

Transport East Board Meeting

Sizewell C Board Room

Thursday 27th March 2025

Attendees

Core Members		Officers		Observers	
Will Quince	Transport East Chair	Andrew Summers	Chief Executive of Transport East	Dan Taylor	DfT
Cllr Graham Plant	Norfolk County Council (VC)	Esme Yuill	Transport East	Jack Weaver	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Lesley Wagland	Essex County Council	Richard Doleman	Norfolk County Council	Toby Warren	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Alexander Nicoll	Chair of EWR Eastern Section	Alastair Southgate	Essex County Council	Aimee Mclachlan	East Suffolk District Council
Cllr Phil Wittam	Suffolk District Rep	Andrea Mayley	Suffolk District Rep	Andrew Cook	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Graham Butland	Essex District Rep	Luke Barber	Suffolk County Council		
Cllr Kevin Robinson	Southend City Council	Karen Gearing	Southend City Council		
Cllr Tim Adams	Norfolk District Rep	Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council		
Cllr Chris Chambers	Suffolk County Council	Mark Lucas	UK Innovation Corridor		
Cllr Graham Butland	Essex District Rep	Trevor Wiggett	Norfolk District Rep		

Apologies

Cllr Phil Wittam	Suffolk District Rep	Nav Tung	Thurrock County Council
Cllr Victoria Holloway	Thurrock County Council	Cllr Daniel Cowen	Southend City Council

1 Welcome & Introductions

Will Quince chair of Transport East and Cllr Chris Chambers welcomed and thanked colleagues for attending today.

2 Department for Transport Update

Dan Taylor, Deputy Director, Regional Partnerships and Delivery, DfT summarised key activity.

- The Spring Statement from Government was challenging and budgets remain very tight.
- Lower Thames Crossing DCO was approved on 25th March and there will be further Transport announcements in the coming weeks but nothing of note.

- CSR Spending review is still on track for late spring and work is progressing on this within DfT, with Ministerial priorities remaining the same.
- DfT Changes
 - Dame Bernadette Kelly is retiring with no replacement announced yet.
 - New Director General Richard Gibson now in place for Rail Reform. Alex Hynes, Director General Rail Services Group remains.
 - Conrad Bailey, Director General, Local Transport and Rail

Comments and discussion

- No 'raids' on capital budgets infrastructure remains key to government growth. DfT funding envelopes are up against larger departments such as NHS and defence.
- Business case and transport appraisal (Investment Multiples) is being reviewed internally by DfT, and DfT will confirm if STBs can feed into that review.
ACTION: Dan Taylor to confirm

3 Transport East Business Unit Update

Andrew Summers, Chief Executive, Transport East

- **Business plan for 25/26: Endorsed**
Andrew thanked DfT colleagues for their support in helping Transport East secure their largest funding amount to date, £1,040,667. The SoS has set a clear mandate for Transport East over the next fiscal year focusing on pan regionally approach and connectivity, and capacity and capability for LTA partners. The additional funding of 10% will be used for support partner on key priorities such as strategic rail and data.
- **2025/2026 Partner Subscriptions: 3.5% increase Endorsed.**
This was endorsed and Transport East given the approval to proceed to requesting purchase orders and invoicing.
- **Annual Report 2025/26 – Endorsed** and welcome wider circulation.
- **Business Board representation: Endorsed** with the following caveat that responsibility for economic development will sit with the Mayors when they are elected. However, for the next year their input and influence would be welcome. **ACTION: Transport East to formally invite the three chairs of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex Business Boards.**
- **Devolution consultation update:** Esme provided a summary of the response that TE will be submitting (*see below*) on the 13th April. This response was endorsed. Andrew Cook noted County Councils are a statutory consultee and will be responding accordingly. There is a planned open evening for public engagement on 3rd April in Ipswich for Norfolk and Suffolk areas.



