

Subject:	Transport for The South East – Consultation Response on Draft Transport Strategy		
Date of Meeting:	21st January 2020		
Report of:	Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Prior	Tel: 01273 292095
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The City Council holds membership on the Board of Transport for The South East (TfSE), an emerging Sub National Transport Body (STB), that has operated since July 2017 in 'shadow' status pending submission and agreement of a draft statutory order by the Secretary of State for Transport. One of the key requirements set out in the specific legislation defining the purpose of STB's is the creation of a regional Transport Strategy that will underpin the aims and ambitions for supporting transport policy across the wider region as well as its constituent Local Transport Authorities and partners. Government will in turn need to take due regard to this Transport Strategy when setting out its own policies and key funding decisions, including specific dedicated funding for TfSE and the City Council.
- 1.2 The Draft Transport Strategy was launched on the 10th October 2019 for a 12 week Consultation that ended on 10th January and included a number of events, included one hosted by the City Council in November. This Report seeks the retrospective approval of the City Council's formal response, set out by officers with the direction and consent of the lead members, to the Consultation as required by all Constituent Local Authorities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee note the progress being made on supporting delivery of Transport for The South East's Draft Transport Strategy
- 2.2 That the Committee formally agree the Consultation response set out in Appendix 1.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Sub-National Transport Bodies (STB's) are designated within Part 5A of The Local Transport Act 2008 as amended by The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 with twin purposes to facilitate the development of transport strategies and so promote economic growth for the area. The legislation requires

a new STB to be promoted by, and have the consent of all its constituent authorities, that is those with relevant responsibilities for Transport and Highway functions.

- 3.2 The focus for TfSE's Transport Strategy has moved away from traditional transport planning approaches to seek a preferred future based on planning for people and places rather than vehicles that will deliver its vision of becoming a leading global region for net-zero carbon, sustainable growth and enhanced environmental quality.
- 3.3 The Transport Strategy has used credible analysis including scenario planning and modelling to understand how and where the transport network will see future strain. However, instead of simply expanding the network or building more roads where strain will be most acute, the Transport Strategy sets out how congestion could be alleviated by investing in attractive public transport alternatives and developing integrated land use planning policies to reduce the need to travel, adopting emerging transport technologies, and implementing significant demand management policies to help support sustainable options that drive improvements in air quality and carbon reduction.
- 3.4 The Draft Transport Strategy is the culmination of extensive work with the support of TfSE's 16 Constituent Local Transport Authorities, 5 Local Enterprise Partnerships, 46 district and borough authorities and wider key stakeholders. The Strategy was launched on 10th October at an event at Farnborough attended by the Transport Minister George Freeman MP and closed on 10th January, as well as direct approaches to a wide range of stakeholders and individuals the consultation included a number of other events including a Parliamentary reception and other regional events including a well- attended event hosted by the ETS Chair at Jurys Inn, Brighton Station.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 This report is seeking retrospective approval of the officer submission on the draft Transport Strategy, based on comments and interpretation of members views. This approach has been necessary due to the consultation period and subsequent closure not being compatible with ETS Committee timings.
- 4.2 An alternative to responding in advance of the consultation closure would be not to submit a response on behalf of the City Council, however failure of a Constituent Local Authority to respond to the consultation could jeopardise the TfSE body attaining statutory status.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Draft Transport Strategy was launched on 10th October 2019 for a 12 week consultation period and ended on 10th January 2020 that included a large stakeholder event at Farnborough attended by the Transport Minister George Freeman MP and a wide range of stakeholders. A number of regional events showcasing the draft Transport Strategy also took place across the South East, including one hosted by the Chair of the ETS Committee in Brighton. These events attracted over 600 stakeholders and members of the public. A

Parliamentary reception attended by MP's across the South East region was held to promote the draft Transport Strategy.

- 5.2 The Consultation was extensively promoted across the TfSE region and beyond its boundaries to adjacent emerging Sub National Transport Bodies. Other than direct mailing and promoting to a wide range of stakeholders and public, TfSE has also used social media and support from its own Constituent Authorities Communication Teams.
- 5.3 Consultation within Brighton & Hove has included direct engagement with Councillors, stakeholders and staff to regional events and discussion at its Transport Partnership.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 It is a requirement for Transport for The South East to prepare and consult on its proposed Transport Strategy and to submit this to the Secretary of State for Transport together with a Draft Proposal seeking powers to become a Statutory Body.
- 6.2 As a Constituent Authority, the City Council needs to formally respond to the Transport Strategy Consultation, this report seeks members approval to the response prepared on their behalf to meet the deadline before this Committee meeting.
- 6.3 A further Report will be required for Policy & Resources Committee and Full Council before submission of the Draft Statutory Order seeking formal body status.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 TfSE has established an annual subscription of £58,000 per county and £30,000 per unitary authority. The council's annual contribution of £30,000 is funded from existing revenue resources within the City Transport service. The DfT has provided the TfSE with grant funding of £1,500,000 towards the costs of the development of the Transport Strategy. It is anticipated that TfSE will enable its members to gain access to external funding opportunities. There is a reasonable expectation that the DfT will allocate further funding to TfSE once it has achieved statutory status, on the basis that consistent authorities will continue to make contributions.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford

Date: 02/01/20

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The legislation requires a new sub-national transport body to be promoted by, and have the consent of its constituent authorities and therefore it is important for each constituent authority to indicate its formal response to the proposed Transport Strategy.

- 7.3 The decision making route for the Council in terms of a decision to seek formal status for a sub-national transport body for the South East will be for a report to be taken first to Policy & Resources Committee for consideration and recommendation on to full Council for decision.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 08019

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared during the compilation of the Draft Transport Strategy, however there are no direct Equalities Implications for Committee Members to consider arising from responding to the Questionnaire.

Sustainability Implications:

An Integrated Sustainability Appraisal has assessed the potential impacts the Transport Strategy could have on a range of sustainable development indicators, including impacts on the environment, health, equality of access to opportunities and community safety.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Transport for The South East – Draft Transport Strategy: Consultation Questionnaire

Background Documents

1. Transport Strategy for The South East – Consultation Draft, October 2019