

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

Date of meeting: **3 July 2023**

By: **Lead Officer, Transport for the South East**

Title of report: **Communications and Stakeholder Engagement update**

Purpose of report: **To update the board on communications and stakeholder engagement activity**

RECOMMENDATION:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the engagement and communication activity that has been undertaken since the last board meeting.

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper provides an update on communications and engagement activity undertaken since the last board meeting, including support provided to technical projects, the induction of new political representatives and recent and upcoming events.

2. Recent communications and engagement activity

2.1 The finalised SIP document was formally submitted to Government following the March 2023 Board meeting. Due to the pre-election period, most of the associated communication campaign was delivered within a few days of submission. This included direct communication with each of the region's MPs, a press release and social media coverage. We also published a full suite of [area factsheets](#), showing which interventions affect which geographic area.

2.2 To maintain compliance with GDPR requirements, we undertook a refresh of our stakeholder management system. This involved contacting almost 3,500 individuals and making resulting updates to our system.

2.3 We continue to deliver against the objectives set in the 2023/24 communications and engagement plan, with activity supported by web content and social media coverage.

3. Ongoing stakeholder engagement

3.1 Engagement work is ongoing in relation to our additional work streams, with stakeholder meetings held for the bus back better, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, future mobility and freight and logistics projects. We are working with the

lead consultants for each project to develop and support further engagement opportunities as the projects progress.

3.2 Working with the town and parish council representatives, we now have contacts for all town and parish clerks for East and West Sussex local councils.

3.3 A virtual meeting of the Universities group was held on 27th April 2023. Six students from three universities joined this session and spoke about their perceptions and experiences of the transport network in the South East. We heard from some international students who offered interesting comparisons between their home transport networks and those within England. We were also updated on a recent commuter student survey that has been undertaken by Canterbury University.

3.4 The private sector stakeholder group met on 2nd May 2023 at the Atkins Global offices in London. The group heard a presentation from Transport East and explored topics of shared interest. They discussed what any change of political leadership may mean for transport policy. The group meet again in London on 13th July and the DfT are due to attend.

3.5 We have been supporting the development of the summary version of the SIP, ensuring that it provides a clear, concise and easy to read overview of the main SIP document. We have also supported the creation of the desk top published (DTP) version of the EV strategy and have created a press release to support its launch.

3.6 Work is ongoing 'behind the scenes' to ensure that the TfSE website is fully compliant with accessibility requirements. We hope to re-launch the refreshed website in the summer.

3.7 We have been working closely with the consultant team on the creation of the policy position statements, which set out how we will deliver global policy interventions. These will be used primarily as communication documents and will be reported to the Board in Autumn 2023.

3.8 Briefing notes were prepared and shared with those authorities who have new political representatives with responsibility for TfSE work. Face to face or virtual briefings were also offered to new representatives. There were 19 (out of 46) changes of control within our district and borough councils, resulting in 3 (of 5) new district and borough representatives on the Transport Forum. There were 7 (out of 16) changes of control, and 4 'stand downs' within our constituency authorities, resulting in 4 (of 11) board member changes. A further verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

4. Upcoming events and speaker slots

4.1 Previous events/speaker slots

- 18th/19th April 2023 – Interchange Conference (over 1,000 attendees over 2 days)
- 22nd April 2023 – Railfuture annual London & South East regional branch open meeting
- 24th May 2023 – Mark Valleley spoke at the Rail Freight Group Spring meeting
- 25th May 2023 – Mark Valleley spoke at the Logistics UK South East Freight Council meeting
- 5th June 2023 – Joint STB conference at the Vox. Rupert Clubb, Mark Valleley and Sarah Valentine all spoke at this event which was very well attended
- 21st/22nd June 2023 – MOVE Mobility Reimagined conference in London
- 29th June 2023 – Lucy Dixon-Thompson and Mat Jasper spoke at the Sussex Visitor Economy conference

4.2 We have a continually evolving forward plan for events and speaker slots that provide beneficial engagement for TfSE – so far confirmed are:

Future events/speaker slots

- 19th September 2023 – Connecting the South East 2023; TfSE's annual conference, this year being held at the Amex Stadium, Brighton
- 10th October 2023 – Stakeholder Management conference; Lucy Dixon-Thompson speaking
- 18th & 19th October 2023 Highways UK; Rupert speaking on the Funding models for local roads panel

5. Conclusion and recommendations

5.1 In conclusion, we will continue to keep our communications and engagement activities under review following the priorities and objectives outlined in the communication and engagement plan.

5.2 The Partnership Board are recommended to note and agree the engagement and communication activity that has been undertaken since the last Partnership Board meeting.

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