



Strategic Transport Leadership Board

15 July 2022

Agenda Item 7: Board Champions

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board:

- a) Supports the appointment of Cllr Darlington and Cllr Lawman as board champions.**
- b) Agrees any further appointment of board champions, as nominated before or during the meeting.**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To provide board members with an update on progress with the appointment of EEH board champions.

2. Key points to note

- 2.1. Board champions will provide additional oversight of delivery of the EEH work programme and business plan, particularly steering our work in priority areas.
- 2.2. In June 2022, members were invited to put themselves forward for board champion roles across seven themes of EEH's work.
- 2.3. Board champions are intended to remain in post until December 2023.

3. Context

- 3.1. In May 2022, members of the Strategic Transport Leadership Board agreed to the creation of board champions.
- 3.2. The role is intended to complement the Board's wider role by providing additional oversight of delivery of the EEH work programme and business plan, particularly steering our work in priority areas.

4. Board Champions

- 4.1. Individual board champions will be appointed for a period of 18 months to lead a defined theme within the work programme.
- 4.2. During their time as board champion, the role will have greater engagement with EEH business unit staff between Board meetings. It is proposed that board champions would agree to:

- Monthly discussions with EEH’s lead officer of a priority area
- Act as a critical friend in developing proposals and ideas for taking forward that priority area – encouraging and supporting the work of the EEH staff
- Consider the implications of Board decisions from the point of view of the priority area, and challenge these as appropriate
- Use their network to support further interaction by EEH with other bodies, for example, with the Local Government Association

4.3. It is recognised that some board champions may wish to do more than the above – EEH staff will tailor the board champion role to individual preferences.

5. Themes

5.1. In May 2022, the Board agreed to have champions appointed for seven themes, listed below. Further information about each theme is provided in Annex 1.

- *Evidence* – focusing on ensuring sure we have the evidence needed to identify transport connectivity priorities for investment.
- *Planning for Net Zero* – focusing on a pathways approach to achieving a net zero transport system.
- *Improving Strategic Connectivity* – focusing on improving connectivity between the different economic areas and housing markets within our region, both physically and digitally.
- *Connectivity and Integration* – focusing on integrated transport networks that serve local communities and businesses
- *Innovation* – focusing on the future of mobility and innovation in the transport sector.
- *Regional scheme prioritisation and development*, including funding models – this theme supports the shift of priorities within EEH towards developing the strategic narrative of strategic outline business cases for regional priority schemes.
- *Capacity and Capability to deliver major infrastructure* – this theme supports the creation of a Centre of Excellence for the region specialising in developing the strategic narrative for transport infrastructure schemes at pre-SOBC stage.

6. Nominations

6.1. Board members were invited to confirm their interest to EEH business unit.

6.2. So far, two members have indicated their commitment to becoming a board champion:

Board Member	Theme
Cllr Emily Darlington	Innovation
Cllr Graham Lawman	Strategic Connectivity or Connectivity and Integration

6.3. Board members are asked to agree the appointment of Cllrs Darlington and Cllr Lawman.

6.4. Any further board member who would like to become a board champion is encouraged to put forward their interest for the Board to agree during the meeting.

7. Governance

7.1. Board champions are invited to remain in post until December 2023.

8. Stakeholder Implications

8.1. The appointment of board champions will allow greater discussion between the Board and EEH staff members around some of EEH’s key priorities.

9. Financial Implications

9.1. There are no financial implications.



Naomi Green
Managing Director
July 2022

List of Annexes

1. Board champion themes

Annex 1 – Board Champion Themes

Board champions are proposed to be appointed for each theme in the business plan. These are:

- **Evidence**

This theme focuses on ensuring sure we have the evidence needed to identify transport connectivity priorities for investment. Specific topics/projects will include:

- Scoping, design and procurement of a refreshed and upgraded regional evidence base
- Data quality and the possibility of a shared single database across public sector partners
- Making sure the evidence database is fit for purpose to support development of strategic narratives for pre-strategic outline business cases.

- **Planning for Net Zero**

This theme focuses on a pathways approach to achieving a net zero transport system. Specific topics/projects include:

- Supporting local authorities to plan for net zero transport systems, including monitoring and evaluating across the region
- Supporting the roll-out of LTPs across the region
- Electric Vehicle infrastructure
- Behaviour change and resulting modal shift to more sustainable options
- Decarbonisation of freight

- **Improving Strategic Connectivity** - this theme focuses on improving connectivity between the different economic areas and housing markets within our region, both physically and digitally. Specific topics/projects include:

- Rail – advocating for East West Rail in full, including the Aylesbury link, as well as rail development, strategy and planning across the existing main lines in our region.
- Roads – the forthcoming Roads Investment Strategy (RIS3), Major Roads Network (MRN) investment, and the Oxford to Cambridge Road Study
- Connectivity Studies programme
- Bus and coach connectivity across the region.
- Digital connectivity as a core part of the region’s transport and connectivity offer, this will need to include identification of funding for any commissions.

- **Connectivity and Integration** – this theme focuses on integrated transport networks that serve local communities and businesses. Specific topics/projects include:

- Active Travel
- Mobility Hubs
- Rural Transport
- Pan-regional integration through improved ticketing and information provision
- Alignment between spatial planning, physical connectivity and digital connectivity

- **Innovation** – this theme focuses on the future of mobility and innovation in the transport sector. Specific topics/projects include:



- Maximising the region's opportunity to solve our own transport challenges, through innovation
 - Working with business, academia and local government to lever new innovation pilots and demonstrators
 - Seeking funding opportunities in collaboration with partners
- **Regional scheme prioritisation and development**, including funding models – this theme supports the shift of priorities within EEH towards developing the strategic narrative of strategic outline business cases for regional priority schemes. Specific topics/projects include:
 - Developing a regional infrastructure pipeline
 - Prioritising transport investment schemes in the region by strategic fit for the region
 - Alternative funding models for transport infrastructure schemes
- **Capacity and Capability to deliver major infrastructure** – this theme supports the creation of a Centre of Excellence for the region specialising in developing the strategic narrative for transport infrastructure schemes at pre-SOBC stage. Specific topics/projects include:
 - Regional client-side capability (DfT in-year funding awarded)
 - Skills pipeline for transport infrastructure, planning and strategy
 - Formation of the Centre of Excellence – this will need to include securing of funding outside of the current indicative settlements from DfT.