Devo consultation
points.pdf

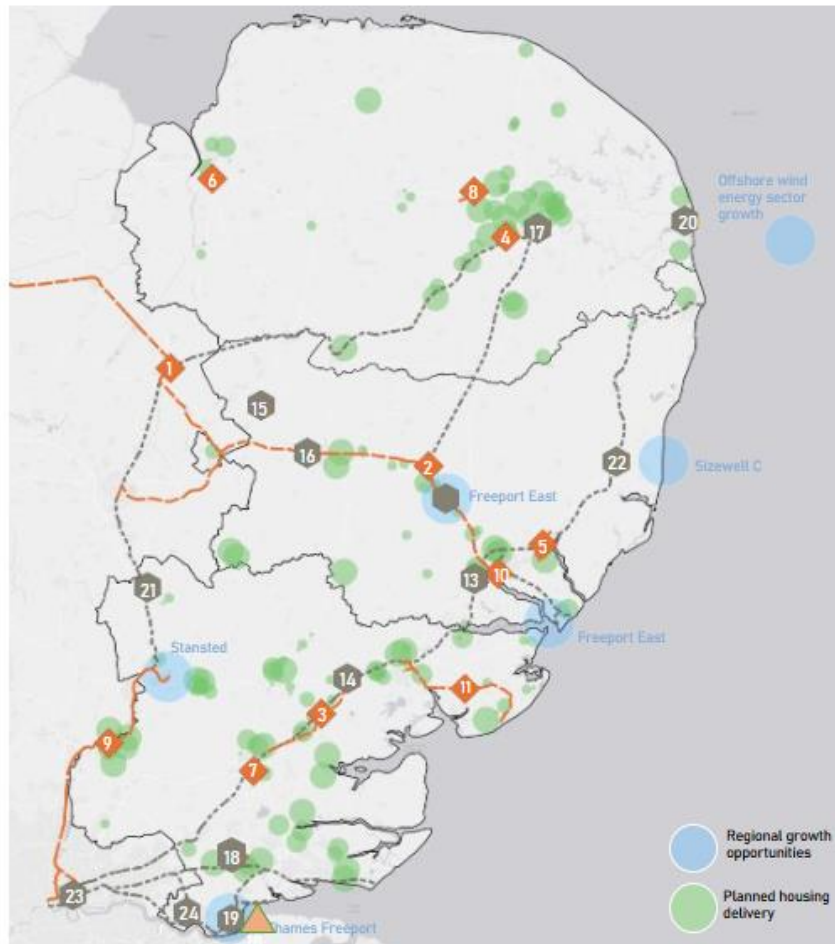
4 Comprehensive Spending Review

Esme Yuill, Head of External Affairs confirmed TE has submitted two requests to government, 1) Transport East Specific: The main financial and infrastructure asks on behalf of our partners and the region and 2) East West Rail Eastern Section Board: specific support for development work to improve East West Rail east of Cambridge. Transport East further contributed to Ely Taskforce seeking funding support for the development of the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement scheme and the delivery of Haughley Junction rail improvements.

Key LA financial points raised:

- Long-term integrated funding certainty and more influence over national programmes at a local level
- Equity of funding across all English authorities
- Boost local capacity and capability through increased revenue.
- Reduce the risk to local authorities to develop and deliver the largest transport schemes.
- Boost maintenance and climate change adaption investment in England's lowest lying region.

Key infrastructure asks



Delivery funding schemes

- 1 Ely area enhancements and Haughley junction
- 2 A12 widening (J19 to J25)
- 3 A47 Thickthorn junction
- 4 A12 East of Ipswich
- 5 A10 West Winch Housing Access Relief Road
- 6 The Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package
- 7 The Norwich Western Link
- 8 Enhanced London-Stansted services
- 9 Enhanced passenger service levels: Ipswich to Peterborough and Cambridge
- 10 Enhancing Clacton to Colchester Rail Services

Nationally Significant Infrastructure

- Lower Thames Crossing

Development funding schemes

- 13 A12/A14 Copdock
- 14 A120 Braintree
- 15 A11 Fiveways roundabout
- 16 EWR Eastern Section
- 17 Trowse Rail Junction
- 18 A127 Growth Corridor
- 19 Freight access electrification
- 20 A47 Vauxhall Roundabout
- 21 Enhanced Cambridge and Norwich to Stansted services
- 22 Enhanced East Suffolk Line Services
- 23 West Anglia Mainline, Great Eastern Mainline and Essex Thameside improvements
- 24 A13 East facing slips

A special Board meeting was convened on 6th March to approve the submission and since then advocacy work has been ongoing with MPs, APPG, other regions, rail and road representatives.



Transport East
Spending Review Evic

5 Strategic Rail Update

Wider Southeast Rail Partnership – Endorsed

At Transport East’s Board meeting in Great Yarmouth on 21st June 2023 members proactively endorsed proposals for Transport East to work with our neighbouring sub-national Transport Bodies, England’s Economic Heartland and Transport for the Southeast, to establish a Wider South East Rail Partnership, originally cited in the Willams-Shapps Rail Plan.

This Board’s intention was for a strategic framework across the WSE region, with Transport for London, DfT, Network Rail and the embryonic Great British Railways, to ensure the East’s local authorities could collectively influence Great British Railways and provide a focal route for articulating strategic priorities to the rail minister and Secretary of State.

We have done this over the latest 18 months and ask for endorsement of the draft position paper.

Comments and discussion

Cllr Alexander Nicoll: Supportive, but, referring to Ely & Haughley as an example (good intention but not desired outcomes), raised a concern of the size of the partnership which may impede the agility and ability to achieve the desired outcomes quickly. The legal construct of TfL is very different from STBs this could make the partnership unequal.

Cllr Lesley Wagland: Agreed with Cllr Nicoll’s point and propose to do critical path analyses, what are the key paths. Could there be a way to change the dialogue to better influence politicians/parliaments/decision-makers, and this is increasingly important. **ACTION: TE to take back to the partnership**

Rail Reform Consultation – Endorsed

Central government has recently launched a consultation, 'A Railway Fit for Britain's Future' which sets out more details of what is proposed to be included in the Railways Bill. This will enable the establishment of Great British Railways, planned to be 'a single directing mind that will run our rail infrastructure and passenger services in the public interest.' It would be the biggest change to the way railways are run since the introduction of privatisation over 30 years ago.

The consultation document sets out several proposed changes to the way that the railway will be governed, managed and overseen, including:

- The establishment of Great British Railways, who will manage the rail network and most passenger services, taking over roles and responsibilities undertaken by several existing organisations including Network Rail, the Office of Road and Rail, Department for Transport and Train Operators.
- The setting up of a new passenger watchdog to advocate for passengers and ensure their interests are prioritised, building on the existing functions of Transport Focus to ensure there is a multi-modal focus from the start.
- A new access, charging and financial framework for running the railways to be led by Great British Railways, with 5-year funding settlements to be agreed with government for delivery of business plans.
- Reform to the management of fares, with GBR given a role to sell fares through one central system, with the Secretary of State's role 'in securing the overall affordability of fares' remaining in place.
- Confirmation that freight will continue to be operated by the private sector under the new access regime, with opportunities for open access operators to operate passenger train services retained.

Comments and discussion

Mark Lucas: British Transport Police currently co-funded by the train operators in the UK, need to ensure that while operators being nationalised, there is no diminution of the funding.

All: Need to be cautious that this process happening fast and TE need to be active in this space.

6 Meeting Close

No further business recorded