

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

Leader of Kent County Council

**DECISION NO:**

22/00114

**For publication**

**Key decision: YES**

**Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Transport for the South East – Strategic Investment Plan**

**Decision:**

As Leader, I agree to:

1. Endorse the Strategic Investment Plan prepared by Transport for the South East and support TfSE with its implementation.
2. Delegate to the Corporate Director Growth, Environment and Transport to take, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, the actions necessary to implement the decision.

**Reason(s) for decision:****Background**

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 amended the Local Transport Act 2008 to allow the creation of Sub-national Transport Bodies (STBs). There are now several shadow STBs in England, with Transport for the North becoming the only statutory STB since April 2018.

Transport for the South East (TfSE) is a partnership of 16 Local Transport Authorities and five Local Enterprise Partnerships. In July 2020, TfSE's Shadow Board adopted a Transport Strategy. TfSE then embarked on a series of Area Studies and Thematic Strategies (Freight, Future Mobility and Decarbonisation) in August 2020, completing these in summer 2022. These studies collectively provided the evidence base for a Strategic Investment Plan that TfSE published in draft in July 2022 and undertook a public consultation on. At the TfSE Partnership Board on 14 November 2022, the Board membership endorsed changes that had been made to the Strategic Investment Plan given consultation feedback. This included consultation feedback made by Kent County Council. TfSE constituent member authorities are now tasked with endorsing the Strategic Investment Plan. Following this, TfSE will then submit the Plan in Spring 2023 to central Government for their consideration.

**Financial Implications**

As a constituent authority, KCC contributes £58,000 per year to fund the development of TfSE. The Department for Transport (DfT) has set out indicative funding to TfSE to end of the 2024/25 Financial Year. Hence it is forecast that KCC will continue to pay an annual member contribution of £58,000 per annum for the life of the TfSE current forecast budget period to 2024/25. Doing so commits KCC to a further total £116,000 in payments to TfSE over the next two financial years and will take KCC's total contribution to TfSE by end of 2024/25 to £388,000.

**Legal Implications**

As TfSE will remain a non-statutory informal and voluntary group that KCC participates in, there are no legal implications of the planned decision.

**Equalities implications**

The TfSE SIP has had an Integrated Impact Assessment conducted which considered the impact of

the SIP proposals on equalities. It concluded that the effect would be positive on the basis of improved connectivity and ease of making journeys within the region. The SIP indicates that assessment of equalities impacts should be undertaken should any of the proposals within the TfSE SIP be progressed. Should any of those proposals in the SIP be progressed by KCC, they will be subject to their own Equalities Impact Assessment and included as part of any future decision making.

**Data Protection implications**

A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required as this project does not require the processing of personal data.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

**Is any public consultation planned or has already been undertaken?**

Transport for the South East undertook public consultation on the Strategic Investment Plan in July to September of 2022. Stakeholders across Kent and the general public were invited to respond. KCC also responded to the consultation. The KCC response was considered in public as part of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee held on 8 September 2022.

**Cabinet Committee consultation planned or undertaken**

The KCC response was considered in public as part of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee held on 8 September 2022. The draft decision to endorse the TfSE Strategic Investment Plan will be considered in public as part of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**Which Divisions / Local Members are particularly affected:**

All Divisions.

**Have views been sought from local Members?**

All consultations held by Transport for the South East are discussed at Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

Kent County Council considered whether its consultation comments had been addressed by Transport for the South East. Had those comments not been sufficiently addressed, the Council's representative on the TfSE Partnership Board would seek further amendments to the Strategic Investment Plan until such time as the Plan was deemed suitable for the Leader of the Council to adopt it. This alternative approach was rejected on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, when the Council's representative on the TfSE Partnership Board endorsed the new draft Plan, with its associated amendments arising from the consultation. This triggered the routing of the draft Plan through the necessary democratic / constitutional processes of constituent member authorities including Kent County Council, to formally endorse the Plan.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

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signed

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date