



Strategic Transport Forum

Friday 27th November 2020

Agenda Item 8: Consultation Responses

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Forum:

- a) Agrees the proposed approach to preparing and agreeing consultation responses going forward.**
- b) Agrees, subject to any amendments the proposed consultation responses and letters of support set out in Annexes 1-4**
- c) Delegates responsibility to the Chair to endorse the proposed response to Oxfordshire Growth Board's consultation on its Strategic Vision**

1. Overview

- 1.1. On behalf of the Strategic Transport Forum, EEH Business Unit has prepared a number of draft responses to consultations and letters of support.
- 1.2. As we move towards publication of the Transport Strategy, it will become increasingly important for EEH as the STB to comment on consultations and specific proposals. As the Sub-national Transport Body, it would be appropriate for the Forum to set out its expectations and ambitions in a way that can influence relevant strategies and support the delivery of plans promoted by its partners.
- 1.3. Moving forward the proposal is that the presumption will be that the Forum will consider and agree EEH's consultation responses. This will be the default approach going forward. Where relevant, promoters of a proposal or draft strategy will be afforded the opportunity to present a short summary of their proposal/draft strategy. Following any points of clarification raised in discussion by Forum members, the Forum would then be invited to consider a draft response prepared by the EEH Business Unit (working with relevant officers).
- 1.4. Where this approach is not possible, primarily due to timeframes, Forum Members are invited to delegate the decision to sign a consultation response to the Chair/Vice-Chair.

2. For Consideration

- 2.1. Forum Members are invited to consider and agree four consultation responses, and note the requirement to delegate approval of a fifth to the Chair.

Luton Local Transport Plan

- 2.2. Luton Borough Council is required under the Transport Act 2000 to prepare a long-term Transport Strategy. The Council's existing Local Transport Plan was adopted in spring 2011 and covers the period up to 2026. Luton has developed a draft Transport Strategy to cover the next twenty years and is seeking the views of stakeholders. The transport strategy's key elements are to promote a shift to more active travel and public transport, improve quality of life and safety by enhancing streetscape, meet the mobility needs of

different groups in the community and promote and design low-carbon sustainable development.

- 2.3. The consultation was undertaken from 18th September 2020 – 16th November 2020. Given timescales for the meeting of the Strategic Transport Forum, EEH Business Unit has agreed with Luton Borough Council that EEH's submission could be delayed to allow for the Forum's consideration.
- 2.4. A proposed response to this consultation is set out in Annex 1.

Cambridge South Station

- 2.5. Following the announcement in June on the preferred location for Cambridge South Station, Network Rail has launched the next round of public consultation to seek feedback on the next stage of the development. The consultation focuses on station facilities, station access arrangements, the approach to construction and managing the environment. The consultation dates are 19th October 2020 – 29th November 2020 and the Forum's proposed response to this consultation is set out in Annex 2.

Cambridge Eastern Access

- 2.6. Following a period of public engagement in 2020 the Greater Cambridge Partnership has developed a number of options to improve public transport and active travel to the east of Cambridge. It is one of four corridor projects and includes five early stage options. A consultation has been launched to seek feedback on the proposals. The consultation dates are 26th October 2020 – 18th December 2020 and the Forum's proposed response is set out in Annex 3.

Welland Valley Rail Project

- 2.7. The Welland Valley Rail Partnership is a non-political volunteer group. It aims to reconnect the communities of Kettering-Corby-Stamford-Peterborough through direct rail services by restoring a 3.5 mile section of railway at Luffenham. The project is bidding for £50,000 from the Department for Transport's third round of the Ideas Fund (likely to be launched in late November 2020) to develop a business case. The scheme has match funding and MP support from Kettering/Corby/Rutland/Peterborough councils and has a strong strategic fit with the ambitions of EEH's Transport Strategy. The Forum's proposed letter of support is set out in Annex 4.

Oxfordshire Growth Board Strategic Vision

- 2.8. Oxfordshire Growth Board is developing a strategic vision for the county that will be used to help create an agreed set of long-term, strategic economic, infrastructure and environmental priorities. Views from key stakeholders are being sought on the outcomes proposed, its definition of 'good growth' and guiding principles in the Strategic Vision to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- 2.9. The EEH Business Unit is preparing a response to this consultation that ends on 3rd January 2021. The Forum is asked to delegate sign off of this response to the Chair of the Forum.

Antony Swift
Project Lead
November 2020

