

TO: THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
DATE: 22 May 2020

**TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH EAST (TfSE) –
FINAL PROPOSAL TO SEEK STATUTORY STATUS**

Director of Place, Planning and Regeneration

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To confirm Bracknell Forest Council's consent to the Transport for the South East (TfSE) proposal to seek statutory status from Government.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That approval is given to the inclusion of Bracknell Forest Council as a constituent member of the TfSE Sub-national Transport Body;**
- (ii) That the Council supports the TfSE proposal to seek statutory status from Government.**

3 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.2 TfSE requires approval from all of its constituent authorities, including BFC, as part of its proposal for statutory status which will be submitted to Government in Summer 2020

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 In July 2019, BFC outlined its support for the creation of TfSE following a formal consultation period.
- 5.2 In December 2019, TfSE agreed that it should seek to submit the proposal for statutory status upon completion of their Transport Strategy. This proposal will firmly set out the ways in which TfSE and the Department for Transport can work in partnership to implement the bold and ambitious approach included in the Strategy.
- 5.3 Legislation requires that a new sub-national transport body will be promoted by, and have the consent of, its constituent authorities. Formal consent is required before the TfSE Shadow Partnership Board approves the final proposal. It was agreed by the Shadow Partnership Board in December that all constituent authorities should aim to confirm their position by Spring 2020.
- 5.4 BFC has already outlined its support for TfSE as the Sub National Transport Body for the South East and recognises the need for the region to speak with one voice on strategic transport priorities.

- 5.5 There are three goals around which the TfSE draft Transport Strategy is based:
- the economic imperative, to improve productivity and attract investment to grow our economy and better compete in a global marketplace;
 - the societal benefits of improving health, safety, wellbeing, quality of life and access of opportunities for everyone;
 - the environmental necessity to protect and enhance the South East's unique natural and historic environment.

These goals align with the objectives within the BFC Local Transport Plan and also with the objectives of both the Thames Valley Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and the locally agreed Berkshire Local Industrial Strategy (BLIS)

- 5.6 For more information please visit www.transportforthesoutheast.org.uk

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Treasurer

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However once the TfSE is operational Bracknell Forest Council would look to support it's share of any promotional costs from existing budgets.

Borough Solicitor

- 6.2 A decision regarding submission of the proposal will be made by the TfSE shadow Board once all constituent authorities have approved under their respective individual governance arrangements. Should the government approve the proposal a statutory instrument will be laid before Parliament to implement the final decision. Statutory status will provide TfSE with a range of statutory powers and responsibilities which would not otherwise be vested in it.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 TfSE carried out a full public consultation on the exact terms of a Proposal to Government requesting statutory status which, if approved by Parliament, will become a second Sub-national Transport Body alongside Transport for the North.

Contacts for further information

Neil Mathews - Head of Highways and Transport
01344 351163
neil.mathews@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Stuart Jefferies – Transport Strategy Manager
01344 351155
stuart.jefferies@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

