

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

Date of meeting: **13 June 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 March-June 2022

1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of work for TfSE in recent months has been concentrated on the development of the strategic investment plan alongside its programme of engagement as we prepare for consultation in summer 2022.

2. Work of Transport for the South East

Strategic investment plan

2.1 Over the last two years we have been working to develop our Strategic Investment Plan. This is our blueprint for investment in the South East over the next 30 years and will be used by Government to inform decisions about strategic infrastructure projects.

2.2 The plan is underpinned by a considerable and robust evidence base. The five Area Studies and our thematic strategies have had huge amounts of stakeholder input and present a strong case for the south east.

2.3 The draft SIP is the culmination of a significant and rigorous programme of work and is to be considered by the board for consultation under agenda item 8.

2.4 We will be encouraging all stakeholders to respond to the consultation by the deadline. This is supported by a considerable amount of engagement events over the coming weeks and look forward to working with our partners and stakeholders to undertake the consultation exercise.

Joint STB work

2.5 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.

2.6 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. As outlined in agenda item 13, we are working jointly with several STBs across a series of workstreams. These include: TfSE, Transport East and England's Economic Heartlands joint work on Bus Back Better, TfSE, Transport East and England's Economic Heartlands joint work on producing a decarbonisation toolkit and finally all 7 STBs working jointly on decarbonisation.

2.7 Our funding for additional workstreams on Bus Back Better, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy and Local Capacity and Capability was awarded by DfT in January and reported to the Board at our January meeting. Work has progressed on the procurement for all three workstreams, details of which are found at agenda item 13.

Events

2.8 TfSE have already held several engagement events this year and as the SIP consultation develops at pace, we will continue to provide stakeholder engagement opportunities throughout 2022 to ensure all feedback is captured during the consultation period. TfSE will be holding a reception with Board members and MPs on 22 June at Portcullis House and we will also be hosting our SIP's launch event on 5th July at G Live in Guildford. More information on our upcoming events can be found in agenda item 10.

2.9 We had the opportunity to be present at the ITT Hub in May, where we formally launched our freight, logistics and gateway strategy. There were opportunities for key stakeholders to join a roundtable session to relaunch our freight forum. We are particularly grateful to Daniel Ruiz for chairing the roundtable discussion.

2.10 As part of the ITT Hub event, we were interviewed by Leon Daniels OBE for the podcast: 'Lunch with Leon'. We discussed the launch of TfSE's freight strategy, as well as the challenges and opportunities faced in the South East as a result of freight and the podcast has received a number of views online.

2.11 TfSE were also present at the national STB conference in Birmingham in late May. We were able to engage in discussions around our programme of technical work and raise awareness of our upcoming SIP consultation.

TfSE Team

2.12 TfSE received their grant funding from DfT in March 2022, and following approval of the budget at the Board meeting in May we have commenced work on establishing a staffing complement to put in place the capacity and capability to deliver the work programme. Recruitment for a number of key posts is now underway.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

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

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