

TfSE Transport Forum
06 June 2023
(draft) Minutes
1:30-4:30pm

Item
1. Welcome and Apologies
1.1 Geoff French (GF) (chair) welcomed the Transport Forum. This meeting was held virtually and Geoff explained how it would be managed.
2. Minutes from Previous Meeting
2.1 The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.
3. Workshop warmup
<p>3.1 Katie Lamb (KL) introduced an interactive session, providing an overview of activity involving participation in breakout rooms, each facilitated by a member of TfSE; an example of the activity was provided.</p> <p>3.2 Opportunity for everyone to consider and approach potential transport challenges from a variety of viewpoints, as well as understand complexity – and potentially competing – needs of various stakeholders affected, the aim being to appreciate how different people make decisions based on the same information (facilitated groups, Challenge Master / Persona roles allocated).</p> <p>3.3 Feedback by each group on particularly interesting and/or innovative responses to the scenarios included in the activity.</p>
4. Transport Strategy Refresh
<p>4.1 Mark Valleley (MV), outlined the work that has begun since the last Forum meeting. MV 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.</p> <p>4.2 Opportunity for questions/comments, a number agreed the need for review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Becky Reynolds (BR): support working groups, request focus on active travel and decarbonisation (regional examples), a reliance so far has been on global measures out of TfSE's control, Welsh Government are leading the way with a presumption against road building and suggestion review baseline. - Philip Smart (PS): referring change from 'mode' approach, different considerations made for people / goods or freight considering short- or long-distance solutions; suggestion with examples where stakeholder groups organised modally. - Clive Soper (CS): need for realistic approach: suburban vs rural solutions, businesses – continuing need for better orbital route. Proposed quick gains for significant reduction of carbon emissions. Need to revisit some of the objectives.

- Roger Blake (RB): move to place-based (picking up on area studies rationale, economic connectivity review focusing on corridors); TF operating significant length of time, potential explore general public's view and current priorities; public funding considerations.
- Brenda Pollack (BP): referring to consultation when TF initially set up (approx. 30 questions), suggesting smaller, simpler list of questions/background for reference in any public consultation going forward; potential for targeted approach, cross section of public.

(Presentation to be circulated with Minutes of this meeting.)

5. Transport Forum Review

5.1 Introduction by Emily Bailey (EB), Lucy Dixon-Thompson (LDT) provided opening remarks summarising the need to review the Transport Forum, seeking to improve engagement and effectiveness in a more streamlined approach.

5.2 The meeting was reminded of the commitment to review the TF once the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) had been published, the Partnership Board agreeing that a new Audit and Governance Committee (AGC) would lead a review. The AGC has asked that the TF be consulted on 3 possible (not finite) options going forward.

5.3 Background, current structure, membership and attendance summarised, highlighting membership for some originally in the TF, also / instead attending other TfSE groups (full list and brief description of other groups provided).

5.4 Sharing of feedback and suggestions received in recent months from TF members, followed by a number of individual on-screen statements shared by EB; TF members were asked to respond visually with their agreement/disagreement.

5.5 All comments have been collated into a summary document to be circulated alongside these minutes.

5.6 JB outlined three possible options and EB encouraged the Forum to discuss the options and share their thoughts around the Transport Forum meetings.

5.7 JB outlined the next steps for this review. The feedback and options will be reviewed and a proposal will be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee (following confirmation of membership at the Partnership Board meeting on 3rd July); next TF meeting will be on 4th September when an update will be provided on AGC's recommendation, with views for subsequent presentation of a preferred option to the PB meeting on 30th October.

(Presentation, summary document and terms of reference to be circulated with Minutes of this meeting.)

6. Technical Programme Updates

6.1 MV gave updates on the technical work programme as follows:

6.2 *Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy*, signed off by the Board in March, recent publicity campaign around launch of strategy, raising its awareness; moving into implementation of the action plan, further work to be done on possible impact of electrification of vehicle fleets on publicly-available charging networks.

6.3 *Regional Active Travel Strategy*, successful appointment of consultant City Science following receipt of 5 good-quality bids, inception meeting to be set up; stakeholder engagement being a key element in the formulation of a steering group going forward.

