

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

Date of meeting: **23 January 2023**

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 November - January 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 development of the strategic investment plan’s (SIP) next steps.

1.2 Since the Board met in November 2022, we have issued the final word document of the SIP to local authorities, for them to take through their democratic processes where required. We have also met with local authorities, to develop the SIP delivery plan.

1.3 We have also started our business planning process for 2023/24. The proposals for our work plan for next year build on the work that we have done to date, moving us into the implementation phase of the SIP. We will continue with our thematic studies and will turn our attention to the development of the regional centre of excellence. Board members will have the opportunity to sign off the final Business Plan in March 2023.

**2. Work of Transport for the South East**

Strategic investment plan

2.1 Our focus for the past two years has been on developing our Strategic Investment Plan, which will be the blueprint for investment over the next 30 years. It has been supported by a considerable and robust evidence base that has come about as a result of our Area Studies and thematic strategies. All works have included extensive stakeholder engagement, to be able to present a strong case to Government.

2.2 The SIP recently went out for public consultation which ran for 12 weeks. In this period, a total of 630 consultation responses were received from a wide range of stakeholders. This feedback has been used to inform and shape the final SIP narrative to reflect the views of the consultees.

2.3 Constituent Authorities that are required to will be taking the final SIP through their democratic processes in advance of the March Board meeting, which will be the final sign off prior to submission to Government.

#### Joint STB work

2.4 Across the STB organisations, collaborative working is becoming more frequent as a result of the additional workstreams that DfT asked all to consider. 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.

2.5 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 2022. All projects are now producing outputs, and bus back better has been extended by one month to ensure support packages are delivered in an effective way and alleviating capacity pressures on LTAs.

2.6 Looking forward, DfT have tasked STBs to develop their plans to aid local authorities' capacity and capability via Centres of Excellence. All STBs met on 12 December to set out their proposal for a Regional Centre of Excellence, while also considering the possibility of a national Centre of Excellence, where STBs who are excelling in certain areas could provide expert advice and solutions.

2.7 The seven STB Chief Officers met with DfT on 25 November to discuss emerging priorities following ministerial changes, business planning and centres of excellence development. This is reflected in recent business planning guidance issued to the STBs which will come forward to the March board meeting.

#### Events

2.8 The team has spoken at a range of events and seminars, including addressing senior managers at Arup on the development of TfSE and the SIP.

#### TfSE Team

2.9 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 several posts have already been successfully filled.

2.10 As a result of further recent recruitment activity, we have been successful in securing three new positions:

- 2.10.1 Mat Jasper as Scheme and Development Manager, who joined the team in December 2022 and will be supporting Sarah Valentine in the delivery of the strategic investment plan.
- 2.10.2 Emily Bailey has recently been appointed as a Centre of Excellence project manager, to undertake the development and delivery of capability and capacity uplift to LTAs, and support this DfT priority.
- 2.10.3 We have successfully recruited a Transport Strategy Manager, who will be joining TfSE on 22 February 2023.

2.11 Hollie Farley, our Communications and Media Manager, leaves TfSE at the end of February. Hollie has been an invaluable member of the team, and we wish to thank her for her work.

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

3.1 The Partnership Board is recommended to note the activities undertaken by TfSE between November – January.

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