

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

Date of meeting: **03 July 2023**

By: **Chair of the Transport Forum**

Title of report: **Transport Forum Update**

Purpose of report: **To summarise the Transport Forum meeting of 06 June 2023 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;**
  - (2) Note and consider the comments from the Forum; and**
  - (3) Note that feedback from the Transport Forum will be given to the Audit and Governance Committee for consideration as part of their review.**
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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 06 June 2023 and was attended by 19 members of the Forum.

1.3 To encourage participation, a short, interactive activity was held at the start of the meeting.

**2. Transport strategy refresh**

2.1 Mark Valleley outlined the work that has begun since the last Forum meeting. Mark explained why the Transport Strategy should be refreshed, the development of a potential engagement approach, how the Transport Forum can support the approach to the review and next steps.

2.2 Forum members discussed the presentation and made the following comments:

- A greater focus on active travel and decarbonisation measures was requested.
- Too much reliance has been given so far on global measures out of TfSE’s control.
- Baselines need to be reviewed.
- The Welsh Government are leading the way with a presumption against road building.

- Would be good to look at engaging holistically rather than modally.
- Businesses have a continuing need for better orbital routes.
- Look for quick gains that can have a significant effect at reducing carbon emissions.
- A place-based perspective and not modally.
- Feel there is an echo chamber in the Transport Forum, important to understand what the general public think.
- Country is in a worse financial position than when TfSE started the journey. Important to be honest about availability of public resources in the near term.
- Consultation needs to be improved, was a very long list of questions last time, which is helpful for detailed views from some stakeholders, but for the wider public, it needs to be more accessible.

### **3. Transport Forum review**

3.1 Emily Bailey facilitated this agenda item to encourage all members present to share their thoughts. Lucy Dixon-Thompson outlined the reasons a review is being undertaken, the current membership, attendance and the other thematic stakeholder groups that now exist as part of TfSE's engagement in its work programme.

3.2 The Forum members present were asked four statements to agree/disagree (by holding a red or green item at their computer camera). Attendees were encouraged to share their thoughts on the statements.

3.3 Jasmin Barnicoat then outlined three possible options and Emily encouraged the Forum to discuss the options and share their thoughts. Jasmin then outlined the next steps for this review.

3.4 All feedback from those present has been collated into a summary document which will be shared with the Audit and Governance Committee to inform their review. This information will be contained in the Committee's final report that will be presented to the Partnership Board in October 2023.

### **4. Technical programme update**

4.1 Mark Valleley gave a brief update on all strands of the current technical work programme including the electric vehicle charging strategy, the regional active travel strategy, decarbonisation, future mobility, bus back better and freight.

4.2 The Forum requested a copy of the regional active travel proposal and Mark confirmed a copy of the brief that was issued will be circulated with the minutes.

### **5. Summary of forum comments for the Board**

5.1 Comments on the Transport Strategy refresh can be found at paragraph 2.2 in this document. They have been noted for the development of that work.

5.2 As mentioned in paragraph 3.4, all feedback from those present has been collated into a summary document which will be shared with the Audit and Governance Committee to inform their review of the Transport Forum.

## **6. Conclusions and recommendations**

6.1 It is recommended that the Board note the meeting and comments of the Transport Forum.

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

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