6.4 *Decarbonisation*, development with other STBs of a tool to assist local authorities in the completion of the Quantifiable Carbon Assessment (QCA) that will form part of the new Local Transport Plan (LTP) guidance (publication hoped for by mid-July).

6.5 *Future mobility*, reinvigorating the Future Mobility Forum, a number of meetings already having taken place; briefs are currently being developing for technical work, looking at shared learning hub, work on a potential future propulsion strategy and looking more generally at the impact of emerging technologies on the transport system in the south east. A mode propensity tool to support the development of a future mobility strategy, identifying which types of interventions might be more targeted and have better uptake in the south east.

6.6 *Bus Back Better*, successful work programme identifying support for the delivery of Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs), deliverables to include webinars, technical notes and availability of emerging information; the plan for this to go into a Bus Centre of Excellence created by DfT and to be run by Chartered Institute of Highways and Transport (CIHT).

6.7 *Freight and Logistics Strategy*, currently out to tender, this work is to reinvigorate the Freight Strategy Forum; also preparing the briefs for further technical work looking at short-sea shipping as a modal shift in both TfSE and Transport East (TE) geographies (viability of setting up 'courier'-type service for the transference of goods by water, rather than road, to reduce carbon emissions).

6.8 Under consideration is a study by TfSE, TE and England's Economic Heartland (EEH) of the potential increase in warehousing provision.

6.9 A multi-year work programme to address freight sector blindness at local authority officer level (requirements of freight) - potential for better partnerships with the freight sector.

6.10 Joint work by 6 STBs, alternative fuels for freight, identifying where refuelling sites would be located.

6.11 In response to a request from BR for more information on the timeline for Regional Active Travel, MV highlighted that an inception meeting is due to take place with the successful firm (the programme of work is moving forward; more information will be available by 3rd July Partnership Board meeting).

6.12 **ACTION** - MS requested copy of Active Travel proposal, MV confirming will circulate copy of brief issued.

6.13 Jerry Ward (JW) informed meeting of sale of land in Aylesford, Kent for creation of CNG public gas re-fuelling plant in next one or two years; additional information to be provided to MV.

7. Summary of Forum Comments for the Partnership Board

7.1 The comments received during the Transport Strategy refresh discussion have been noted for the development of that work. All comments raised during the Transport Forum review item have also been collated into the attached summary document, and will be given to the Audit and Governance Committee to inform their thinking on the next steps for the review of the Forum.

8. AOB

8.1 MS noted the intended update to this forum on the SIP delivery plan and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (Sarah Valentine to respond separately).

9. Next meeting

9.1 Tuesday 04 September 2023 – 13:30-16:30

DRAFT

Attendees		
Name	Organisation	Sector representation
Becky Reynolds	Cycling UK's Cycle Advocacy Network (CAN)	
Brenda Pollack	Friends of the Earth	
Stephen Caulston	Buses in Fleet	
Cllr Sarah Barker	TfSE Town and Parish Councils Group	
Clive Soper	South East LEP	
Ed Wills	Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus	
Karen Tiley	Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT)	
Roger Blake	Railfuture	Rail user groups
Roddy Crockett	Sustrans	Active travel
Kathryn Ellison	Network Rail	Government & agencies
Catherine Folca	Transport Focus	Transport users
Cllr Robert Franklin	TfSE Town and Parish Councils Group	Town and Parish Councils
Geoff French	Chair	N/A
Hannah Godfrey	Gatwick Airport	Airports
Richard Higgins	Gatwick Airport	Airports
Philip Smart	Rail Freight Group	Rail freight operators
Malcolm Smith	South Downs Network	Protected landscapes
Jerry Ward	John Lewis Partnership	Road freight operators
Paula Haustead	Network Rail	
Sue Simmonite	Port Of Southampton	
Rupert Clubb		
Emily Bailey		
Jasmin Barnicoat		
Craig Derrick		
Lucy Dixon-Thompson		
Chloe Field-Carter		
Rachel Ford		
Katie Lamb		
Elan Morgan		
Tia Shelley		
Sarah Valentine		
Mark Valleley		