

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

Date of meeting: **8 November 2022**

By: **Chair of the Transport Forum**

Title of report: **Transport Forum Update**

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

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***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 November 2022 and was attended by more than 35 members of the Forum. The Forum welcomed three new members which demonstrates the continued interest in engaging with the work of TfSE.

**2. SIP Update and Next Steps**

2.1 The strategic investment plan was presented to the Forum, noting that it has been the result of five years of extensive work, developing an evidence base and utilising stakeholder engagement to inform and shape the document that we are now pleased to present.

2.2 The Forum members were updated on the final results from the 12-week public consultation, that closed on 12 September. They were presented the headline consultation outcomes, noting that of the 641 consultation responses, 422 were completed via the survey platform, 88 were written responses via email or letter, and a further 131 were received via the Transport Action Network (TAN) campaign. It was noted that TfSE were pleased with the response rate and geographical spread of the consultation.

2.3 The forum received the qualitative responses that were addressed during the consultation and that stakeholder comments have been reviewed and appropriate changes have been made as a result.

2.4 It was explained that there had been a new section incorporated to the SIP to offer clarity on what the SIP is and what it is not; signposting to the supporting

documents for further details on packages; revision of monitoring indicators to better reflect the potential role that TfSE would play in monitoring and evaluation of the SIP; and an expansion of 'next steps' section to outline how the SIP itself will be taken forward and periodically refreshed.

2.5 The forum were advised some interventions had been updated to include name changes, timescale, level of development and consequent amendments to mapping that will feature in the desktop published version, and how these interventions are presenting.

2.6 The key emerging themes were presented and the detail on the approach, response and/or rationale behind each request. More information can be found within the presentation on our 8 November Transport Forum [webpage](#).

2.7 The next steps were set out for the progress of the SIP, which will be to present the final draft SIP to the TfSE Board on 14 November, after which constituent authorities will have the opportunity to take it through their governance processes (if required). A desktop published version is to be produced, incorporating the changes to maps and text. Pending approval of the SIP at the March '23 Board, it is intended to submit the SIP to government.

2.8 The Forum was invited to comment on the presentation, where several queries were raised. Regarding local active travel plans, it was noted that these are best placed within the local authorities as they know their residents' requirements and political context. It was noted there will be an element of uplift offered via the centre of excellence regarding active travel and any further upcoming guidance, to ensure that all authorities are best placed to benefit from future funding opportunities or bidding processes.

2.9 TfSE noted that the strategic road network (SRN) and major road network (MRN) allows for effective movement of goods and people. TfSE aim to support this by enabling better public transport, rail and bus, and reducing private car usage via behavioural changes that will be delivered as a result of the SIPs global packages.

2.10 Support was offered by Sustrans on the recognition and emphasis on active travel, with particular emphasis on first and last mile journeys. They further recognised the multi-modal nature of highways, and suggested some further clarity is offered within packages to set out what modes they support.

2.11 The Chairman thanked the membership for their involvement within the consultation and subsequent forums, noting that it is key for Transport for the South East to ensure the understanding of plans across all stakeholders.

2.12 The Forum welcomed the update on the development of the SIP delivery plan and will receive further updates as this work progresses.

### **3. Conclusions and recommendations**

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

3.2 The Forum members welcomed the opportunity to see in some detail, the consultation response on the SIP, and the opportunity to discuss the amendments that have been included in the final draft.

3.3 It is recommended that the Board note and discuss the comments regarding the Forum's feedback on the SIP.

**GEOFF FRENCH**  
**Chair of the Transport Forum**  
**Transport for the South East**

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