Strategic Transport Forum
28ᵗʰ June 2017

Agenda Item 4: Transport Strategy

Recommendation: **It is recommended that the meeting:**

i) **Note the progress with Phase 1 of the Transport Strategy**

ii) **Endorse the proposed approach for the wider programme**

1. Background

1.1. In parallel with the work to develop the proposal for the Sub-national Transport Body, it is important that the Transport Strategy for the Heartland is progressed.

1.2. The 'Planning for Growth' document was published in October 2016 as a position statement for the Strategic Transport Forum. The work to develop a longer-term Transport Strategy will build on this initial work, developing a comprehensive and strategic plan for the Heartland area, focussing on realising the following vision:

"Our vision is to deliver a transport system that integrates infrastructure and services in support of both economic activity and place-shaping in line with the Government's emerging Industrial Strategy. We seek to improve physical connectivity between larger urban centres, with a particular emphasis on east-west connectivity, and improved access into and within larger urban centres.

We will put in place strong governance and make use of innovative funding and delivery mechanisms to deliver an agreed programme of transport interventions faster and more cost effectively by working together across a wider area."

'Planning for Growth', England's Economic Heartland, October 2016

2. Purpose

2.1. The Transport Strategy will enable the Strategic Transport Forum to shape public and private investment in the area. Specifically, it will:

- Identify current and planned growth.

- Maximise the use of available infrastructure capacity to meet demand.

- Prioritise the delivery of infrastructure to support planned growth.

- Allow better informed choices to be made about the location of future growth.

- Facilitate informed dialogue with key stakeholders, such as developers, Highways England, Network Rail and Utility providers.

2.2. The Transport Strategy will provide a strong framework within which local strategies and plans, such as: the Strategic Economic Plans, Local Plans and Local Transport Plans, and be produced and progressed.

2.3. It will encourage innovative and cost effective approaches to infrastructure delivery, having regard to opportunities presented by new technologies and demand management approaches to make the most of existing infrastructure.

2.4. The Strategy will set out a prioritised, costed programme of infrastructure projects, which will be necessary to enable the economic potential of the Heartland to be realised. It will also identify a variety of different funding approaches (existing and potential) to unlock the timely delivery of infrastructure.

3. Progression of Phase 1

3.1. A Steering Group of officers from the Strategic Alliance partners, was set up in May to drive the Transport Strategy forward. The Steering Group membership includes local planning authority experts. Due to the extent of work required to develop the Strategy it was agreed to break the work down into 3 bespoke phases.

3.2. The first Phase intends to cover the majority of background work required for informing the Strategy, including:
- Gathering existing evidence across the area (storing all evidence within a consistent databank / displaying key infomation the form of an interactive map);
- Identifying gaps and inconsistencies within the existing evidence base;
- Collecting further evidence required to inform the Strategy; *and*
- Analysing all of the information (identifying key scenarios for testing).

3.3. As part of Phase 1 an initial report will be created outlining high level objectives / principles for the Strategy, with an initial assessment of how they relate to both the ambition in all of the published plans (to 2031) and the longer term ambition for the Heartland of the National infrastructure Commission. These objectives/ principles will be presented to the Strategic Transport Forum for approval in September, which will be timely to help inform key national investment decisions such as the Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) (consultation 12/2017 – 01/2018) and the High Level Output Statement (HLOS) (draft due iminently).

3.4. An Invitation to Quote for Phase 1 of the Strategy is currently live, with a deadline for submissions of 5th July. It is intended that the commission will commence with the successful consultants on 17th July for a period of 6 months.

3.5. All outputs of this phase will help to inform the final strategy, as well as providing a useful, consistent evidence base for the Heartland area (that can be regularly updated) to help inform all work going forward.

4. Wider Transport Strategy Programme

4.1. Phase 2 of the Strategy will run in paralell to the later part of Phase 1, focussing on the 'blue sky thinking' element of scenario planning. Phase 1 will identify key

