

## BERKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY (BLTB)

REPORT TO: BLTB

DATE: 16 March 2017

CONTACT OFFICER: Roger Parkin, Interim Chief Executive Slough Borough Council, lead Chief Executive to the BLTB

### PART I

#### Item 4: Sub-national Transport Body Proposal – Transport for the South East

##### *Purpose of Report*

1. This report introduces details of a proposed sub-national transport body, working title 'Transport for the South East' and recommends that BLTB join on behalf of the six Berkshire Unitaries.
2. To receive a presentation from Mark Valleley of East Sussex County Council who is managing the development of the Transport Strategy for the shadow sub-national transport body.

##### *Recommendation*

3. You are recommended to
  - 3.1. Participate in the shadow arrangements for a sub-national transport body for the south east
  - 3.2. Nominate Cllr Page to represent BLTB at the shadow board meetings
  - 3.3. Ask for further reports on the details of the governance and proposed strategy for the sub-national transport body in due course

##### *Other Implications*

##### *Financial*

4. The operating costs of the proposed sub-national transport body will be shared between the participating members. The detail of the proposed budget and its allocated shares is one of the details that will be discussed at shadow board meetings. Once the extent of the contribution expected from BLTB is known, there will have to be a further determination of how the six unitary authorities and the LEP will apportion the costs.

##### *Risk Management*

5. In November 2015, the DfT published [proposals as part of its devolution agenda](#)<sup>1</sup> to establish sub-national transport bodies on a statutory basis. It gave [Transport for the North](#)<sup>2</sup> and [Midlands Connect](#)<sup>3</sup> as examples.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regions-to-be-offered-legal-powers-to-transform-transport>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.transportforthenorth.com/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/482247/midlands-engine-for-growth.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/482247/midlands-engine-for-growth.pdf)

6. The risk for the Thames Valley Berkshire area is that by not engaging with the government's policy to promote sub-national transport bodies, it will be harder to fund infrastructure proposals that are significant at the sub-national scale.
7. The risk associated with participating in these arrangements is that time, resources and energy will be devoted to the new arrangements which fail to deliver any tangible benefits.
8. The recommendation to join the BLTB into the new arrangements, as opposed to the six individual unitary authorities, is a response to these risks. The logic of the proposal is that the six unitary councils have a shared interest at the sub-national scale, and that our participation can be safely streamlined to a joint participation.

### Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

9. [Section 21\(1\) of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016](#)<sup>4</sup> amended Part 5 of the Local Transport Act 2008 as follows,
 

*“The Secretary of State may by regulations establish a sub-national transport body for any area in England outside Greater London.”*

 The Act goes on to describe further the regulations for a sub-national transport body should be made.
10. Slough Borough Council will provide legal support for the BLTB should any questions arise on the application of this enabling legislation to the arrangements for the proposed Transport for the South East.

### **Supporting Information**

1. We have invited Mark Valleley of East Sussex County Council, who is leading on the development of the Transport Strategy for the shadow sub-national transport body to attend the meeting to make a presentation and answer questions about the current state of the proposals.
2. Richard Tyndall has attended a meeting of the shadow senior officers' group, and he has accompanied Cllr Page to a briefing with Cllr Glazier (Leader of East Sussex County Council) and Rupert Clubb (Director of Communities, Economy and Transport, ESCC).
3. The current timetable is working towards a 'go-live' date of 1 April 2019. The first meeting of the member-level shadow board is planned for 26 June 2017 following the forthcoming county council elections.
4. The geographical coverage of the proposed Transport for the South East is:
 

Upper Tier Local Authorities

  - Kent

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/1/section/21/enacted>

- Medway
- East Sussex
- West Sussex
- Brighton and Hove
- Surrey
- Hampshire
- Portsmouth
- Southampton
- Isle of Wight
- Berkshire Local Transport Body on behalf of Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham.

#### Local Enterprise Partnerships

- South East (part)
  - Coast to Capital (part)
  - Solent
  - Enterprise M3
  - Thames Valley Berkshire
5. The arrangements will also allow for the involvement of the following key stakeholders (detail to be discussed):
- DfT
  - Highways England
  - Network Rail
  - Ports
  - Airports
  - Bus Operators
  - Train Operators
  - TfL

#### **Conclusion**

6. Proposals to develop 'Transport for the South East' are progressing well. This report authorises participation in the shadow board discussions. Any formal decision to join will be the subject of further detailed reports.

#### **Background Papers**

7. Correspondence between LEPs and briefing notes supplied by the TfSE shadow project team.