

Appendix 2 – Response to Consultation Questions

The questions asked in the consultation are listed below with a proposed response and, where necessary, reasons for each response.

Question 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?

Response [Y/N]

Yes

Reason

This provides a benefit to WBC and the region as a whole by having a channel through which we can influence government as a larger body which represents the concerns and needs of the region and gaining access to funding including the Major Road Network scheme and Large Local Major scheme programmes. It also ensures a joined up strategic approach to wider issues such as air quality, rail and bus ticketing and Major scheme developments where the issues are not confined to a single authority or county.

Question 2

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

Response

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.

Question 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?

Response

Yes

Reason

This question is directed to those outside of the constituent authorities. As we are the local highway authority and currently subscribed to TfSE, we should support WBC continuing to be a member.

Question 4

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

Response

Yes, provided that the consent of the Local Transport Authority is required to exercise the functions within (or on behalf of) the borough

Reason

This is already the case but it is useful to reiterate the need for consent.

Question 5

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

Response

None.

Reason

Currently there not any additional functions we would propose, however, the Executive may wish to consider whether there are any functions we feel could sit with the STB.

Question 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?

Response

n/a.

Reason

This is dependent on the response to Question 5.

Question 7

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

Response

Yes

Reason

The voting is based on population size and is therefore proportional and fair.

Question 8

Any Other Comments

Response

None.

Reason

We currently have nothing to add, however, the Executive may wish to add any further comments.

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