

Report to: **Partnership Board – Transport for the South East**
Date of meeting: **26 September 2022**
By: **Lead Officer, Transport for the South East**
Title of report: **Technical Programme Progress Update**
Purpose of report: **To provide a progress update on the ongoing work to deliver the technical work programme set out in the 2022/23 business plan**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the progress with:

- (1) Ongoing work to assist local transport authorities with the implementation of their bus service improvement plans (BSIP) and enhanced Partnerships (EP);**
 - (2) Developing an electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategy for the TfSE Area;**
 - (3) Delivering TfSE’s future mobility strategy; and**
 - (4) Delivering TfSE’s freight logistics and gateways strategy.**
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1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on delivering the TfSE technical work programme.

1.2 In October 2021 the Partnership Board agreed to submit bids to the Department for Transport (DfT) for additional in-year funding for 2021/22, focused on supporting the delivery of the National Bus Strategy ‘Bus Back Better’, decarbonisation, local capacity and capability, and the development of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure strategy. This paper provides an update on progress on a number these work streams, as well as an update on progress with the implementation of the future mobility strategy and the freight, logistics and gateways strategy.

2. Bus Back Better

2.1 Working jointly with Transport East and England’s Economic Heartland, TfSE submitted a bid to DfT for a project that would identify and deliver the support needed to assist local transport authorities with the delivery of their BSIPs and EPs. The value of the bid was £100,000 per STB area, with a total project value of £300,000, which was awarded to TfSE in its role as lead STB for the work.

2.2 TfSE, working through East Sussex County Council as its accountable body, undertook a procurement exercise. An Invitation to Tender (ITT) was issued through Lot 5 of the ESPO Framework in April 2022. Following a tender evaluation exercise involving representatives from all three STBs the contract to undertake the work was awarded to Mott MacDonald, supported by Arup.

2.3 The work commenced in July 2022. The first stage consists of a questionnaire survey, to all local transport authorities in the three STB areas, that will seek to identify what capability support they need to deliver their BSIPs and EPs. In the TfSE area, seven of the sixteen constituent authorities received DfT funding for their BSIPs (broadly in line with the

proportion of successful authorities across the country). This project will seek to identify the support needed for authorities irrespective of whether they are to receive BSIP funding. A questionnaire survey will also be sent to bus operators to identify their views on the types of capability support that the authorities need.

2.4 The results of these questionnaire surveys will be fed into workshops with LTAs and bus operators (grouped by STB area) to refine the packages of support to be delivered in the second stage of this work. The work will be overseen by a steering group consisting of officer representatives from the three STBs and DfT. The aim is to have the work completed by the end of March 2023. A further progress update on the work will be provided to the Board at their meeting in November 2022.

2.5 As reported to the Partnership Board meeting in June 2022, TfSE commissioned some technical work earlier in the year to develop an evidence base on bus passenger supply, demand and future market potential. This work will help support the development and implementation of BSIPs and TfSE's own Area Studies. This technical work is now complete following receipt of comments from LTA officers and will be made available as part of TfSE's evidence base library.

3 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy

3.1 In October TfSE submitted a bid to the DfT for £100,000 to develop an EV charging infrastructure strategy as part of the package of bids for additional in year funding. A Request for Quotations (RFQ) was issued through the East Sussex County Council procurement process on 19 May 2022. A total of twelve quotations were received and following a tender evaluation process that involved representatives from TfSE's constituent authorities, a contract was awarded to Arcadis.

3.2 Work has now commenced on the development of the strategy with the initial stages involving a review of existing level of charging point provision across the TfSE area and a questionnaire to local transport authorities to identify the state of progress with their own local EV infrastructure charging strategies and any data that may be available from these.

3.3 A forum is to be set up to facilitate dialogue between LTAs, Distribution Network Operators (DNO), Charge Point Operators (CPO) and fleet operators to help facilitate the roll out of public charge points across the TfSE area. Later stages of the work will involve producing forecasts of the likely uptake of EVs across the TfSE area and demand for charge point infrastructure. An update on the work which is due to be completed in January 2023 will be provided at the next Partnership Board meeting.

