

**TfSE Transport Forum
8 March 2022
Minutes
1-3pm**

Item
<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Geoff French (GF) (chair) welcomed the Transport Forum. This meeting was held virtually, and Geoff explained how it would be managed.</p> <p>GF welcomed two new members, Cllr Jenkins and Susannah Watson to the Transport Forum which demonstrates the continued interest in engaging with the work of TfSE.</p>
<p>2. Minutes from Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.</p>
<p>3. Area Studies Update</p> <p>Sarah Valentine (SV) gave a brief update on the area studies progress as most attendees have been present at recent meetings. The Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) is well underway and the area studies that have been developed are very much looking to bridge the gap between the strategy and the investment plan. It also identifies what interventions are needed where and when they need to happen so that we can reach our vision.</p> <p>The area studies also sit alongside the freight, logistics and international gateway strategy which has recently been published and the future mobility strategy. There are 5 studies that look at different movement types across our geography: two orbital and three radial. The process we have used to do this is aligned with the Department for Transport (DfT) assessment framework as we want to bring schemes forward in the future and therefore sets them up in good stead.</p> <p>These are evidence-led studies, where we spent a considerable amount of time understanding the current and future context for each area and setting very clear objectives for these studies. They are now in their final stages of completion, but these will feed directly into the SIP. These will be presented as four strategic programme outline cases.</p> <p>There will be an overarching strategic narrative for the entire TfSE region, to make the case for investment in the southeast alongside a delivery plan which will detail the different policy interventions. We will produce several thematic chapters for the SIP which are aimed at addressing key government priorities. Funding streams are very modally specific, which is why they will look toward a rail program, active travel, buses etc.</p>
<p>4. Development of the SIP narrative</p> <p>Steven Bishop (SB) – Director at Steer gave a presentation on the SIP Narrative development.</p> <p>SB explained that the role of the SIP will be a blueprint for investment in the Transport for the South East’s (TfSE) region. It has been underpinned by the technical works that have emerged from the area studies and thematic strategies from TfSE. The SIP will also consider funding and financing options for the investment plan.</p>

SB further explained that the SIP will be the golden thread between national and local authorities for the region, to ensure we are speaking with one voice to strengthen our case for levelling up the Southeast.

There has been a wealth of evidence put forth for this document, that explores our area's strengths, transport strengths and also, our challenges. The SIP will demonstrate the need for intervention, as trajectories on a 'business as usual' will not be an option.

We are developing our SIP which we will be taken to our board in June for approval. We will subsequently be holding a public consultation from June-September to allow people to take it through their democratic processes where necessary. Following the consultation, we will use the time between September and March to incorporate feedback into our final SIP which will then be produced to government.

Rupert Clubb (RC) turned to the forum to ask partners to become involved during the consultation process, with a key focus on the regional benefits that the packages of interventions will provide. RC recognises the importance of working with local transport authorities (LTAs) to be able to improve deprived areas and accentuate the idea that we are the golden thread between national and local policy. The forum discussed that there will be a recognition of the importance of sight to national policy and delivering local transport benefits such as active travel and Bus Back Better as it has the potential to be transformational for local people. They also discussed the effects that levelling up will have for the region in the long term.

The Forum are asked to contact the TfSE secretariat if there are any other suggestions they would like to include on the plan. GF re-iterated that it is for members of the Forum to help shape the narrative.

5. Additional DfT workstreams

Rachel Ford (RF) provided an update on the work of the Sub-national Transport Bodies (STB) that was requested by the Department for Transport (DfT). RF listed the four additional workstreams for the forum; decarbonisation, local capacity and capability, bus back better and EV Infrastructure strategy. The emphasis behind these work streams was heavily focused on levelling up the STB's regions.

TfSE requested an allocation of funding for £500,000 from DfT and we are pleased to announce that we have been given £600,000 which highlights the quality of these bids.

Local Authority Capability Programme

Local Authority Capability Programme will be led by TfSE and was awarded £300,000. The intention is that this workstream will be used to support our LTAs in the delivery of their Local Transport Plans.

EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy

TfSE's EV Infrastructure Strategy submission was awarded £100,000 by the DfT. We understand that a lot of work has already been undertaken by our LTAs in this area and we will be working with LTAs to ensure we have a consistent regional strategy to implement and support them. We will be procuring to produce a strategy and associated action plan. Procurement for this is aiming to commence in April.

