



# Strategic Transport Leadership Board

9 June 2023

## Item 3: Board Members and Leadership

### *Recommendations:*

**It is recommended that the Board:**

- a) Welcomes new members and recognises the contributions of outgoing members**
- b) Notes the resignation of the EEH Board Chair, and subsequently agrees the proposed leadership arrangements for EEH to September 2023.**
- c) Notes that, following in principle approval to the 2023/24 work programme for EEH, full approval will be brought to the Board in July 2023 pending confirmation from DfT of our final funding allocation**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. This paper provides an update on membership and leadership of the Strategic Transport Leadership Board following the recent local government elections.

### **2. Key points to note**

- 2.1. Following the results of the local elections in May 2023, there are a number of new members joining the Strategic Transport Leadership Board.
- 2.2. The former Chair of EEH tendered his resignation on 26 May 2023. The current Vice Chair of EEH, Cllr Liz Leffman is proposed to stand in as Interim Chair until September 2023. This approach will allow the new Board to become more established before Chair and Vice Chair elections take place.
- 2.3. EEH awaits confirmation from DfT of its funding allocation to support the work programme for 2023/24.

### **3. Strategic Transport Leadership Board – Membership**

- 3.1. The legislative framework under which STBs are established states that the membership of England's Economic Heartland should be its relevant transport authorities. A description of the Board remit for EEH is set out in annex 1.
- 3.2. In addition to core Board members, for the STB to reflect our strong and effective working relationships, such as with growth boards and national and regional infrastructure and delivery organisations, there are a small number of additional bodies that have been agreed as associate members or observers on the Board.
- 3.3. Annex 2 sets out the list of members, associate members and observers, as agreed by the Board in September 2021. The list of associate members and observers may be updated in the future, as necessary and only with agreement of the Board.
- 3.4. As members, the leader of each transport authority is invited to attend the Strategic Transport Leadership Board. Leaders may, if desired, nominate a representative with the mandate to the represent the views of that authority.



- 3.5. Following the results of the local government elections in May 2023, a number of new members are welcomed to the Board. A full list of Board members for 2023/24 is set out in annex 3.
- 3.6. The EEH Vice Chair wrote to all outgoing Board members to thank them for their contribution towards the success of England's Economic Heartland; a number of whom had played a significant part in the successful creation and evolution of EEH.
- 3.7. New members have been provided with an induction pack and the EEH business unit would welcome the opportunity to meet at an appropriate time to talk through the activities of EEH as your sub-national transport body.

#### **4. Board Leadership**

- 4.1. Following the local government elections in May 2023 and subsequent annual general meeting for Central Bedfordshire Council, on 26 May 2023 Cllr Richard Wenham tendered his resignation as Chair of England's Economic Heartland.
- 4.2. Cllr Wenham had been Chair of EEH since September 2021. Board Members will wish to note the important contribution Cllr Wenham has made to EEH during his time as Chair, particularly overseeing the way EEH supports our local authority partners through improved data and evidence reporting, increased collaboration across local partners and wider STB community at board and officer level and the development of the centre of excellence programme.
- 4.3. Since September 2021, Cllr Liz Leffman has been EEH's Vice Chair, playing an active role both in supporting the Chair and providing oversight and guidance of the EEH business unit and its programme of activity.
- 4.4. As the current Vice Chair, the Board is recommended to support that Cllr Leffman steps in as Interim Chair of the EEH Board until September 2023. At this time both the Chair and Vice Chair positions will be for re-election. It is proposed that election of the EEH Chair and Vice Chair positions take place at the beginning of the Board in September 2023. This will enable newer members to form a greater understanding of the work of EEH to inform their views on Chair and Vice Chair appointments.

#### **5. EEH Work Programme**

- 5.1. In May 2022, the Strategic Transport Leadership Board agreed a three-year business plan for EEH<sup>1</sup>.
- 5.2. The plan provided the framework for how the investment provided by local authority partners alongside the indicative funding provided by DfT from 2022-2025 would be used to deliver work that would allow the region to plan and deliver the ambitions of the regional transport strategy, published in February 2021.
- 5.3. On the back of the three-year business plan, in March 2023 the Board considered and agreed a draft work programme for the financial year 2023/24. The work programme was draft, pending final confirmation of a funding settlement from DfT ministers.
- 5.4. While we await confirmation from DfT of the final settlement for the year ahead, the EEH business unit continues to deliver programmes that are already funded from previous years' allocations. We are also preparing the 2023 work programme so that it is ready to deliver, including commissions, once DfT funding has been confirmed.

**Naomi Green**  
**Managing Director**  
**June 2023**

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://eeh-prod-media.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Three-year\\_Business\\_Plan\\_2022\\_to\\_2025.pdf](https://eeh-prod-media.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Three-year_Business_Plan_2022_to_2025.pdf)



