

Draft proposal to government

Consultation questionnaire

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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?**

TfSE provides an opportunity to support and deliver growth plans across the region through the development of a long-term strategic programme of transport measures to facilitate economic growth and make the South East more competitive. It will complement the work of the LEPs and support delivery of Local Plans.

It would enable the council to influence the prioritisation of investment by the major national transport agencies such as Highways England and Network Rail in a way that has not been possible in the past.

TfSE will address some of the barriers to growth of the economy that have been held back by transport infrastructure shortcomings, notably the strategic infrastructure, that is the responsibility of Network Rail and Highways England. The STB would enable the council, to more directly influence the priorities and programmes of these agencies, so helping to secure delivery of longstanding transport infrastructure ambitions, which could for example include for example the improved rail links between Portsmouth and Southampton, and Portsmouth and Southampton Airport. The TfSE Economic Connectivity Review has recognised the importance of improvements to both this east west corridor, and the corridor to London.

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

The STB would enable the council, to more directly influence the priorities and programmes of national agencies, such as Network Rail and Highways England, so helping to secure delivery of longstanding transport infrastructure ambitions, which could for example include for example the improved rail links between Portsmouth and Southampton, and Portsmouth and Southampton Airport.

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?

While all the powers may not be appropriate for Portsmouth City Council, the proposed powers will only operate concurrently and with the consent of the constituent authorities, and therefore a broader range of powers is required to meet all needs of the Members.

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

Click here to enter your response

Your information

Name:	Click here to enter text
Organisation:	Click here to enter text
Job title:	Click here to enter text
Email:	Click here to enter text
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