



# Strategic Transport Forum

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Agenda Item 8: Consultation Responses

### *Recommendation:*

**It is recommended that the Forum note the proposed consultation responses set out in Annexes 1-4**

#### **1. Overview**

1.1. On behalf of the Strategic Transport Forum, EEH Business Unit has submitted four responses to consultations since the last Forum meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Due to timescales, these responses were delegated to the Chair of the Strategic Transport Forum to agree and sign.

#### **2. For Consideration**

2.1. Forum members are invited to note the four consultation responses.

##### **Union Connectivity Review**

2.2. On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the Prime Minister announced an independent review, led by Sir Peter Hendy, of how the quality and availability of transport infrastructure can support economic growth and quality of life across the whole of the UK. A call for evidence was published to inform the review and provide evidence on transport connectivity to ensure that all four nations and regions can maximise the economic, cultural and social benefits of being part of the UK. The call for evidence was issued on 16 November 2020 and ran until 30 December 2020. The Forum's response is set out in Annex 1.

##### **Oxfordshire Growth Board Strategic Vision**

2.3. 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. The consultation was issued on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and ran until 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021. The Forum's response is set out in Annex 2.

## **Transport Committee Enquiry into Major Transport Infrastructure Projects: appraisal and delivery**

- 2.4. In response to the challenges delivering transport infrastructure projects, The Transport Committee are holding an inquiry to understand what lessons can be learned for transport infrastructure delivery. The inquiry is considering transport infrastructure strategy and priorities, the appraisal and funding of transport infrastructure, oversight, accountability and governance of transport infrastructure projects and factors influencing the cost, capacity and skills required to deliver the infrastructure plans. The call for evidence was issued on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and ran until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The Forum's response is set out in Annex 3.

## **Avanti West Coast Timetable Consultation**

- 2.5. Avanti West Coast are part of an industry planning group comprising operators, Network Rail, DfT and other stakeholders that is considering whether a timetable recast in the medium-term would have the potential to deliver further capacity and/or improved performance by making enhancements to the timetable between December 2022 and the start of HS2 operating. This work is being led by Network Rail and is considering how to make best use of the West Coast Main Line to serve the different regions and countries it connects. As part of this workstream, Avanti West Coast partnership sought views on their current timetable. The consultation was issued on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and closed 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The Forum's response is set out in Annex 4.

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**Project Lead**

**February 2021**