

Strategic Transport Forum 20th January 2017

Agenda Item 5: Work Programme

Recommendation: It is recommended that the meeting consider the proposed work programme set out in Annex 1

1. Context

- 1.1. The discussion on the work programme takes place against the backdrop of the significant progress made during 2016/17 by the Strategic Alliance in making the case for the Heartland area nationally.
- 1.2. It also takes place in the context of the need for the partners to respond to and take forward activities in response to the recommendations of the National Infrastructure Commission's Interim Report. Government's response to that report – set out in the Autumn Statement – served to emphasise the importance of a partnership such as the Strategic Alliance as a forum in which the region's strategic infrastructure needs can be identified, championed and ultimately delivered.
- 1.3. Even now the proposed work programme – Annex 1 – has to be prioritised so as to focus on the key strategic transport issues, as well as key areas of the wider strategic infrastructure agenda. Ultimately the scope and scale of the work programme that is capable of being delivered will be dependent upon the overall level of resources available. Discussions are on-going with the Department for Transport regarding the potential to secure a contribution towards the work of the Alliance on strategic transport issues.
- 1.4. At this stage the work programme focuses on 2017/18, reflecting the fact that it is laying the foundations for a subsequent conversation about the longer-term work programme that will be shaped by the progress made with establishing a statutory Sub-national Transport Body and the outcome of the on-going work of the National Infrastructure Commission to work with partners on establishing a framework that enables cross-corridor planning on strategic issues and its associated governance.
- 1.5. Delivering the work programme is dependent upon the ability to commission bespoke technical and professional advice. It is also dependent upon having in place dedicated resource within the core programme team in order to provide the driving force, working with Alliance partners as well as broader stakeholders to deliver the work programme.
- 1.6. It is worth noting that our delivery partners are also committing funding towards realising the work programme – through funding the provision of a Single Point of Contact who is working as part of the core team. They are also sponsoring the regional conference on 9th March.

Martin Tugwell
Programme Director
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