

# Transport for the North Board Meeting – Item 11

**Subject:** Endorsement of the Draft Strategic Transport Plan, and Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal, and Adoption of the Public Consultation Activity

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**Sponsor:** Jonathan Spruce, Interim Strategy Director

**Meeting Date:** Thursday 5 April 2018

## **1. Executive Summary:**

- 1.1 Transport for the North's (TfN) Partnership Board approved the publication of the Draft Strategic Transport Plan and Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal for public consultation in December 2017. The Plan was published on 16 January 2018, with 13 weeks of consultation currently underway.
- 1.2 The Board needs to endorse the Draft Strategic Transport Plan, the Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal, and the consultation process that has been undertaken prior to approving the Final Statutory Strategic Transport Plan later in 2018.

## **2. Issue:**

- 2.1 TfN's Partnership Board approved the publication of the Draft Strategic Transport Plan and Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal prior to becoming a statutory body. Therefore, the statutory body and the TfN Board need to endorse the Draft Strategic Transport Plan, Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and the consultation process that is being undertaken prior to approving the Final Statutory Plan later in 2018.

## **3. Purpose:** For Approval

- 3.1 The Board endorses that the Draft Strategic Transport Plan, Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal, and the public consultation activity that has been undertaken as a statutory process.

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#### **4. Discussion:**

- 4.1 TfN's Partnership Board approved the publication of the Draft Strategic Transport Plan for public consultation in December 2017. The Plan was published on 16 January 2018, with 13 weeks of consultation currently underway.
- 4.2 Following the publication of the Draft Strategic Transport Plan and Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal, a period of statutory public consultation will need to be undertaken on the Plan. This is building on the engagement that will be taken on the evidence over the Summer 2017, which has allowed TfN to engage at an earlier stage in the policy forming process, with outputs feeding in to the Draft Strategic Transport Plan and Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal for consultation.
- 4.3 Section 102I (6) of Local Transport Act 2008 explicitly says that 'in preparing or revising its transport strategy a Sub-National Transport Body must carry out a public consultation'. TfN has been running a 13-week public consultation on the Draft Strategic Transport Plan and Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal. The public consultation is being independently run, managed and analysed by Ipsos Mori on behalf of TfN.
- 4.4 Ipsos Mori have provided advice and requirements on undertaking a robust consultation process for the Draft Strategic Transport Plan and the Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal to avoid risks and legal challenges throughout the process, ensuring best practice on public consultation standards.
- 4.5 Section 102I (7) of Local Transport Act 2008 states that in carrying out a public consultation the STB must ensure that 'such of the following persons as the STB considers appropriate (taking into account the proposals to be contained in the strategy) have a reasonable opportunity to respond to the consultation'.
- 4.6 The consultation has been undertaken to the full level of robustness, transparency, and attentiveness as would be expected for a statutory consultation. This has been throughout the process, from setting of the questions, the handling of responses, and the final analysis and reporting of the consultation responses.
- 4.7 Following the high-profile launch on 16 January 2018, TfN has been undertaking 33 public consultation events across the North, on top of other speaking and engagement opportunities. TfN have also been working with communication and engagement colleagues at each of the local transport authorities to ensure that the events have been communicated through local network channels and social media.

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- 4.8 Following the close of the consultation 17 April 2018, Ipsos Mori will produce an independent report. Their key findings will be presented to the TfN Board in June 2018. TfN will then respond to the consultation exercise and the full independent report by revising the Strategic Transport Plan and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal.
- 4.9 By endorsing the Draft STP and the process for undertaking the consultation, this will allow TfN to respond to the consultation, and produce a final version of the STP by the end of 2018, as per the Business Plan approved in February 2018.
- 4.10 When the Final STP is presented to the TfN Board later in 2018, this will become a statutory document.

## **5. Recommendation:**

- 5.1 That Members endorse the Draft Strategic Plan and the draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and adopt the public consultation activity carried out to date.