

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date: 21 October 2005

Subject: **Regional Transport Board**

Report of: Planning Implementation Director

**Recommendation:**

That the Executive Committee notes the report.

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**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To update the Executive Committee on the work of the Regional Transport Board (RTB).

**2. Briefing**

- 2.1 On 26 August the Regional Director of GOSE wrote to the Regional Assembly inviting it to take over the Chairmanship of the RTB. The Regional Director also invited the Assembly to take on the role of providing the secretarial function for the Board's activities. The meeting on 7 October was the first meeting to be held under these new arrangements.

- 2.2 Cllr Nick Skellet was elected Chairman of the Board. The Assembly nominates six members to the RTB. The remaining six members of the Board are drawn from GOSE, SEEDA, the Highways Agency, Network Rail, the coach and bus sector and environmental partners.

**2.3 Regional Funding Allocations**

The Board received a report outlining the process proposed for producing advice on transport priorities as part of the work on the region's submission on Regional Funding Allocations. The Government has identified a regional allocation of £135m for investment in major proposals in the region for 2005-06, increasing on an annual basis to £167m in 2015-16. This represents only part of the total expenditure on transport within the region in any one year - in 2004-05 total expenditure on transport was in the order of £1,658m. The Board emphasised their concern that the allocation for major proposals may not be sufficient to support delivery of planned levels of growth set out in the South East Plan.

## 2.4 Commitments

The Board confirmed its earlier decision not to review proposals that have a firm commitment from Government that funds will be made available to deliver them. This decision ensures that work on 20 major proposals across the region should continue unabated.

## 2.5 Regional Prioritisation Methodology

The primary focus of the Board's work for the last year and a half has been the development and application of a prioritisation methodology. The Assembly reported on the outcomes of a series of sensitivity tests undertaken using the methodology. This work demonstrated that the methodology is fit for purpose. It was accepted that the methodology is robust in how it presents information to the Board.

## 2.6 Regional Priorities: Draft Programme

The Board considered a draft programme of transport priorities for the period to 2010-11 based on the amount of funding available once commitments had been taken into account. New investment proposals had been added to the programme on the basis of the prioritised list produced using the prioritisation methodology. The draft programme identified seven major proposals that should be funded from the Regional Funding Allocation in the period to 2010-11. In addition the draft programme identified a further four major proposals that should be progressed using delivery mechanisms other than the Regional Funding Allocation (see Annex).

The Board will discuss priorities for transport investment beyond 2010-11 once the final advice has been received from the sub-regional strategy groups in December. This will include advice on the critical pieces of infrastructure required to support delivery of planned levels of growth.

## 2.7 Future Work Programme

The supporting officer group will develop a programme of future work. The Board agreed that this should include work on developing the forward programme post-2010-11, the identification of regionally significant studies, the issue of rail investment and the development of a co-ordinated approach to identify transport priorities supported through other funding streams. In addition the Board should consider the potential implications of road user charging in order that the region can contribute to the Government's national debate on an informed basis. Any such work would be on a without prejudice basis.

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