

Draft proposal to government

Consultation questionnaire

Contents:

- **Background**
 - **Responding to the consultation**
 - **Next steps**
 - **Consultation questions**
 - **Your information**
-

Background

Transport for the South East was formed in 2017 as a partnership of 16 local transport authorities and five local enterprise partnerships to speak with one voice on the South East's strategic transport needs.

Our aim is to become a statutory sub-national transport body (STB), giving the South East a formal and unified voice with which to influence government decision making on transport issues.

We are now consulting on our draft proposal to government, which sets out the statutory powers and responsibilities we are seeking to help us deliver economic growth, improve quality of life and protect and enhance the environment.

The draft proposal has been developed in conjunction with our member authorities and agreed by our organisation's principal decision making forum, the Transport for the South East shadow partnership board.

Responding to the consultation

Before answering the questions below, please read the draft proposal document which can be found at:

<https://transportforthesoutheast.gov.uk/about/becoming-a-statutory-body>

Some questions require only a 'yes/no' answer which can be selected from a drop-down menu, while others provide the opportunity to give a more detailed response.

Once you have answered the questions and completed the 'Your information' section, please send this completed form by email to tfse@eastsussex.gov.uk or by post to:

Transport for the South East
County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes
BN7 1UE

Please note that we are only able to process responses which include completed personal information. Your contact details will not be added to our database unless you actively opt in.

The deadline for responses is Wednesday, 31 July 2019.

Next steps

After the consultation period has ended, we will consider all the responses received and amend our proposal document accordingly.

The intention is that this amended version will be put before Transport for the South East's Shadow Partnership Board in September 2019, with the proposal being formally submitted to government by the end of the year.

Government will consider the proposal and will make a decision on whether TfSE should be granted statutory status. If the proposal is agreed, a statutory instrument will be laid before Parliament for the final decision.

Consultation questions

Transport for the South East is looking to establish a statutory sub-national transport body (STB) for the South East of England. This would give the South East a formal and unified voice with which to influence government decision making on transport issues. The prime functions for an STB would be to publish a regional transport strategy and provide advice to the Secretary of State for Transport on investment opportunities across the area.

- 1. Do you, in principle, support the establishment of a sub-national transport body for the South East, including the ability to publish a transport strategy and advise central government on transport matters in the region?**

Yes

- 2. What do you regard as the benefits Transport for the South East will provide as a statutory sub-national transport body?**

- Developing a strategy that addresses the needs of the region. The strategy will be able to highlight the infrastructure and other measures that are required for the SE to continue to have a strong economy and to address the reduction in carbon emissions in a coordinated way.
- Boosting the voice of the SE for key investment in the projects and programmes set out in its strategy.
- Enabling good joint working over a large area – we have seen this work in Berkshire through the Berkshire Local Transport Body and the work of the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP and hope that TfSE will have the same success across the SE.
- Influencing Government on policy issues that are important to the SE

Transport for the South East's draft proposal includes a list of constituent members and a number of co-opted members. [Primary legislation](#) sets out what bodies can be considered as 'constituent authorities'.

- 3. Do you, in principle, think your relevant local transport authority should be a member of the Transport for the South East sub-national transport body? If not, why?**

Yes

Through working together with other Berkshire Unitary Authorities we have been linked in with the work of the Shadow Partnership and have felt fully informed by TfSE regarding their work and progress towards statutory status. We are pleased with the proposed arrangements for us to be a member of TfSE by working together with our neighbours through the Berkshire Local Transport Body.

Beyond general functions of an STB, Transport for the South East is planning to make a proposal to the Department for Transport (DfT) for other transport functions which would be exercised concurrently and with the consent of the Secretary of State or local transport authorities, e.g. in relation to constructing new highways. Any proposal to DfT would need formal consent from each 'constituent member' and any regulations would also need formal consent from all 'constituent members'.

4. Are you content with the proposed functions in the draft STB proposal?

Yes

5. What other functions do you think an STB should have/not have and why?

We consider that TfSE has pitched their proposal in the right way. TfSE is only asking for powers that will assist Local Transport Authorities in the efficient delivery of infrastructure and programmes across the area. Having powers to enable coordination of significant projects and enable efficiencies to be made can only be seen as positive. We agree with the set of functions that TfSE is proposing and consider it a strength of the proposals that TfSE will only carry out its functions with the consent of the relevant local transport authorities.

6. Would you be content with an STB having such functions if any use of those functions required the consent of the relevant local transport authority?

Yes

Transport for the South East aims to maintain continuity from the governance structure that has served members effectively during shadow operation. Some key decisions may require a vote, such as the transport strategy, annual budget and amendments to the constitution. A number of voting options have been explored, with a preferred option based on the population of the smallest individual constituent member. The preference will be to reach a consensus on all decisions, but where this cannot be achieved a weighted vote will be used. All 'constituent members' will need to consent to the final proposal to DfT.

7. Are you content with the preferred voting mechanism, to be used when consensus cannot be reached?

Yes

8. Any other comments

West Berkshire is supportive of Transport for the South East.

This consultation response and proposals to formally confirm support have been through the Council's Member Transport Advisory Group and also Senior Officer's Corporate Board. This consultation response is also endorsed by the Executive Member for Transport.

Proposals to confirm formal support are due to be considered at the Council's Executive meeting on 5th September 2019

Your information

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Name: | Jenny Graham |
| Organisation: | West Berkshire Council |
| Job title: | Transport Policy Team Leader |
| Email: | Jenny.Graham@westberks.gov.uk |
| Would you like to receive news and other updates from Transport for the South East? | Yes |