

**Transport East Board Meeting**  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024  
Via Teams


Attendees

Core Members		TESOG Officers		Observers	
Will Quince	Transport East Chair	Andrew Summers	Transport East	Liz Smith	DfT
Clr Graham Plant	Norfolk County Council (VC)	Esme Yuill	Transport East	Jack Weaver	Norfolk Chambers
Clr Lesley Wagland	Essex County Council	Rebecca Rangi	Transport East		
Clr Chris Chambers	Suffolk County Council	Richard Doleman	Norfolk County Council		
Clr Phil Wittam	Suffolk District Rep	Alastair Southgate	Essex County Council		
Clr Victoria Holloway	Thurrock Council	Sara Noonan	Suffolk District Rep		
Clr Daniel Cowan	Southend City Council	Luke Barber	Suffolk County Council		
Clr Tim Adams	Norfolk District Rep	Karen Gearing	Southend City Council		
Clr Alexander Nicoll	East West Rail Eastern Board Chair	Louise Flavell	Essex District Rep		
		Sara Noonan	West Suffolk Council		
		Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council		
		Mark Lucas	UK Innovation Corridor		
		Matthew Stewart	EEGLA		
		Trevor Wiggett	Norfolk District Rep		



Apologies

Nova Fairbank	Norfolk Chambers		

1	<p><b>Welcome and new Member Introductions</b></p> <p>Will Quince welcomed new members to the board and thanked the Board on his recent appointment.</p> <p>Will highlighted the need for improved transport infrastructure in the East and recognised this has been a longstanding issue. The partnership is in a strong position to support the new government to address this issue and is a key priority for him and the team.</p>	Action
2	<p><b>Minutes from last meeting on 22nd March 2024</b></p>	

<p>Agreed actions are either completed or in progress.</p>	
<p><b>3 General Election Debrief</b></p> <p>Esme Yuill, Head of External Affairs, Transport East took members through the recent election results (see slides below). The election resulted in the Transport East region moving from predominately Conservative MPs to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 Labour</li> <li>• 16 Conservative</li> <li>• 3 Reform</li> <li>• 2 Liberal Democrats</li> <li>• 1 Green</li> </ul> <p>Transport East is known to several of the new MPs and relationships will be built further when Transport East issues briefing packs to all new MPs. New Ministers have also been appointed and have set out high level transport policies and priorities, principally rail, buses and further devolution.</p> <p>The East of England APPG will meet in early September and hold its annual reception in December which TE will attend to ensure our transport priorities are embedded amongst MPs. Campaign planning will recommence with nuanced messaging planned for EWR alongside a refresh of 'Keeping Trade on Track.' TE is planning to participate in both the Labour and Conservative Conferences in the autumn to ensure our transport priorities are clearly understood and is working closely with EEGLA on the Opportunity East Report.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">GE2024 TE regional results (1).pdf</p> </div> <p><b>Discussion / Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lord Haselhurst will continue to chair WAML from his seat in the Lords.</li> <li>• GEML Taskforce will require a new chair due to Giles Watling losing his seat. TE will be seeking a new chair through an early meeting in the Autumn.</li> <li>• Rail Leadership Group will return to Parliament for their first meeting in the Autumn.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EWR Eastern Section cannot be realised without the completion of Ely and Haughley. Suffolk Chambers along with partners met with Lousie Haigh MP before the election and she was supportive of Ely and Haughley, however there needs to be a continued push with the new government to maintain the commitment to the scheme.</li> <li>• RIS3 is delayed and TE understands it will be going back through central government for review. Many schemes in Network North were based on funding envelopes across many years, immediate funding is not available however pressure must be maintained with central government to support the East aspirations.</li> <li>• TE voice needs to be louder and clearer with central government. Devolution, Rail reform and Better Bus Deals are at the forefront of government and the East needs to capitalise on this. TE to engage with wider government departments ie, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on strategic priorities around housing, planning and infrastructure.</li> <li>• STBs and wider partners recently held a joint Enhanced Partnership Conference in London. The event was well attended, and publication of the outcomes report will be shared in due course. This finding will be shared with central government and acted upon.</li> <li>• Growth is an important priority for the government with a target of 300,000 new homes a year. ‘Oven ready’ schemes in the East are needed to work alongside this target. TE stands ready to support the new government which presents challenges and opportunities for working with our local MP to deliver on key priorities for the region.</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>Communications Update</b></p> <p>Esme provide a summary of the slides below.</p> <div data-bbox="248 951 286 1002" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="215 1007 320 1046">July 24 Forum Slides.pdf</p> <p>No further comment or discussion.</p>	
5	<p><b>Transport East Governance</b></p> <p>Andrew Summers, Chief Executive, Transport East summarised the three main governance items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Report 2023/24 was recently published. The report reviewed the success of 2023/24 fiscal year for Transport East. TE expressed their thanks to members and previous chair Cllr Kevin Bentley for their ongoing support.</li> </ul>	

	 <p>Annual-Report-2023_24.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Plan 2024/25 TE fiscal Business Plan was endorsed without objection. At the forefront of the plan is delivery, TE has been awarded a 23% increase in funding for 24/25 on 23/24 levels and is on course to delivery on their overall 3-year business plan objectives. Initial conversations with the new government are underway and progressing well.</li> </ul>  <p>BusinessPlan_24-25.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport East Business Unit Update</li> </ul> <p>TE members endorsed the interim update to the TE ToR to reflect the recruitment of an independent chair and the more formalised structure of this meeting to change from 'Forum' to Board. This change is in line with other national STBs.</p> <p>Members also endorsed the next stage of the Future of Transport East work, which is finishing its first phase of evidence and information gathering. The Strategic Outline Business Case will be brought back to the Board in October for endorsement of the final engagement plan and submission to DfT. County deals will continue to be taken into consideration when drafting the Business Case.</p>	
6	<p><b>Short Term Rail Report Endorsement</b></p> <p>Suzanne Buck, Head of Strategy and Technical Programme explained the key findings of the Short Tern Rail report and requested endorsement for publication. A short advocacy document will be produced and shared with the Secretary of State and wider stakeholders.</p>	
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>No further business recorded.</p>	

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