



Strategic Transport Forum

27th September 2019

Agenda Item 3 – Outline Transport Strategy Engagement Update

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Forum:

- a) **Notes progress with the ongoing engagement on the Outline Transport Strategy**
- b) **Identifies any issues or opportunities that should be pursued by the EEH Business Unit as part of the engagement phase of the Outline Transport Strategy**

1. Context

- 1.1. England's Economic Heartland's *Outline Transport Strategy: Framework for Engagement* was published at the EEH annual regional conference on 16th July 2019.
- 1.2. The Outline Transport Strategy acts as a vehicle for engagement with partners and the wider stakeholder community. Discussions and feedback captured during the engagement phase will play a key role in shaping the Final Transport Strategy, due for publication in early autumn 2020.
- 1.3. Responses on the Outline Transport Strategy can be submitted up until 31 October 2019.

2. Stakeholder events

- 2.1. The EEH Business Unit was keen to work with partners to arrange discussions on the Outline Transport Strategy within their own local authority areas: either as part of an existing meeting or through a bespoke event.
- 2.2. Meetings have been confirmed with the majority of partners. EEH officers have already attended meetings at Central Bedfordshire (attended by around 20 key Members, including all Portfolio Holders within the authority) and the SEMLEP's Property Development Infrastructure Implementation & Delivery (attended by around 30 business representatives), with a significant number of further discussions now scheduled until 31st October 2019.
- 2.3. EEH has also arranged 'roundtable' meetings to coincide with the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative party conferences. The events are being attended by MPs, Peers and local Council Leaders. The first of these took place in Bournemouth at the Liberal Democrat Conference, and was chaired by Mayor Dave Hodgson.
- 2.4. In addition engagement events with external stakeholders are also underway. These include with ADEPT; Bicester Vision; the Rail Delivery Group; the UK Transport and Research Innovation Board; Silverstone Park businesses; Chiltern Society; Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet and the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT).

- 2.5. England's Economic Heartland has also presented at a number of conferences, where the opportunity was taken to speak about the Outline Transport Strategy to delegates. These include the Transport Knowledge Hub (around 50 delegates), Westminster Policy Forum conference (around 80 delegates) and Smart Transport Conference (around 250 delegates).
- 2.6. The inaugural meeting of EEH's 'influencers group' will be held on 30th October 2019. The meeting will be attended by people from organisations representing vulnerable/ minority groups, including BAME, LGBT, disabled and low income – ensuring that the needs of these groups are captured in the transport strategy.

3. Written responses

- 3.1. Stakeholders are being encouraged to submit written responses based on the questions within the Outline Transport Strategy.
- 3.2. Following a stakeholder mapping exercise, around 200 letters have been sent out to a variety of individuals and organisations informing them of the Outline Transport Strategy and encouraging them to respond during the period of engagement.
- 3.3. This EEH Business Unit is starting to receive written responses to the Outline Transport Strategy, including: the Port of Southampton; the English Regional Transport Association; and Daventry District Council.
- 3.4. With the summer holidays now over and a number of meetings with stakeholders planned, we anticipate that the volume of submissions will increase particularly as we move towards the engagement closing date (31st October 2019).

4. Emerging themes

- 4.1. A full analysis of responses will be presented to the Strategic Transport Forum at its meeting on 22nd November 2019.
- 4.2. However, from discussions and responses so far, several themes have begun to emerge. These include:
 - The Outline Transport Strategy has been positively received, including by key stakeholder organisations such as the Campaign for Better Transport and Freight Transport Association.
 - Stakeholders have particularly noted how England's Economic Heartland is at the forefront of the growing profile and appetite for user-centred approach to the planning and provision of future transport infrastructure and services.
 - A notable topic of debate has been whether the ambition for a zero-carbon transport system by 2050 is ambitious enough. At the EEH Conference Darren Shirley, CEO of the Campaign for Better Transport said the target was 'realistic'. However, other representations have suggested that EEH might seek to be more ambitious.
 - The key strategic linkages that are beyond the Heartland's boundaries have been stressed as a critically important consideration.
 - The need to consider wider strategic infrastructure has also been a recurring theme, and particularly digital infrastructure's role in enabling new business models that will help reduce the need for travel, and by extension helping reduce the environmental impact of transport.
 - The format of the strategy, with chapters reflecting the vision of 'connecting people and places with opportunities and services', and its many case studies and 'talking heads', has been very favourably received, differentiating it from other similar documents.

5. Engagement publicity

- 5.1. Reference to the Outline Transport Strategy and the period of engagement has appeared in several trade and local publications, including the BBC news website, Peterborough Telegraph, RAIL magazine, Local Transport Today, Rail Professional, Highways magazine and Transportation Professional.



- 5.2. The engagement is also being pushed out through partners' channels, including newsletters.
- 5.3. A 12-page supplement summarising the Outline Transport Strategy and encouraging transport professionals to give their views was published in Local Transport Today on 12th September 2019.
- 5.4. The period of engagement continues to be publicised through social media and regular EEH newsletters.

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