

Transport East Forum
Friday 20th 2023
Via Teams

Core Members		TESOG Officers		Observers	
Cllr Graham Plant	Norfolk County Council	Andrew Summers	Transport East	Dan Taylor	DfT
Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council	Esme Yuill	Transport East	Scott Copsey	University of Herts
Cllr Lesley Wagland	Essex County Council	Rebecca Rangi	Transport East	Charles Baker	Network Rail
Cllr Tim Adams	Norfolk District Councils Rep	Suzanne Buck	Transport East	Sarah Jane Crawford	Network Rail
Cllr Phil Wittam	Suffolk District Councils Rep	Alastair Southgate	Essex County Council	Phil Bibby	Hertfordshire Council
Cllr Kevin Buck	Southend City Council	Karen Chapman	Suffolk Growth Partnership	Hugo Fulford	DfT
Cllr Alexander Nicoll	East West Rail Eastern Board Chair	Sara Noonan	Suffolk District Rep		
Paul Simon	Suffolk of Chamber Commerce	Luke Barber	Suffolk County Council		
Nova Fairbank	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce	Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council		
Mark Lucas	UK Innovation Corridor	David Cumming	Norfolk County Council		
Iain McNab	Essex Chamber of Commerce	Mat Taylor	National Highways		
		Neil Hoskins	Southend City Council		
		David Glason	Great Yarmouth Council		
		Louise Flavell	Essex District Rep		

Apologies

Nicola Beach	Suffolk County Council	Cllr Graham Butland	Essex District Councils Rep
Cllr Kevin Bentley (Chair)	Essex County Council	Perry Glading	South East LEP

<p>1 Welcome and apologies, and Declaration of Interest Cllr Graham Plant, Vice Chair of Transport East</p> <p>New Forum members were welcomed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Phil Wittam, West Suffolk. Suffolk Districts representative - Sara Noonan, West Suffolk, Suffolk District officer support. - Cllr Kevin Buck, Southend. Southend political lead 	<p>Action</p>
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<p>The Forum thanked Please thank Karen Chapman for her service to Transport East. Her last meeting today. She has been Suffolk District officer rep since Transport East formed and put a significant amount of her time into setting up and supporting Transport East since 2018.</p> <p>Minutes approved from June 2023.</p>	
<p>2. Department for Transport Update Dan Taylor, Deputy Director, Regional Partnerships and Delivery, Regions, Cities and Devolution, Roads and Local Group,</p> <p>Dan provided the following summary on current DfT announcements, specifically Network North:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional commitment of £8.3billion has been announced for Roads (Highways Maintenance Fund). This will cover the next 10 years and be in addition to the current funding. No further details currently but DfT sponsors will keep TE updated. • There are no further details on Network North, however DfT confirmed existing MRN and LLR road schemes will benefit from an uplift in government contributions from 85% to 100% from Outlined Business Case stage. • Future of Rural Strategy has been published on 2nd October, link here. TE has worked closely with DfT on this document, including a DfT Pledge to work closely with the TE Rural Centre of Excellence. • The 'Plan for Drivers' was published on 2nd October. This includes a range of interventions, including funding for upgrades on travel signals and a universal parking app. • LTP Guidance is still pending, and LTAs are asked to continue with current plans and await further information. • Business Planning Guidance for STB Business Plans 2024/25 will be shared by COP 27th October from DfT. <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even with the additional uplift from Gov, private funding would still be expected. Details requested from DfT on what CIL requirements will be. • DfT is still waiting a decision from Treasury on the Army & Navy Scheme. • Views expressed that decisions still need quicker timelines; councils are running out of funding to keep schemes 'alive'. • SCC / DfT / EDF conversations are taking place on Sizewell C and their contributions to A12 schemes. • Three A47 schemes at Blofield, Easton and Thickthorn have been granted an appeal by the Court of Appeal. 	<p>ACTIONS</p> <p>DfT to confirm CIL funding and the timeline of a decision from HM Treasury on Army & Navy.</p>
<p>3 Investment Programme and Funding Update</p> <p>Andrew Summers, Chief Executive, Transport East updated members. Key points were:</p>	<p>Actions</p>

- The TE business plan for 23/24 was revised following funding confirmation from DfT over the summer. TE original grant allocation of £944k for 2023/24 was reduced and held at 22/23 levels, as for all STBs across England in light of the financial situation. TE Leadership Team and TESOG undertook a prioritisation exercise to match the work programme with the available budget, and this was approved by Forum members via email in September.
- The government's publication of 'Network North' including intention to proceed with a number of priorities that Transport East had previously provided advice to the Secretary of State on:
 - Ely and Haughley rail schemes
 - Major Road Network Programme for the East
 - The £2 bus fare scheme was extended until the end of December 2024.
- There was an agreement from members to continue to work with DfT, National Highways and Network Rail to ensure rapid delivery of strategic projects.

