

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT FOR THE SOUTH EAST
DATE: 13 JULY 2017
RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Southampton City Council has been invited to join Transport for the South East (TfSE) which is the proposed Sub National Transport Body for the South East of England. TfSE has the potential to be a powerful lobbying voice for the SE in regards to transport infrastructure. It is proposed to join jointly with Portsmouth City Council. The Solent area has a significant infrastructure deficit which is holding back economic growth and productivity. Whilst part of the solution to this has been the proposal to create the Solent Combined Authority, a powerful voice for the wider region on transport funding also has the potential to be a powerful asset for the area. If TfSE is effective it will enable more transport infrastructure resource to come to the region.</p> |
|--|---|

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | <p>The South East of England is a powerful motor for national prosperity, adding more than £200 billion to the UK economy which, for example, is more than Scotland and Wales combined. Economic growth is dependent on, and underpinned by, the effectiveness of transport networks. The scale of the South East's economy is reflected in the national and international importance of its transport network. The area includes both of the nation's busiest airports in Heathrow and Gatwick (alongside smaller airports like Southampton), a string of major ports including Dover, Portsmouth and Southampton, many of the country's most vital motorways and trunk roads and crucial railway links to London, the rest of Britain and to mainland Europe.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Within the South East (SE) region it is felt that the UK can no longer take the South East's economic success for granted. In parts of the SE region, such as the Solent, the infrastructure deficit is actively holding back the potential contribution to economic growth. Under-investment has left the area's infrastructure under significant pressure. Urgent investment is now needed in its road, rail and bus network to meet the pressures on growth and to ensure a system that is resilient for travellers and businesses. TfSE is part of the suggested solution to this problem, acting as a strong united voice on transport issues within the South East.</p> |
| 3. | <p>The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 makes changes to the Transport Act 2008, creating enabling powers for a Sub National Transport Body (SNTB) to prepare a Transport Strategy. There is a clear expectation that the Transport Strategy prepared by a SNTB will contain the proposals for the promotion and encouragement of sustainable, safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport facilities and services within the area of the SNTB. The key objective underpinning the Transport Strategy should be the promotion of economic growth. The proposal to create TfSE is using these powers.</p> |

BRIEFING PAPER

| | |
|----|---|
| 4. | <p>The TfSE initiative is led by south east local authorities including the South East seven councils (Brighton and Hove; East Sussex; Hampshire; Kent; Medway; Surrey and West Sussex), together with the Solent area authorities (Isle of Wight; Portsmouth; and Southampton) and with the Berkshire local authorities (Bracknell Forest; Reading; Slough; West Berkshire; Windsor and Maidenhead; and Wokingham). It is expected the five Local Enterprise Partnerships (Coast to Capital; Enterprise M3; Solent; South East; and Thames Valley Berkshire) will also have representation.</p> |
| 5. | <p>TfSE will speak with a single voice on the area's transport needs, priorities and investment plans. If it is successful it will directly influence the decisions of national and regional infrastructure providers and operators (for example Network Rail, Highways England, ports, airports). Investment in new infrastructure will unlock the further growth potential of the area, including in housing and jobs where lack of transport infrastructure has been a major barrier to further development. Directing this investment from within our own area will be the most effective way to keep us moving and growing. Within the Solent area we have particular growth ambitions and need for growth and so TfSE could help us achieve these significant strategic objectives.</p> |
| 6. | <p>It is proposed that the relevant portfolio holder from one authority will attend Board meetings supported by the relevant officer from the other authority. Initially it is suggested that the Southampton portfolio holder will be supported by the Portsmouth officer. Solent Transport provides an opportunity for both officers and members to discuss and agree responses to issues raised at TfSE. This arrangement will mean that the membership costs will be shared between the two authorities but equally that the two authorities only have 1 vote. It is suggested that this approach is reviewed in 12 months' time to check that is working appropriately and that the interests of the Solent and the two cities are being adequately represented.</p> |
| 7. | <p>The proposed timetable for the development of TfSE is:</p> <p>2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadow STB established; • Development of the Transport Strategy; • Develop Governance arrangements and draft Proposal to Government; <p>2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise Governance arrangements, constitution and Proposal to Government; • Publish draft Transport Strategy; and • Undertake Transport Strategy consultation <p>2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement to the Proposal by Government; • Preparation by Government of the Order establishing the STB; and • Parliamentary process and sign-off of the Order; • Transport for the South East established (April) |
| 8. | <p>The membership cost of £20k per annum initially will be jointly shared with Portsmouth City Council. Southampton's contribution of £10k will be met from the approved Environment & Transport Portfolio revenue budget for Transport.</p> |

BRIEFING PAPER

| | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Appendices/supporting information: | | |
| 9. | None | |
| Further information available from | Name: | Mike Harris |
| | Tel: | 023 8083 2882 |
| | E-mail: | mike.harris@southampton.gov.uk |