

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

Date of meeting: **03 July 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**

RECOMMENDATION:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the activities of Transport for the South East between April - June 2023.

1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of work for TfSE in recent months has been undertaking procurement exercises to move forward with the technical work programme.

2. Partnership Board updates

2.1 The local elections in May 2023 and subsequent appointments to constituent authorities’ administrations mean there are 6 new board representatives (outlined below):

- **Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson**, Leader, Portsmouth City Council (*replacing Cllr Lynne Stagg*)
- **Cllr Trevor Muten**, Chair, Transport & Sustainability Committee, Brighton & Hove City Council (*replacing Cllr Elaine Hills*)
- **Cllr Vince Maple**, Leader, Medway Council (*replacing Cllr Alan Jarrett*)
- **TBC**, District and Borough Authority representative (*replacing Cllr Colin Kemp*)
- **TBC**, District and Borough Authority representative (*replacing Cllr David Monk*)
- **TBC**, BLTB representative (*replacing Cllr Tony Page*)

3. National policy

3.1 Due to the pre-election period, there was a pause in the release of information from the Department of Transport and other agencies. However, now the elections have taken place, National Highways have released their RIS 3 consultation documents and the DfT will shortly be releasing their local transport plan guidance (TfSE will be supporting the DfT with local authority workshops).

4. Work of Transport for the South East

4.1 As outlined above, work is underway to procure consultants to take forward some of the technical workstreams. In addition, the creation of the delivery action plan is nearing completion and work is therefore about to start on the scheme development aspect of SIP implementation.

4.2 Work is also underway to identify the technical data TfSE holds and what future requirements might be needed. This work is taking place alongside a refresh of the public datasets held on TfSE's ProjectView mapping tool.

Joint STB Work

4.3 Three Sub-National Transport Bodies gave evidence in March to the Transport Select Committee on strategic road investment alongside Richard Holden MP and 2 DfT directors.

4.4 The DfT also hosted a roundtable for Sub-National Transport Bodies in May.

4.5 The wider south east STBs have also been meeting to discuss the possibility of a rail partnership. More information can be found in agenda item 12.

4.6 As previously identified, all the STBs are also collaborating on a variety of different projects, those involving TfSE are outlined below:

- 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
- TfSE, Transport East and England's Economic Heartland joint work on alternative fuelling station locations for road freight vehicles
- 7 STBs working jointly on decarbonisation

4.7 All projects are proceeding well and more information can be found in the technical programme update report - Agenda Item 14.

Events

4.8 The joint STB conference took place on the 06 June 2023. It was a well-attended event and I chaired a panel session on 'delivering in a constrained world'.

4.9 Preparations have also begun on a TfSE autumn event which will have a focus on delivery of the SIP.

4.10 The DfT have also confirmed Richard Holden, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Roads and Local Transport), would like to visit the TfSE area and hear about some of the strategic transport issues. Conversations are ongoing as to when this takes place and where.

TfSE Team

4.11 Further to the update given at the March 2023 Partnership Board meeting, Duncan Barkes will be joining TfSE from 10 July 2023 as the new Communications and Public Affairs Manager.

4.12 Rachel Ford, TfSE Programme Manager has accepted a new position (Head of Strategy, Policy and Research) at Transport for the North. Rachel has worked at TfSE for over 6 years, having originally been seconded to TfSE's initial mobilisation team from Surrey County Council. Rachel will be leaving at the end of August and we wish her well in her new role.

4.13 In addition, our Business Administration Apprentice, Chloe Field-Carter left TfSE on 16 June to take up the opportunity of a different apprenticeship.

4.14 We are also now recruiting for three vacant positions; Transport Strategy Manager, Analysis Manager and a Project Manager focussing on scheme development. Interviews for all posts will be taking place later in July.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

5.1 The Partnership Board is recommended to note the activities undertaken by TfSE between April - June 2023.

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