

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	16 July 2019
Title:	Transport for the South East – Hampshire County Council Response to Formal Consultation on the Draft Proposal to Government
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment notes the content of the draft proposal to establish a sub-national transport body for the South East to be known as Transport for the South East (TfSE), as set out in the supporting report (paragraphs 22-30).
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport, and Environment agrees the principles set out in the supporting report (paragraphs 31-40) to form the basis of the County Council's response to the consultation on the draft proposal.
- 1.3. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport, and Environment to finalise the detailed consultation response based on the approved principles in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport, and Environment.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The proposed sub-national transport body is a unique opportunity to draw powers and funding down from government for the benefit of local and sub-national transport priorities in the South East region. As a major Highway Authority within this region, Hampshire County Council is well placed to influence, contribute to, and benefit from the initiative. Accordingly, the County Council has engaged extensively in the development process and discussions to date.
- 2.2. However, the current consultation on the Draft Proposal to Government is a formal opportunity for the County Council to register its specific ideas and aspirations for the proposed sub-national transport body.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 To make no submission in response to the consultation. This option was rejected on the basis that the consultation results are likely at some stage to inform a final Proposal to Government for the proposed sub-national transport body to be fully constituted with an agreed suite of powers.
- 3.2 The Proposal to Government is a key step in a process which, if successful, will shape the new body and the management of Transport issues in the South East for years to come. Although the draft proposal includes consideration of the process to make future amendments to the body's functions and constitution, the initial phase of set up will be pivotal in establishing the terms of any future negotiation, and is likely to be the best opportunity at which to seek true devolution of powers from central government to regional.
- 3.3 Once the new body has achieved statutory status, it will exist as a legal entity with the potential to evolve and develop its own relationships both with Government and with other organisations in the wider sub-national context. Constituent authorities will therefore need to agree during this current, critical phase on what provisions they think appropriate to guide this future evolution. Hampshire County Council's consultation response will be a key input to that ongoing process.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:	Date:
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Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment Councillor Rob Humby	