scenarios for testing based on current planning proposals, whereas Phase 2 will focus more into the future in terms of where the Heartland area aspires to be in 2050. Both pieces of work will then be taking forward for scenario testing, which will inform the development of the Strategy.
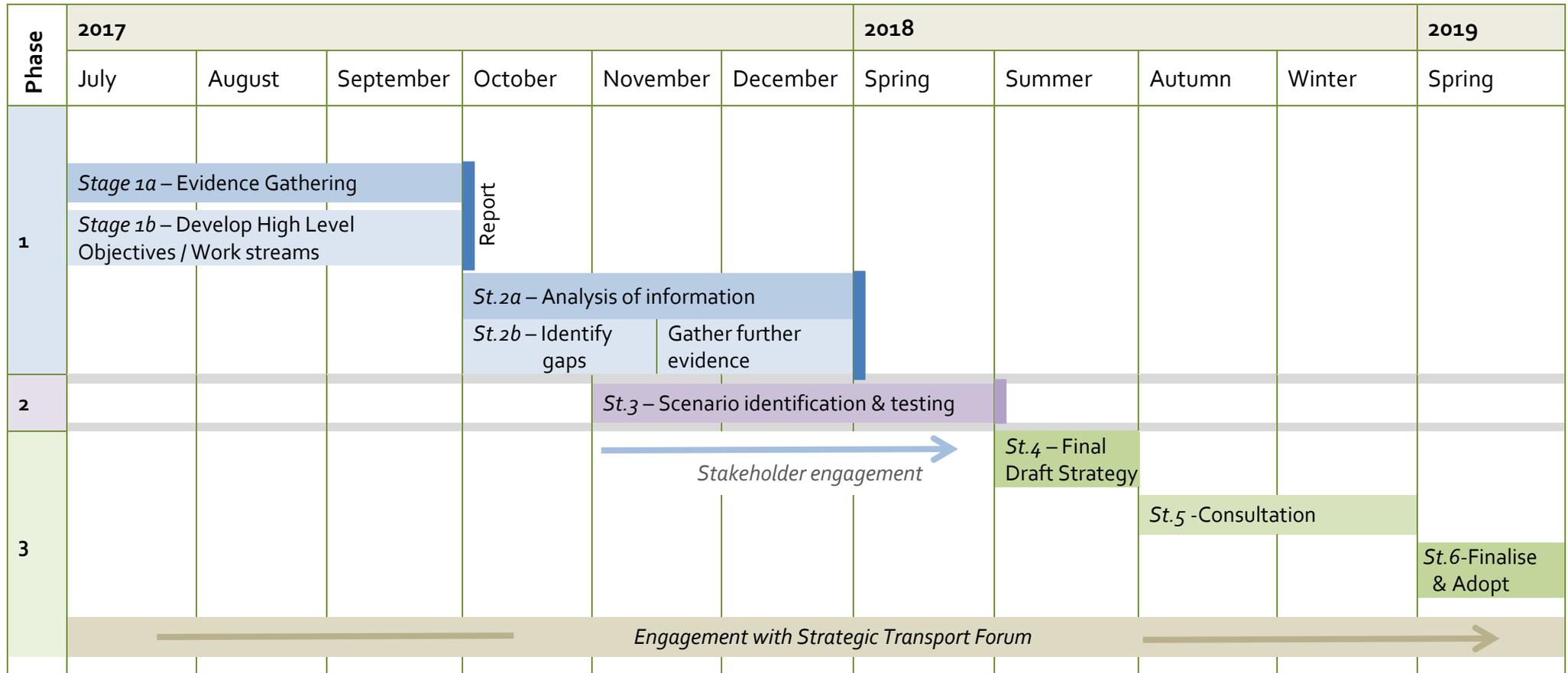
4.2.   It is intended that a selection of recommended scenarios will be presented to the Strategic Transport Forum in December for approval to proceed with testing.

4.3.   It is envisaged that a proportion of the Phase 2 work will be completed by the Transport Systems Catapult as part of the scenario planning being developed from their initial work with Highways England.

4.4.   Phase 3 is the final phase, focussing on developing and finalising the Transport Strategy (based on the evidence and information resulting from Phases 1 and 2), including a full formal consultation prior to adoption.

4.5.   For further detail on the proposed programme for the whole Strategy, please see Appendix 1.

Hilary Chipping
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June 2017

Appendix 1 – Proposed Transport Strategy Wider Programme

Phase	2017						2018				2019
	July	August	September	October	November	December	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
1	Stage 1a – Evidence Gathering Stage 1b – Develop High Level Objectives / Work streams			Report							
				St.2a – Analysis of information St.2b – Identify gaps · Gather further evidence							
2					St.3 – Scenario identification & testing						
3					Stakeholder engagement →			St.4 – Final Draft Strategy	St.5 -Consultation		St.6-Finalise & Adopt
			Engagement with Strategic Transport Forum								

- **Phase 1** – Evidence & Analysis
- **Phase 2** – Scenario Testing
- **Phase 3** – Strategy Development