

Strategic Transport Forum 15th December 2017

Agenda Item 4: Highways England's Strategic Road Network Initial Report

Recommendation: It is recommended that the meeting:

- a) Note the presentation on Highways England's Strategic Road Network Initial Report.
- b) Identify any issues relating to the Initial Report for inclusion in the Forum's response
- c) Endorse the proposed approach for the Forum's responding to the consultations taking place.

1. Context

- 1.1. Highways England has published their *Strategic Road Network Initial Report* which forms part of their input into determining investment priorities for the period 2020-2025. They will be presenting an overview of their report to this meeting, a reflection of the role of (emerging) Sub-national Transport Bodies as the focus for the single conversation on strategic transport infrastructure.
- 1.2. The Strategic Road Network Initial Report will be the subject of a *consultation* – led by the Department for Transport (DfT). The consultation is expected to begin shortly: the Forum will consider its response to the consultation at a future meeting.

2. Major Road Network

- 2.1. The Strategic Transport Forum has consistently set out its support for the principle of identifying a Major Road Network for the Heartland area. It has also set out its intention that the Major Road Network will be a key feature of the overarching Transport Strategy.
- 2.2. The Department for Transport is shortly to begin a consultation on the principles that it suggests should underpin the identification of the Major Road Network.
- 2.3. The Strategic Transport Forum will consider its response to the consultation at a future meeting. In addition the four emerging Sub-national Transport Bodies (including the Heartland) are working together on a common response that will supplement individual responses.

3. The Forum's Strategic Road Investment Priorities

- 3.1. A draft version of the Forum's strategic road investment priorities for the Heartland was presented to the Forum for comment at the September meeting. This was shared with the Department for Transport and Highways England as the Forum's initial advice for input into the Road Investment Strategy 2 (covering the period 2020-2025).

3.2. The publication of the Strategic Road Network Initial Report together with the consultation on the principles for the Major Road Network provide an opportunity to update and amend (if appropriate) the [Forum's strategic road investment priorities](#).

4. Next Steps

4.1. Draft, co-ordinated, responses to the consultation documents will be prepared for consideration at future Forum meetings.

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