

Strategic Transport Forum

24th March 2017

Agenda Item 3: Work Programme 2017/18

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

1. Context

- 1.1. The Forum discussed the draft work programme for 2017/18 at its meeting on 20th January.
- 1.2. The draft work programme had built upon the momentum that had been generated during 2016 and reflected the Strategic Alliance's ambition to move forward with the work to establish a statutory Sub-national Transport Body, including the development of a long-term Transport Strategy.
- 1.3. That meeting also noted that discussions were on-going with the Department for Transport with regard to securing funding from Government in support of the proposed work programme.

2. Government Support

- 2.1. The first regional conference was held at Silverstone on 9th March. Andrew Jones MP was the keynote speaker at the conference, which was attended by over 230 representatives from public and private sectors.
- 2.2. The Minister noted that the region is gaining a reputation as a centre of excellence for the science, technology and innovation of transport. In noting that the continued economic success of the region could not be taken for granted the Minister went on to highlight that transport connectivity across the Heartland leaves something to be desired.
- 2.3. In announcing that the Government was investing £625,000 of funding to match the contributions of local partners, the Minister set out how the Department wanted England's Economic Heartland to work with the Government to shape the future. In particular he emphasised the importance of the region speaking with one voice.

- 2.4. The Minister welcomed the ambition of the Strategic Alliance partners to develop a proposal to establish a Sub-national Transport Body noting that it might offer significant benefits to the region.

3. Work Programme – 2017/18

- 3.1. Confirmation of the Government's financial contribution enables the work programme discussed at the previous meeting of the Strategic Transport Forum to be taken forward.

- 3.2. Annex 1 sets out the work programme for the Forum for the forthcoming year: points for the Forum to be aware of include:

i) Transport Strategy – data analysis

The brief for this workstream is being prepared – input is being sought from the Local Planning Authorities to ensure that linkages between strategic transport planning and land use planning are taken into account: discussions with Highways England and Network Rail are taking pace to ensure that opportunities to build upon existing data sources are reflected in the brief.

ii) Transport Strategy – scenario planning/user views

Work is starting to develop briefs to cover two pieces of work – the first to cover the development of a strategic 'scenario modelling' capability; the second to cover broader stakeholder engagement

iii) Transport Strategy – prepare draft strategy

The output from the first two workstreams will in turn form part of the foundation for the preparation of the long-term Transport Strategy: the detailed programme for which will be developed later this summer

iv) Strategic Transport Infrastructure: Scheme Development

Activities under this workstream are picked up elsewhere on the agenda.

v) Major Road Network

This workstream will build upon the work undertaken originally by the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund study team – the scope of work to be undertaken by the Strategic Alliance will include input from local planning authorities

vi) *Statutory Sub-national Transport Body*

Activities under this workstream are picked up elsewhere on the agenda.

- 3.3. In addition to the items explicitly set out in the work programme there will continue to be a need to monitor (and where necessary respond to) progress in areas such as the on-going discussion on aviation and in relation to the Bus Services Bill.
- 3.4. An update on the work of the Strategic Alliance delivery partners will be presented to the next meeting of the Forum.

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Programme Director
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