

Enterprise M3 LEP Board

25 May 2017

**Sub National Transport Body – Transport for the South East Item 13
For Discussion**

Board members are asked to:

Agree to the LEP Representation on the Transport for the South East Shadow Partnership Board as set out paragraph 2.4 below.

1 Background

- 1.1 Board Members considered the LEP involvement in a possible sub-national transport body (SNTB) for the South-East of England at their meeting on 26th November 2016.
- 1.2 The Government's intention for SNTBs, is that they provide a coordinated view of needs for their area and support more effective economic development, working at a strategic level and embracing a wide geography. It is expected that as a minimum a SNTB will produce a strategic transport plan, but can also provide advice to Government, to coordinate transport activities in the SNTB area and potentially to take on transport responsibilities operated by other authorities in the area.
- 1.3 Whilst LEPs have no direct statutory role in this, Government has indicated that it is important that there is engagement with sub-regional partnerships in shaping strategic transport but SNTBs can devise their own constitutional arrangements without Government prescription.
- 1.4 Progress in our Area to date has been driven by local authorities, but with close involvement of the LEPs and this has led to a proposal to establishment an SNTB for the South East; Transport for the South East (TfSE). This involves 16 councils and five LEPs from across the South –East. It is envisaged that Transport for the South East would set spending priorities to improve the transport network to benefit all travellers and businesses and help to ensure that the South East economy remains a powerful driver of national prosperity.
- 1.5 Transport for the South East will provide a single voice for the area's strategic transport needs, planning investment where it will have the greatest benefit: TfSE should be able to directly influence the decisions of national and regional infrastructure providers and operators including Network Rail, Highways England, ports and airports.

2 Transport for the South East Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the area covered by Transport for the South East covers Berkshire, Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Medway, Portsmouth, Southampton, Surrey and West Sussex. All the transport authorities in these areas will be partners in the new body, along with the South East's five Local Enterprise Partnerships; Coast to Capital, Enterprise M3, Solent, South East and Thames Valley Berkshire.
- 2.2 It has been fully recognised as essential that business has a strong voice in the partnership. Also represented in TfSE would be the Department for Transport, Network Rail, Highways England, transport operators, transport users and districts and boroughs.

- 2.3 It is anticipated that it will take two years to fully establish TfSE, develop governance arrangements, submit a formal proposal to Government as well as completing a Transport Strategy for the area.
- 2.4 A Senior Officer Group (SOG) has been established to take this proposal forward and the Shadow TfSE Partnership Board will meet for the first time on 26th June 2017. All five LEPs in the TfSE area are represented on the SOG and are fully involved in discussions around the governance of the new body. TfSE has to be established as a statutory body through the Local Government Devolution Act 2016 and as such can only be constituted from local authorities. However, there is a recognition that full LEP involvement is essential if the new body is to be successful, so it is intended that LEP representatives, with full voting rights, be co-opted onto the Shadow Partnership Board at its inaugural meeting.
- 2.5 In order to keep numbers manageable whilst also ensuring a significant level of involvement it is proposed that the five LEPs be represented on the Partnership Board, by two private sector LEP Board members. Discussions have taken place between the LEP Chairs and Chief Executives and it is recommended that the two LEP representatives be David Lees, Managing Director of Southampton Airport, from Solent LEP and Steve Allen, from Coast to Capital LEP.

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