



Strategic Transport Forum

17th May 2019

Agenda Item 8: Forward Look Work Plan

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Forum:

- a) **Notes the forward look of issues to be considered by the Forum over the forthcoming year.**
- b) **Considers any transformational growth schemes in their area that would benefit from being presented to the Forum as part of the Forum's presentation series.**

1. Context

- 1.1. The EEH Business Unit's work programme is focused on the development and delivery of the Outline Transport Strategy document in summer 2019, and the detailed Transport Strategy, with supporting evidence and documentation by summer 2020.
- 1.2. In March 2019, the Strategic Transport Forum agreed the proposed programme of work for the forthcoming year. Alongside development of the transport strategy, the Forum will wish to ensure that EEH continues its emphasis on seeking opportunities and maximising the value of England's Economic Heartland for partners locally and nationally.
- 1.3. This paper sets out the forward look programme of work to ensure the Strategic Transport Forum, supported by EEH Business Unit is able to give the right level of focus to its key priorities.

2. Programme of Work – Forward Look

- 2.1. Based on the Business Plan, agreed by the Strategic Transport Forum in March 2019, Annex A sets out a forward look programme of work for forthcoming year of the Forum.
- 2.2. The proposed programme captures the key priorities for the Forum, which include:
 - a) *Overarching Transport Strategy* – the outline framework for the Strategy is scheduled for publication in the summer 2019. This will mark the start of a wider engagement with residents, businesses and potential investors before the final version of the Strategy is prepared for publication in summer 2020. Prior to publication of the final Strategy, England's Economic Heartland must undertake the right level of environmental assessment, reflecting wider work underway to establish a baseline review of natural capital across the Oxford – Cambridge Arc.
 - b) *Investment Prospectus* – reflecting the vision and priorities set out in the overarching Transport Strategy, and taking advantage of the potential of the National Policy Statement for Strategic Infrastructure, the Prospectus will set out EEH's medium and long term strategic infrastructure requirements ahead of the Spending Review.
 - c) *Major Road Network and Large Local Majors* – developing our proposition for the programme beyond the first 5-year investment programme.

- d) *Commissioning Connectivity Studies* – taking forward the work in association with the proposed expressway between Oxford and Milton Keynes, and extending the approach to the rest of the Heartland area (working with partners to the east of the M1 to co-commission the studies): using the output from these studies (along with work undertaken by Highways England) to make the case for investment in the Major Road Network (including Large Local Majors).
- e) *Regional Evidence Base* – continuing to develop and maintain the Regional Evidence Base in order to provide an evidential basis for the work of the EEH Business Unit – as well as continuing to make the Regional Evidence Base available to all local partners Government and its agencies and companies.
- f) *Innovation and Technology* – using the Innovation Working Group to develop proposals to secure funding, and using the Memorandum of Understanding with the Transport Systems Catapult to engage with the entrepreneur/SME community to encourage innovation in transport services.
- g) *Integrated Ticketing* – working with the Heartland Bus Operators Association and Transport Systems Catapult to explore options for expanding integrated ticketing models across wider parts of the Heartland.
- h) *Freight and Logistics* – building on the technical work commissioned in 2018/19, there is a need to develop the business case for investment in network capacity and facilities that enable the freight and logistics sector to support the level of planned growth, including the construction requirements of planned growth.
- i) *Strategic Rail* – continuing to support the delivery of the East West Rail project so that it meets the needs of the local partners, in particular working to ensure the potential of both the Central and Eastern Sections are realised; ensuring that the Heartland’s requirements are reflected in the recommendations of the Williams Rail Review; engaging with passenger franchise competitions as and when they come forward.

