

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

Date of meeting: **14 November 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**

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***RECOMMENDATION:***

**The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the activities of Transport for the South East between September-November 2022.**

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**1. Introduction**

1.1 The focus of work for TfSE in recent months has been to support the DfT in their additional workstreams, as well as the ongoing development of the strategic investment plan (SIP).

1.2 Since the Board met in September 2022, we have analysed the consultation responses, and used this to inform our next iteration of the final draft SIP.

**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. The SIP forms the final part of our Transport Strategy.

2.3 The draft SIP is the culmination of a significant and rigorous programme of work and went out for a 12 week public consultation, closing on 12 September 2022.

2.4 A total of 630 consultation responses were received at the time of the consultation deadline from a wide range of stakeholders. A comprehensive review of the consultation can be found in agenda item 6.

2.5 I am proud to present the final draft SIP for consideration by the Board. Since the consultation period ended, we have listened, considered the feedback received and amended the SIP to reflect the views of our stakeholders and residents. The final draft SIP makes a compelling case for investment in the south east over the next 30 years. We invite Board members to take this version of the document through their own governance processes, as appropriate, and will bring the final version of the SIP to the Partnership Board in March 2023 for final sign off prior to submission to Government.

### 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 STBs met with senior officials from the DfT to discuss the impact of inflation on transport schemes, the development of capacity and capability across the sector and the developing role of Centre of Excellence. The STBs were also update on ministerial changes within the department.

2.8 There was a further meeting held on 25 October. The STB Chief Executives met with Great British Rail (GBR) and Department for Transport (DfT) for an update on progress. Discussions were also had on Centre of Excellence, and how this can be used regionally and nationally.

2.9 STBs met on 14 October to discuss development for Centres of Excellence and next steps. Keir Wilkins (DfT) informed officers of the intention for the progression of this workstream, noting that we should continue to hold joint meetings to collectively share knowledge and align ideas and ways of thinking. It was agreed an in person meeting would be held in early December to continue this discussion.

We are working jointly with several STBs across a series of workstreams. These include:

- TfSE, Transport East and England's Economic Heartland joint work on Bus Back Better
- TfSE, Transport East and England's Economic Heartland joint work on producing a decarbonisation toolkit
- 7 STBs working jointly on decarbonisation.

2.10 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.

### Events

2.11 Rupert Clubb was invited by the Businesses Services Association to attend a virtual round table on 13 October to provide an update on the strategic investment plan. Rupert offered an overview on the 24 coherent packages of complementary, multi-modal interventions that aim to deliver on TfSE's aims and objectives. Rupert also addressed TfSE's interest in partnership working to deliver the SIP, discussing how stakeholders can best align with the wider priorities in terms of procurement, skills and social value.

2.12 Rupert Clubb was also invited to join a speaker panel for the Highways UK Conference NEC Birmingham which took place on 2 and 3 November. The event brings

together the people responsible for planning, developing, managing, maintaining and future-proofing the nation's road networks. Rupert spoke on a panel that focused on fostering collaboration to improve local roads.

### TfSE Team

2.13 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.

2.14 As a result of recent recruitment activity, we have been successful in securing four positions.

2.14.1 Tia Shelley has been appointed as our Public Relations and Communications Assistant, a Level 4 apprentice post who will support communications activity across TfSE.

2.14.2 Chloe Field-Carter has been recruited as a Business Administration Apprentice, supporting stakeholder engagement activity.

2.14.3 Katherine Lamb is our new Lead Transport Planner, supporting the delivery of the technical work programme.

2.14.4 Craig Derrick is joining as our new Data and Analytics Officer.

2.14.5 Alan Jones has joined us on a temporary basis, supporting the technical work programme.

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

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

### **RUPERT CLUBB**

**Lead Officer**

**Transport for the South East**

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