



## **Strategic Transport Forum**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

### **Agenda Item Number 4: Freight and Logistics**

*Recommendation:*

**It is recommended that the meeting:**

- a) Notes the progress made on the Freight Topic Paper and findings of stakeholder engagement.**
- b) Considers the emerging conclusions and recommendations of the Topic Paper and provides comments and steer as required.**

#### **1. Freight Topic Paper: Overview**

- 1.1. During the meeting of the Strategic Transport Forum in December 2018, the work being taken forward on Freight and Logistics was highlighted as a key component of EEH's Transport Strategy. Ian Brooker representing WSP, a member of the EEH Delivery Partners, has been invited to provide Forum members with an update on work undertaken to date and the emerging conclusions/recommendations.
- 1.2. The scope of work for the project was set and agreed in partnership with the EEH Transport Officer Group. The project formally began on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018. An EEH Freight Steering Group has been appointed in partnership with the EEH Transport Officer Group and Transport Systems Catapult, who meet monthly. The Freight and Logistics Topic Paper will be delivered by the end of February 2019 and provision has been built to discuss findings at the Strategic Transport Forum's next meeting if desired.
- 1.3. The Freight and Logistics Topic Paper is being developed to understand the Heartland's freight needs. Understanding the supply chain needs of our businesses and major industry areas is critical to realising the region's economic potential and ensuring the smooth movement of goods, services and materials which is essential to a successful economy.
- 1.4. The study has examined the Heartland's freight markets and the implications of future demands and trends up to 2050. This will identify how EEH can capitalise on opportunities and reduce barriers to this vital sector. The work is also analysing the opportunities for rail freight – transferring goods from road to rail, including the movement of construction materials by rail.

#### **2. Progress to date**

- 2.1. The project has moved through Task 1 which focused on developing the evidence base. Examples of deliverables are listed below:
  - Stakeholder Engagement: undertaking a major stakeholder workshop in Milton Keynes with major businesses, industry operators and policy makers. Engagement has included an extensive list of 1:1 interviews and attendance at numerous meetings

- Desk Research: completing an extensive policy review to incorporate local and national policy, relevant studies and work taken forward by our Local Enterprise Partnerships
  - An understanding of the Heartlands freight movement: HGV flows, ratios and hotspots including rail freight and terminals have been analysed and mapped as a GIS layer and are available in ProjectView
- 2.2. The project has also made significant progress in Task 2, which centres around the future of freight in the Heartland. Ongoing work includes:
- Technology Review: opportunities for innovation that improve the efficiency of freight in the Heartland including technical work with Transport Systems Catapult and engagement with leading freight innovation companies
  - Potential for modal shift: ongoing dialogue with Transport for London, Network Rail and East West Railway Company and Consortium is shaping our position on the potential opportunity for rail freight
  - Regulatory review: technical work that considers the impact of freight and land use planning, market trends, changes in distribution model and societal changes for the Heartland's business and transport network
  - Linkages with the NIC: WSP's analysis and supporting evidence to the National Infrastructure Commission has demonstrated synergies with our study and continues to guide thinking in the Heartland

### **3. Emerging concepts**

- 3.1. Due to the extensive engagement programme as part of this project, the study is beginning to carve out some of the ways that EEH can support the needs of the freight sector. This, in turn, will deliver social and economic benefits to our business, people and places.
- 3.2. The final two tasks associated with this project are designed to plan for freight. Recommendations taken forward will be considered on deliverability, timescales, anticipated sources of funding and strategic fit. It will set a short, medium and long term direction of travel.
- 3.3. It is the intention of the Topic Paper to deliver a Heartland vision for freight and logistics. Freight will play a major part in realising our economic potential, and unlocking growth, new settlements are heavily reliant on freight for their construction and servicing. This vision will balance the needs of the environment through its consideration of new technologies and identify the way EEH and its partners can deliver local solutions through a strategic policy framework.
- 3.4. Ian Brooker will provide Forum members with a presentation that will focus on some of the emerging thinking and recommendations. Proposals will include the following themes, that include, but are not limited to:
- Creation of a EEH Freight Partnership Group/Forum
  - Development of an EEH Data Store including integration with the Regional Evidence Base
  - Universal standards for freight provision into transport infrastructure planning and community planning including 'last meter' deliveries
  - The development of a 'toolkit' of standards and restrictions for freight in urban areas and construction sites
  - A standardised approach and methodology to collecting and presenting the evidence and impact of lorry bans
  - Actions to improve efficient use of freight vehicles
  - Actions to support modal shift
  - Proposals for freight on East West Rail
  - Logistics innovation: data sharing and collaboration along the East West Corridor

- Improving freight links to ports and alternatives to the Golden Triangle of Logistics
- 3.5. The Forum is invited to comment on the analysis undertaken to date and evolving recommendations.

**Antony Swift**  
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