

Growth Board Executive Officer Group 31st March 2016

Agenda item

Contact: Paul Staines; Growth Board Programme Manager and Bev Hindle.....

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Strategic Transport Forum

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Growth Board with an introduction to the Strategic Transport Forum (the Forum), a newly formed sub-group of England's Economic Heartland Alliance. The report also advises on the proposed work programme the streams the forum is developing.

Background

2. The Forum is a newly constituted body comprising representatives from across the Alliance membership, including principal authorities from Oxfordshire to Cambridgeshire and including individual local authorities together with Joint Statutory Committees such as the Growth Board and LEPs. Oxfordshire is represented by the Chairmen of the Growth Board and OxLEP, together with a representative from the County Council.
3. The governance arrangements for the forum are attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
4. The forum is supported by an officer group who will be charged with implementing an approved work programme

Proposed work programme

5. The outline work programme approved at the inaugural meeting is as follows:
 - To develop an initial Transport Strategy for the Heartland area – to be used to shape Alliance inputs into national and sub-national discussions;
 - Review existing transport strategy work across the Heartland area;
 - Publish an initial Transport Strategy (including the identification of strategic priorities for investment);
 - To input into the development of the next round of national investment strategies for road and rail;
 - Develop a proposal for the Major Road Network for the Heartland area;
 - Make the case for using the Major Road Network as the basis for allocating investment using monies collected through VED (Vehicle Excise Duty);

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- Agree position statement on road network for input into the preparation of the next Roads Investment Strategy;
 - Agree position statement on rail network for input into the Initial Industry Plan (that shapes the next Rail Investment Strategy);
 - To provide strategic input into major studies and/or major projects – to include but not limited by:
 - A1 (M25 to Peterborough) corridor study
 - East-West Links (Expressway study)
 - East-West Rail – provide on-going support to the East-West Rail consortium as appropriate
 - To develop a co-ordinated approach to transport modelling across the Heartland area – to realise efficiencies and improve the evidence base;
 - To identify opportunities for innovative approaches to procurement that can be applied across the Heartland area - working with the Civil Engineering Contractors Association; and,
 - To develop a detailed proposal for Government funding support for the activities of the Strategic Transport Forum – building on the initial proposal for £10m of revenue funding over 5 years identified in the Strategic Transport Proposition submitted to Government in July 2015.
6. The first substantive project for The Forum, the Strategic Transport Strategy, is being led by Hilary Chipping of SEMLEP. Officers from across the member authorities will be involved in a working group to support this project. Progress on this strategy, and other elements of the sub-group work programme, will be reported back to the Growth Board.