## 6. Annex 1 – Board Remit

- 6.1. EEH was established in autumn 2014 on the initiative of local political leaders in response to their understanding that:
  - Strategic infrastructure issues (and solutions) extend beyond any one single local transport authority area
  - Issues that are common to one or more areas can benefit from a co-ordinated response, and that in so doing it is possible to achieve change and realise efficiencies
  - Delivery of a sustainable transport system is dependent upon the integration of investment by government, its arms-length bodies, local authorities, as well as infrastructure owners and service providers.
- 6.2. These guiding principles continue to underpin the work of EEH and reflect the commitment amongst political and business leaders to harness the benefit of collaborative working to unlock added value that benefits residents, communities, and businesses.
- 6.3. The Board’s focus has always been on driving outcomes and delivering investment for the benefit of the region, ensuring that:
  - EEH complements the powers, responsibilities and accountabilities of its partners: collaboration is fundamental to our approach, allowing us to speak with one voice on issues of genuine strategic interest
  - Whilst the focus of England’s Economic Heartland as a sub-national transport body is naturally on strategic transport, our work on decarbonisation has re-validated the original ethos underpinning England’s Economic Heartland: the need to adopt a ‘whole-systems’ approach to strategic connectivity, aligning strategic transport planning with digital connectivity and utilities
  - That all the tools and technical work undertaken by EEH is made freely available to all partners for their own use, providing significant added value, particularly in respect to the tools EEH has developed as part of its regional evidence base. Government departments and arms-length bodies likewise have free access to all tools and technical work.
- 6.4. England’s Economic Heartland works closely with adjoining sub-national transport bodies on issues of common interest. It is also an active member of the wider network that brings together all of England’s seven sub-national transport bodies.
- 6.5. Sub-national transport bodies are the DfT’s preferred sub-national mechanism for engaging with local transport authorities on strategic issues.
- 6.6. They are established under the terms of the Cities and Local Government Act 2008, as modified by the Local Transport Act 2016. EEH was recognised by DfT as an STB in 2016 and has the benefit of receiving funding from the DfT in support of its role as an STB.
- 6.7. DfT looks to each STB to be a single body:
  - With a transport remit, responsible for developing, publishing and overseeing the implementation of the regional transport strategy informed by a regional evidence base
  - That works with DfT to prioritise investment
  - That has clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the work of DfT’s arms-length bodies, for example National Highways, Network Rail, and in due course Great British Railways. In EEH’s case this also involves work with the East West Railway Company
  - On which all local transport authorities are represented.

- 6.8. The DfT ministerial team has consistently set out the importance that they attach to the work of the STBs, with them having an increasingly key role to play in shaping the work of both National Highways and Network Rail. The level of influence achievable with the investment programmes of these organisations is measurably more significant when local transport authorities act in partnership as an STB.
- 6.9. It is in the context of the wider STB policy framework that DfT expects EEH to remain a standalone sub national transport body, working as it does with partnerships across the region.

## Annex 2 - Board Membership

### 1. Full Members

- 1.1. Each full member of the sub-national transport body has a single vote on Board decisions.
- 1.2. For decisions to be quorate, the body must have representation from at least 50% of members with voting rights, either members of the body or their delegates.

|  |
|--|
| Bedford Borough Council                              |
| Buckinghamshire Council                              |
| Cambridgeshire County Council                        |
| Central Bedfordshire Council                         |
| Hertfordshire County Council                         |
| Luton Borough Council                                |
| Milton Keynes Council                                |
| North Northamptonshire Council                       |
| Oxfordshire County Council                           |
| Swindon Borough Council                              |
| Peterborough City Council                            |
| West Northamptonshire Council                        |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority * |

\* It has been a long standing commitment of both EEH and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to strengthen links between the bodies, including the combined authority expressing their intent to becoming full members of EEH.

### 2. Associate Members

- 2.1. Associate members have been identified as having a role on the Board given the need for EEH to have a strong and effective working relationship with them.
- 2.2. Associate members and observers are entitled to participate in meetings but do not have voting rights on Board decisions.

|   |
|---|
| Central Area Growth Board and South East Midlands LEP |
| Future Oxfordshire Partnership                        |
| Buckinghamshire Growth Board                          |
| Swindon and Wiltshire LEP                             |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Business Board        |
| EEH Bus Operators Association                         |

### 3. Observers

- 3.1. Observers are those bodies for whom EEH requires a close working relationship in order to ensure delivery and support for the Board's priorities.
- 3.2. Observers are entitled to participate in meetings but do not have voting rights on Board decisions.

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Department for Transport |
| National Highways        |
| Network Rail             |

### Annex 3 - Board Membership – Named Representatives

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Bedford Borough Council                         | <b>Mayor Tom Wootton</b> (invited)  |
| Buckinghamshire Council                         | <b>Cllr Martin Tett</b> , Leader  |
| Cambridgeshire County Council                   | <b>Cllr Lucy Nethsingha</b> , Leader  |
| Central Bedfordshire Council                    | <b>Cllr Adam Zerny</b> , Leader<br>(Councillor Mary Walsh, Executive Member for Planning & Development attending on 9 June on his behalf) |
| Hertfordshire County Council                    | <b>Cllr Phil Bibby</b> (Executive member for highways and transportation)   |
| Luton Borough Council                           | <b>Cllr Robert Roche</b> , (Cabinet member for Inclusive Economy)   |
| Milton Keynes Council                           | <b>Cllr Jenny Marklew-Wilson</b> (Cabinet member for sustainability)  |
| North Northamptonshire Council                  | <b>Cllr Graham Lawman</b> , (Executive member for highways, travel and assets)  |
| Oxfordshire County Council                      | <b>Cllr Liz Leffman</b> , Leader  |
| Swindon Borough Council                         | <b>Cllr Jim Robbins</b> , Leader (invited)  |
| Peterborough City Council                       | <b>Cllr Marco Cereste</b> , (Cabinet member for growth and regeneration)  |
| West Northamptonshire Council                   | <b>Cllr Phil Larratt</b> , (Cabinet member for climate, transport and highways)   |
| Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority * | <b>Mayor Nik Johnson</b>  |

\* It has been a long standing intention of the combined authority to consider becoming full members of EEH.