

England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance Strategic Transport Forum

22nd July 2016

Agenda Item 8: Work Programme

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Forum note progress with the work programme.

1. Context

- 1.1. At its inaugural meeting on 12th February the Forum agreed an initial programme of work for the year ahead. This report provides an update on the progress to date. Overall progress has been consistent with the ambition of the Forum, a reflection of the commitment by the partners to make staff resource available to support the work programme. This provides a solid base on which to build into the autumn and beyond.

2. Priorities for the Work Programme

- 2.1. Taking into account the content of the papers before this meeting, it is proposed that the following are adopted as priorities for the Strategic Transport Forum:

- **To develop an initial Transport Strategy for the Heartland area** – to be used to shape Alliance inputs into national and sub-national discussions

Review existing transport strategy work across the Heartland area – first half of 2016

Publish an initial Transport Strategy (including the identification of strategic priorities for investment) – second half of 2016

UPDATE: an initial Transport Strategy for the Heartland area is on the agenda of this meeting. Further work will be needed over the course of the next 12-18 months to build upon this initial work in order for it to form the basis of the Transport Strategy for the proposed statutory Sub-national Transport Body

- **To input into the development of the next round of national investment strategies for road and rail**

Building on the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund study on Major Roads for the Future, develop a proposal for the Major Road Network for the Heartland area – July 2016

UPDATE: the initial Transport Strategy takes for the concept of a Major Roads Network, building on the work undertaken by the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund. The Heartland area has been used by the study team to illustrate how the concept of a Major Roads Network can form the basis for identifying future investment priorities.

Make the case for using the Major Road Network as the basis for allocating investment using monies collected through VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) – October 2016

UPDATE: the initial Transport Strategy, and in particular the inclusion of the concept of the Major Road Network provides the basis for the Alliance making the case for the scope of the Road Fund being extended to cover local transport authority owned roads

Agree position statement on road network for input into the preparation of the next Roads Investment Strategy – October 2016

UPDATE: the initial Transport Strategy provides the basis for developing a position statement that will be considered at the Forum's meeting on 14th October.

Agree position statement on rail network for input into the Initial Industry Plan (that shapes the next Rail Investment Strategy) – October 2016

UPDATE: the initial Transport Strategy provides the basis for developing a position statement that will be considered at the Forum's meeting on 14th October.

- **To provide strategic input into major studies and/or major projects – to include but not limited by:**

A1 (M25 to Peterborough) corridor study – ongoing

East-West Links (Expressway study) – ongoing

East-West Rail – provide on-going support to the East-West Rail consortium as appropriate

UPDATE: through the programme team and the involvement of individual partners, the Strategic Alliance is providing input into the studies being taken forward by Highways England on behalf of the DfT – representatives attended the most recent Stakeholder Reference Group for the A1 (M25 to Peterborough) and East-West Links studies on 7th July. The Forum will consider the initial outputs from each study as they become available.

The Forum received a briefing on East-West Rail at its meeting on 13th May. The programme team continue to liaise closely with the East-West Rail team to monitor progress. The key issue remains securing a commitment from Government to deliver the Western Section of East-West Rail at the earliest opportunity possible – the investment being a key part of the overarching transport strategy for the Heartland area. The Forum will need to continue to press the case for the scheme over the summer and into the autumn against the backdrop of uncertainty that exists more widely at the present time.

- **To develop a co-ordinated approach to transport modelling across the Heartland area – to realise efficiencies and improve the evidence base**

Develop an initial proposition – May 2016

UPDATE: development of the proposition will form part of the next stage of work to build upon the initial Transport Strategy being considered by this meeting

- **To identify opportunities for innovative approaches to procurement that can be applied across the Heartland area** - working with the Civil Engineering Contractors Association

Develop an initial proposition – May 2016

UPDATE: this meeting has received an update on the work being taken forward with representatives from the contractors association. A more detailed proposal will be developed with a view to be considered by this Forum in the autumn.

- **To develop a detailed proposal in support for Government funding support for the activities of the Strategic Transport Forum** – building on the initial proposal for £10m of revenue funding over 5 years identified in the Strategic Transport Proposition submitted to Government in July 2015.

UPDATE: work to develop the proposal is being taken forward as part of the business planning for the Strategic Alliance, and in particular as part of the work associated with the proposal for the statutory Sub-national Transport Body.

2.2. In addition the work programme adopted in February agreed that the Strategic Transport Forum would continue to ‘horizon scan’ with a view to identifying any other transport issues for which a strategic approach across the Heartland area may be appropriate. To date this has included::

- The Total Transport initiative – building on the outputs of the DfT funded pilot projects across the Heartland area

UPDATE: this meeting has considered the opportunities presented by the Total Transport Initiative.

- Integrated/Smart Ticketing initiative – identified by the Government as an aspect of the transport system that could benefit from a cross-administrative boundary approach

UPDATE: the opportunity to work with Transport for London on developing a proposal is being taken forward following an initial discussion with TfL

- Network Resilience – with the potential to develop a proposal in partnership with other agencies

UPDATE: a proposal will be developed during the autumn, building upon the initial Transport Strategy

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