Bus Back Better

TfSE have worked in partnership with England's Economic Heartlands (EEH) and Transport East (TE) for a submission to DfT on Bus Back Better. We were jointly awarded £100,000 per STB. The approach for this will be to identify types of support LTAs need to help them implement their BSIPs. Following this, we will jointly put in place the corresponding support to allow LTAs to draw down on the support that they require.

RC iterates that we must complete this workstream in alignment with the DfT's centre of excellence. While we will be approaching our LTAs to request for support, part of this work will also be shaped by the outcomes of the DfT's conversations with local authorities.

Decarbonisation

There were two joint STB bids for this work stream for which TfSE was a partner in both. The first was a bid for all 7 STBs led by Midlands Connect (MC) which was awarded £10,000 per STB respectively. This joint piece of work will help LTAs to develop decarbonisation pathways and narratives in a consistent way to support the DfT's investment decisions.

There is an additional decarbonisation strand that was awarded £300k for the joint STB works (TE and EEH) which EEH will lead on. It will deliver a programme that will facilitate the authorities to plan for activities and interventions of type and scale that will be required within their area to deliver net zero targets. This will work alongside TfSE's current decarbonisation work.

RF provides further comment that all of these workstreams need to be fulfilled by end of March 2023 and will update the forum at future appointments.

6. Updates

Lucy Dixon Thompson (LDT) provided updates on the Freight Strategy, Decarbonisation, Future mobility, and consultation reports.

Freight Strategy

In December 2020, TfSE awarded a contract to WSP who worked in partnership with Steer and Future City Logistics to develop the freight, logistics and gateway strategy. The strategy was agreed and finalised by the board in January 2021. The strategy has seven specific objectives and fourteen themes associated with those. A series of actioned have thus been identified and these are presented in a detailed delivery plan as part of the strategy, which is due to be published on our website later this month and launched formally at the ITT Hub in May. We are hoping to be able to formalise the freight forum with the ambition to have an overview of progress, and to hold TfSE and other delivery partners to account on the deliverables set out within the action plan.

Decarbonisation

Following the government's decarbonisation plan last summer, we set up a Decarbonisation Forum last summer and have subsequently held 5 meetings. Steer have been commissioned to undertake technical works around decarbonisation specifically for our region. It will identify three areas:

- 1) A carbon budget for the TfSE area
- 2) Pathways to achieve zero emissions for surface transport in each of our constituent authority areas and,
- 3) Finally, an assessment of the effectiveness of existing future policies that would need to be pursued for those identified pathways.

This is nearing completion and will be taken to our partnership board in June 2022.

Future mobility action plan

In June of last year, our board agreed our Future mobility strategy and its associated action plan. A further package of work has been agreed with WSP and our consultant team to deliver a number of these actions and it is hoped this will be completed by June 2022, dependent on our CSR funding which is yet to be confirmed.

Consultation responses

We are responding to three consultations since our last forum meeting, and they are as follows:

The first is the National Infrastructure Commission report (NIC). This is an evaluation on the UK's infrastructure needs up until 2050 and beyond. This is the second of the NIC reports that TfSE will have responded to and will be published in 2023. The call for evidence response deadline was in February 2022.

Surrey published their 2050 framework in 2019 to deliver long-term ambition and support good growth across the county of Surrey. As a result of unexpected impacts (COVID, COP26) some of the interventions that were originally included in the 2019 publication have changed and therefore required a consultation on the amendments.

Lastly, there is the National Highways A27 Arundel Bypass statutory consultation.

Consultation responses will be presented to our Partnership Board on 21 March for approval and will subsequently be published on our website.

7. Review 2022 Transport Forum work plan

The Forum reviewed the proposed 2022 Transport Forum work plan and suggested items for inclusion are:

- Active Travel & Active Travel England to present (Chris Boardman)
- Sustrans to present on why active travel is important for both local journeys and as part of a bigger journey.
- Connection between transport and land use planning.
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The Forum are asked to contact the TfSE secretariat if there are any other suggestions they would like to include on the plan. GF re-iterated that it is for members of the Forum to help shape the agenda and to hear about subjects / issues of interest to them.

8. Forum comments for the Partnership Board

The Partnership Board will be informed of the feedback from the forum on the development of the SIP narrative will be shared with the Board.

The Board will be updated on the forum work plan for 2022 and the additional agenda items as requested by forum members.

9. AOB

It was confirmed that all slides from the meeting will be circulated with the minutes.

GF confirmed the next Transport Forum meeting is scheduled for **10th May 2022**.