

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

Leader of the 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 (TfSE) and support TfSE with its implementation.
2. Delegate to the Corporate of 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.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The decision was considered and endorsed by members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**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:**  
None



20 January 2023

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Signed

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date