

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: **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 (SIP) alongside its programme of engagement as we prepare for consultation in summer 2022. Since the Board met in June 2022, we have also commissioned several pieces of work to support the DfT in their additional workstreams.

2. Work of Transport for the South East

Draft 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 has been out for a 12 week consultation, which will be outlined further in Item 6.

2.4 We will begin our consultation response analysis and use this to refine our current SIP, to ensure we reflect the feedback received. This will be presented to the Board in November.

2.5 At present (as of 22nd August), we have received 236 responses to the consultation. 81% of responses are residential, a further 8% are on behalf of a group, organisation or government body, 4% business owner/operator, 3% visitor, 1% MP and 4% other. We

anticipate an increase of responses from government bodies and MPs towards the end of the consultation.

Joint STB work

2.6 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.

2.7 The Chief Officers of the STBs met on 14 July to discuss STB responses to the GBRTT legislative framework consultation, Centres of Excellence and how best to support LTAs and have developed an approach to ensure STBs are able to speak with a single voice on issues such as road pricing, future funding, skills and capacity. As outlined in agenda item 12, 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
- 7 STBs working jointly on decarbonisation.

2.8 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. Works are underway now that suppliers have now been commissioned for all three workstreams. More information can be found in agenda item 12.

Events

2.9 In the last month, we have held four separate consultation events to talk to people first-hand about the draft Strategic Investment Plan, how it was developed, the packages of interventions within it and the potential options for funding this £45 billion investment plan.

2.10 Baroness Vere was our keynote speaker at our 5 July event in Guildford, which was the formal launch for our SIP. All of the presentations from the day were recorded, and access to them can be found on our YouTube.

2.11 Further information on our events can be found in agenda item 8.

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.

2.13 Sarah Valentine has been appointed as our Head of Analysis and Appraisal. Sarah will be building her team to support the development of our analytical framework which will contain the data analysis, modelling and appraisal tools that will support scheme business cases to support LTAs and the implementation of the SIP.

2.14 Our Transport Strategy Manager, Tiff Lynch, will be leaving TfSE at the end of the month onto pastures new. We are grateful for Tiff's work over the last couple of years to support the development of the SIP.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

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

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