3. Programme of Work – Meeting Structure

- 3.1. Alongside the development of the EEH Transport strategy and all the supporting policy strands that will inform and shape it, a key priority for the Strategic Transport Forum will be the continued focus on the long term infrastructure needs of the Heartland area.
- 3.2. In March 2019, the Strategic Transport Forum received presentations from Network Rail on opportunities for the Northampton to Old Oak Common line and from London Luton Airport on their expansion plans.
- 3.3. These presentations marked the first in a series, where each meeting will include an opportunity for a small number of transformational growth schemes to be presented.
- 3.4. Forum members are invited to identify schemes that they would like to bring to the Forum’s attention through this mechanism.

4. Governance

- 4.1. The Strategic Transport Forum is a well-established and well regarded forum for scrutiny, decision making and debate. England’s Economic Heartland is one of the only Sub National Transport Bodies to currently undertake Forums in public, demonstrating the commitment that Forum members have towards transparency and good governance.
- 4.2. Proposals to establish Unitary Local Government in Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire are being taken forward: the intention being that shadow new authorities will emerge during the course of 2019/20, with the new authorities (two unitary authorities proposed in Northamptonshire and one in Buckinghamshire) coming into existence in April 2020.
- 4.3. It is important that the governance and working arrangements that operate as part of England’s Economic Heartland are reviewed and updated to reflect the change in local government in the two areas.

- 4.4. The working assumption is that any change required to the governance and working arrangements will come into effect as the shadow authorities become established, thereby ensuring that the views of the new authorities are taken into account at the earliest opportunity possible.
- 4.5. The need to update the Terms of Reference to reflect these changes also provides an opportunity to undertake a review more generally of the Terms of Reference and governance framework. A report on this will be brought to the next meeting of the Forum in July 2019.

5. Sub-national Transport Body

- 5.1. England's Economic Heartland is committed to develop a proposal that will see the establishment the Forum as a statutory body.
- 5.2. Transport for the North was designated a statutory body in April 2018; Transport for the South East and Midlands Connect continue to move forward with the development of proposals that could provide the basis for them likewise seeking statutory status.
- 5.3. The Heartland has been consistent that the proposal for statutory status would be developed in parallel with the overarching Transport Strategy to ensure that the proposed roles and responsibilities sought for the Body are aligned with the needs of the overarching Transport Strategy.
- 5.4. The ambition for England's Economic Heartland remains to have the new statutory Body formally established in the latter part of 2020/21.

Naomi Green

Head of Technical Programme

May 2019

Annex A – Proposed Programme of Work

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
July 2019	<p>It is proposed that the Forum considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on the Governance of the Strategic Transport Forum - The Outcome of the MRN/Large Local Majors Prioritisation approach (first five year programme) and agrees the investment programme to be submitted to Government - Updates on the emerging Outline Transport Strategy, including the engagement plan, in advance of its publication - The EEH longer term investment programme, being developed to inform the Spending Review - EEH Freight and Logistics Study
September 2019	<p>It is proposed that the Forum considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback on the Outline Transport Strategy, including engagement, following its publication - The EEH First Mile Last Mile Project and its emerging conclusions - Integrated ticketing options - Performance Indicators for the Transport Strategy - A report on options for the establishment the Forum as a statutory body - The EEH Capacity and Capability to deliver major infrastructure project
November 2019	<p>It is proposed that the Forum considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A presentation on the emerging innovative approach to the EEH Regional evidence base – through the Regional Policy Model - A progress update on the connectivity studies for the EEH region - The conclusion of the EEH longer term investment programme, developed to inform the Spending Review - A report on the EEH Baseline review of rail - Progress with environmental net gain work across the Heartland region
January 2020	<p>It is proposed that the Forum considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback from the engagement phase of the EEH Transport Strategy process - The draft EEH Transport Strategy – to commence formal consultation - Conclusions and recommendations for defining Performance Indicators for the EEH Transport Strategy - An implementation update – particularly reporting on progress with engaging the entrepreneur/SME community to encourage innovation in transport services
March 2020	<p>It is proposed that the Forum considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft EEH Transport Strategy – to commence formal consultation - Update on the conclusions of the connectivity studies for the region - A full implementation plan for the EEH strategy