent weeks has been centred on the four workstreams which the DfT has asked all STBs to consider.

3.3 The Chief Officers of the STBs have established regular meetings to identify areas where collaboration is appropriate and to ensure we are joined up in relation to emerging policy developments. A meeting was held on the 31 January with the STB directors and the DfT.

#### Events

3.5 TfSE have held several engagement events this year and as the SIP develops at pace, we will continue to provide stakeholder engagement throughout 2022 to ensure all feedback is captured during the consultation period. TfSE will be holding engagements with District and Borough authorities on the 7 and 8 March to address our emerging outcomes from the technical work programme as well as the SIP contents at a SPOC level. This follows on from the MP virtual briefings that have been held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 25<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> March, as well as the parliamentary reception that was held on 1 February in which MPs and Board Members attended. Further to the Parliamentary reception, Baroness Vere met with Councillor Glazier on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

3.6 The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for the South East held a call for evidence session on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February where we spoke on “What does Levelling Up mean for the South East?”.

3.7 We presented at a jointly held webinar with the Transport Planning Society (TPS) focused on the local transport challenge of achieving continued economic growth whilst decarbonising transport.

3.8 Localis interviewed TfSE about for work they are undertaking with South East Councils to understand Resetting the South East. This provided an opportunity to set out the Boards’ vision for transport in the South East and the contribution the Transport Strategy and subsequent strategic investment plan will support decarbonisation, connectivity and growth.

#### TfSE Team

3.9 TfSE are awaiting their CSR funding outcomes which will determine TfSE’s work plan for the next financial year. We expect that the funding letter will also include some broad assumptions for future funding, which will support our business planning process.

#### **4. Conclusions and recommendations**

4.1 In conclusion, 2022 will demonstrate our capability to deliver additional workstreams funded by the DfT to enhance our support to the local transport authorities. Preparations are also underway for a series of events to support the SIP consultation.

4.2 The Partnership Board is recommended to note the activities undertaken by TfSE.

**RUPERT CLUBB**

**Lead Officer**

**Transport for the South East**

Contact Officer: Emily Bailey

Tel. No. 07840649245

Email: [Emily.bailey@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.bailey@eastsussex.gov.uk)