

Strategic Transport Forum

14th October 2016

Agenda Item 4: Planning for Growth: A Position Statement

It is recommended that the Strategic Transport Forum:

- a) **Agree the document Planning for Growth as its position statement on strategic transport issues**
- b) **Agree to develop a programme of work that will enable the development of a detailed Transport Strategy to be prepared in consultation with stakeholders across the Heartland area.**

1. Context

- 1.1. At its meeting on 22nd July the Strategic Transport Forum Tony Ciaburro and Hilary Chipping provided the Forum with a briefing on the work of the Task and Finish Group established an initial position statement in respect of strategic transport issues across the Heartland area.
- 1.2. In the ensuing discussion the Forum welcomed the direction of travel set out in the briefing, they endorsed the overarching vision and key principles set out the accompanying paper before the Forum upon which the briefing was based.
- 1.3. The Forum also welcomed the emerging strategic priorities set out in the briefing in the particular the themes around strategic rail and road priorities and agreed that these should form the basis for developing the Strategic Alliance's input into the next round of investment strategies to be prepared by the Government.
- 1.4. Subsequent to the discussion at the Forum meeting on 22nd July the Leaders Group agreed the Strategic Alliance's submission to the National Infrastructure Commission – based on work commissioned by the Local Enterprise Partnerships. That submission provided context and evidence that underpins the Strategic Alliance's arguments as to why investment in infrastructure – not just strategic transport but the broader infrastructure agenda – is vital to enabling the Heartland area realising its economic potential. The latter has even greater significance given the need to ensure continued economic success post the EU-referendum result and the emergence of the Government's Industrial Strategy.

2. Planning for Growth: A Position Statement

- 2.1. Building on the steer provided by the Forum at its meeting on 22nd July, and taking into account the additional evidence available in the form of the submission to the National Infrastructure Commission, the Task and Finish Group has prepared a final draft of the Strategic Alliance's position in respect of strategic transport issues.
- 2.2. The Forum is asked to consider the final draft – attached as Appendix 1 – and, subject to amendments identified in discussion, agree to adopt this as the Strategic Alliance's position.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1. Once adopted by the Forum, the position statement will be used as the framework for engaging with Government, its agencies, infrastructure providers and operators, and transport service providers.
- 3.2. Looking forward, there is a need to undertake a more detailed programme of work to develop the Transport Strategy for the Heartland area. The development of the Transport Strategy will be of significance given that as part of the move towards establishing a statutory Sub-national Transport Body, the Strategy itself will become a statutory document.
- 3.3. It is therefore essential that the programme for developing the Transport Strategy is underpinned by discrete pieces of technical work where this is required (commissioned by the Strategic Alliance and/or undertaken in collaboration with other partners) as well as looking to ensure the involvement of the wider stakeholder community.
- 3.4. Having overseen the preparation of the initial position statement, the Task and Finish Group will map out a programme of work for the preparation of the Transport Strategy, with that considered by the Forum at its next meeting.

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