

Transport East Forum

DRAFT Notes of the Meeting

Held on the 26 February 2020 at Ipswich Town Football Club, Portman Road, Ipswich, IP1 2DA

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions, and Declarations of Interest

- 1.1. The Chairman welcomed members including Andrew Summers, the newly appointed Strategic Director due to start in April 2020. He also noted apologies.

2. Notes of the Last Meeting held on 21 October 2019

- 2.1. The notes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Reflections on Transport East Summit

- 3.1. Forum members discussed the communications requirements across the Transport East partnership, and recognised the work of Francesca and Andy at Essex County Council. It was noted that a specialist communications role within Transport East itself would be beneficial, and this would be picked up by the new Strategic Director, Andrew Summers once in post.
- 3.2. The Forum undertook a questions and answers session with Andrew Summers. Initially, his core focus will be to look at a partnership development approach across Transport East and ensuring a work programme was in place. Andrew welcome any contact ahead of start date, which is 14th April.
- 3.3. Question) Cllr Phil Smart. Would Andrew like to be invited to the rail consortium? Andrew would be happy to meet anyone here.
- 3.4. Notes from the Summit will be supplied to all council leaders and members of Transport East in due course.
- 3.5. Cllr Kevin Bentley is keen to consider strategy going forward. The MRN paper and Regional Evidence Base have already been submitted to DfT in 2019. No feedback has been received from DfT about these as yet. Queries have been raised with individual authorities, who will be asked to feed back individually.
- 3.6. Alastair Southgate suggested that DfT are prioritising business cases depending upon resource available. Timescales not provided in depth. Cllr Bentley responded to say that this will probably be linked to the outcome of the budget in terms of funding and consistency.

4. Transport East Elevator Pitch

- 4.1 Cllr Bentley talked through the Elevator Pitch and the benefits of it. The plan is to use this approach to consistently make the case for Transport East. The Pitch is contextualised across areas, but at the same time, the points are very solid. STBs and the importance thereof have increased in terms of profile, however, we need to consider infrastructure holistically. Andrew Cook talked about a meeting he attended yesterday afternoon, and the messages coming from government. Baroness Vere is very interested in and enthusiastic about STBs. Government wishes to agree a core group of responsibilities for all STBs. Funding will be tied to whether these STBs deliver these priorities. Optional extras will be included in future funding. Evolution of these conversations will happen over the coming months.

- 4.2 Question from Cllr Bentley: what's the situation with future funding? Answer from Andrew Cook: DfT wish to make the case for funding to Treasury that STBs are value for money, and can unlock savings, Keen to reduce volume of bids and work directly with STBs for funds.

ACTION: EELGA will distribute to all council leaders.

- 4.3 Cllr Graham Plant; need more energy from wind farms off North Coast kept in Norfolk to fuel carbon neutrality in Norfolk. Need to look at infrastructure around electric vehicles etc. to support this growth and development work on carbon neutrality. Concerns from district colleagues in Norfolk around leveraging benefits of energy in coastal communities.
- 4.4 Cllr Bentley explained that investment in green infrastructure improves deprivation situation in pockets that exist across a wealthy region.
- 4.5 Ian Davidson suggested holding an innovation day for Transport East. There was one for garden communities. Electric car charging approaches could benefit from standardisation, or technologies could become obsolete in some scenarios.

ACTION: Andrew will look at links with universities and will support set up of this event as part of the Transport East strategy development.

5. Transport East Terms of Reference and New Director Post

- 5.1. Marc Lucas questioned terminology around whether TE is an STB. Nicola Beach confirmed that we are an established STB.
- 5.2. The Forum discussed the Terms of Reference, with a focus on our role on decarbonisation:
- Cllr Kevin Bentley would like to hold an evidence review for climate change;
 - Cllr Bentley is keen to involve younger people as Transport East strategy and decarbonisation will impact them. Suggestion to involve colleges.
 - Ian Davidson - last week lots of good sessions with young people. One of the key outcomes was that young people don't feel comfortable with engagement approaches. Can we ask the target audience where the best venue or what the best route would be? Need to consider approaches.
 - Andrew Summers; outlined the work that DfT are undertaking on decarbonisation and the opportunity for this region to work with government on that.
 - Nicola Beach; for businesses who did respond - these are being followed up with the relevant constituent authority.
 - Transport East can help to look at how travel and transport joins up to hubs.
 - Initial review of Terms of Reference took place, but it was agreed that we should reserve our judgement on changes until Andrew is established in post and a work programme / DfT funding agreed. This meeting will note current content of ToR, subject to review, and pending agreement with DfT. Then new ToR will be provided to the Board following Andrew's induction period.

ACTION: Andrew Summers to explore as part of review of Terms of Reference later in 2020

6. AOB

No further business raised.