Esme Yuill provided the below paper on the recent National Infrastructure Assessment that was published on 18th October.



NIC National
Infrastructure Assessm

There are several positive recommendations that, if taken forward, would benefit transport in the East. These include:

- New five-year transport budgets for all county councils and unitary authorities by the end of 2025 sufficient to cover maintenance, renewals and small to medium enhancements. We, and our partners, have consistently made the case to government that our local authorities need greater certainty and flexibility of funding for transport networks.
- Government should support £8 billion a year of investment in local transport outside London. This represents a 20 per cent increase on current spending levels.
- Government should complete East West Rail and a portfolio of targeted network enhancements across the country.
- Accelerating the deployment of electric vehicle public charge points. This is in line with Transport East's recent analysis of provision in the East which identified 15,000 new chargers would be needed by 2030 to meet forecast demand.

- Accelerating the transition to a decarbonised energy supply and investing in infrastructure to keep pace with increased demands to fuel transport in the future, both electricity and hydrogen.
- The report also recommends ongoing Government engagement with Sub-national Transport Bodies, including Transport East on transport infrastructure requirements and investment, including through the development of an Integrated Transport Strategy

The discussion also noted that the transport connectivity analysis was sparse for the East, and Officers are following up with the NIC to understand in more detail how the analysis was taken.

Comments and discussion

- We need a compelling visual representation (potentially infographic) of the East, showing our priority schemes, our key economic USPs, and how the East benefits the rest of the country. A visual aid that can be shared widely is of high importance.
- Ely needs to be 'billed' as a Road and Rail improvement scheme, not just a rail scheme.
- It was noted that the A47 and A12 from RIS2 were not mentioned in the Network North report, nor are the RIS3 Pipeline schemes.

TE to take forward and develop the infographic.

4. Strategy Hub Report and Presentation: Rural Mobility

Dr Scott Copsey, Smart Mobility Research Unit Director and Esme Yuill, Head of External Affairs gave a presentation on the completed Strategy Regional Hub – Call for Evidence Rural Mobility (slides below)



Forum Slides.pdf

Comments and discussion

- Overall support for the work. Members were invited to provide any further comments on the recommendations after the meeting.
- Concessionary fares schemes have caused problems in Norfolk, with concessionary fares now only applicable after 9:30am to allow schools and works to use the buses.
- Further comments and questions to be emailed directly to Esme.Yuill@transporteast.gov.uk

5. Rail Plan for the East Update

Andrew Summers, Transport East & Sarah Jane Crawford, Principal Programme Sponsor, Anglia Route, NR provided an update on recent activity. (Slides below)





TE Rail Plan
Update.pdf

- Transport East is currently undertaking several pieces of work that will complete in spring 24 on rail, these include.
 - Quick Wins priorities for the next 5 years
 - Regional Connectivity Study
- Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Chair of EWR Eastern Section, was voted to be joint Vice Chair of the EWR Mainline Partnership Board at their last meeting.
- Cambridge South and Beaulieu Park are on schedule for delivery in Spring and Summer 25.
- Cambridge area has secured a further £200 million for resignalling.
- NR are supportive of the creation of the Essex Thameside Task force and working with TE and partners in the Rail leadership group to progress this.
- Liverpool Street pedestrian improvement programme is progressing well.
- Iterative changes at Stratford Station are under way and will continue over the next 4 years. Stratford Station does have further development with aspirations with the London legacy Development Corporation and other government departments.
- NR have engaged with government and made clear that NR are ready to 'go' on the Ely upgrade. The scheme was closed in way that allows for a quick enablement; however, the scheme is large, and it will take three to six months to get all the appropriate contracts in place and ready for the next stage.

Comments and discussion

- The news on Ely and Haughley is encouraging but still significant amount of work and approvals required to deliver the schemes.
- NR currently does not have a target start and end date. NR confirmed the next stage is 18 months and that will take us to design to establish delivery. Improvements can be delivered as part of maintenance programmes but as, yet nothing is decided.
- NR is urged to include within its procurement local values and establish robust supply chains that benefits the business communities across the region.

	<p>6. Communications Update <i>Esme Yuill, Head of External Affairs, Transport East</i></p> <p> 20231020 Forum Comms update.pdf</p>	
	<p>7. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical Programme update <p> 2023 10 20 Forum Technical Programme</p> <p>No further business recorded</p>	