4 Future Mobility Strategy

4.1 Since the last Partnership Board meeting on 13 June, two local authority workshops and one market engagement workshop have taken place as part of the work to deliver TfSE's future mobility strategy. Attendees at the workshops worked through key future mobility issues and opportunities and considered the roles that TfSE could play in taking forward future mobility projects in the South East. Attendees were also asked about their level of interest in a new TfSE Future Mobility Forum.

4.2 The first meeting of the new forum took place on 18 July 2022. Invitees included all local transport authorities and LEPs, National Highways, Network Rail and a variety of

private and public sector representatives. Speakers at the meeting were from Solent Transport, the Connected Places Catapult and transport technology provider Via. Discussion in the meeting included defining the scope of work for consideration by in future meetings of the Forum, based on activities identified in TfSE's future mobility strategic report. The aim now is to hold meetings quarterly, with the next Future Mobility Forum scheduled for 10 October 2022.

4.3 The implementation of the future mobility strategy is currently being supported by WSP consultants. Following agreement with ESCC's Procurement Team, this arrangement is being extended into 2023. A recruitment process is also currently underway with the intention of appointing someone to manage TfSE's future mobility work in the longer term. The consultant will provide the following support to TfSE to continue to progress the implementation of the future mobility strategy until March 2023:

- Organising and supporting the meetings of the future mobility forum;
- Support for forum activities between meetings, including servicing any new future mobility forum working groups/sub-groups, undertaking small specific technical pieces of work identified through the forum's work and providing advice;
- Building and maintaining links with future mobility research bodies (separately from the forum);
- Provide advice and support on how TfSE might best be involved in potential future mobility pilot projects; and
- Prepare specifications for specific future mobility-related technical work and studies identified as priority work areas in the future mobility strategy.

4.4 Further updates on progress with this work be provided to the next meeting of the Partnership Board.

5. Freight, Logistics and Gateways Strategy

5.1 TfSE officially launched its freight strategy at the ITT Hub event at Farnborough in May 2022. Officers have continued to liaise with key organisations such as Logistics UK, the Road Haulage Association and Associated British Ports.

5.2 As with the future mobility workstream, the intention is to reinvigorate the TfSE freight forum, the first meeting of which is currently expected to take place early in 2023. Following consultation with ESCC's Procurement Team, arrangements are to be put in place to enable suitably qualified consultants to provide support to arrange freight forum meetings and support the work of the forum and its sub-groups between those meetings. The consultants will also commence technical work on lorry parking and driver welfare facilities, which will be coordinated with the work being carried out nationally for DfT and National Highways. Specifications will also be drawn up for further technical studies as part of the consultants' commission.

5.3 TfSE is currently participating, along with England's Economic Heartland and Transport East, in a study investigating where there will be a need across the highway network for alternative fuelling stations providing both EV charging and hydrogen – aimed at the road freight sector. The work has been procured by Midlands Connect, who have already had the same work completed in their own area. The first phase of the work, now under way, will provide base data and a spreadsheet model to be used to identify possible broad locations to offer these alternative fuels. The second phase will be to consider how to begin to identify more specific locations for suitable new facilities – which will need to be

undertaken with a range of stakeholders, including the local transport and local planning authorities. This work has clear links with the EV charging strategy, lorry parking/driver facilities and future mobility workstreams. A further update on progress with this work will be provided to the next meeting of the Partnership Board.

6. Financial considerations

6.1 The Bus Back Better and EV charging Infrastructure strategy work are being funded from the additional in year funding awarded to TfSE in January 2022. The future mobility and freight strategy work is being funded from the DfT grant funding for 2022/23.

7. Conclusions and recommendations

7.1 The Partnership Board is recommended to note the progress being made with the support to assist local transport authorities with the implementation of their BSIPs and EPs, with the development of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategy for the TfSE area and the implementation of both the freight logistics and gateways strategy and the future mobility strategy.

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