



Cllr Liz Leffman
Leader
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

EEH Business Unit
c/o Buckinghamshire Council
Walton Street
Aylesbury
HP20 1UA

Email: Liz.Leffman@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 18 August 2021

Dear Cllr Leffman,

Creation of Strategic Transport Leadership Board and nominations for membership

As England's Economic Heartland's (EEH) interim programme director, I am delighted to write to you today to confirm the arrangements for the creation of EEH's new Strategic Transport Leadership Board.

As you know, EEH Leaders recently reviewed the governance structure for England's Economic Heartland. Building on the success of the previous format and putting EEH in good stead for the future, EEH Leaders agreed to consolidate EEH's two political-level meetings – the Strategic Transport Forum and EEH Leaders meeting – into one single meeting.

As a result, a new EEH Board is being formed. Subject to agreement at its first meeting on Friday 24th September (11am to 1pm), we propose that the new meeting be named the Strategic Transport Leadership Board. I attach a copy of its terms of reference, as amended and subsequently agreed, by EEH Leaders in July 2021.

The new Board will continue to ensure our focus on driving outcomes and delivering investment for the benefit of the region. I know this has always been a priority for Leaders in supporting and investing in EEH. Going forward we will continue to ensure that:

- EEH complements the powers, responsibilities and accountabilities of its partners. Collaboration is fundamental to our approach, allowing us to speak with one voice on issues of genuine strategic interest
- EEH's approach continues to consider strategic infrastructure in the round, including digital connectivity and energy systems
- that all the tools and technical work undertaken by EEH is made freely available to all partners for their own use. This gives rise to considerable added value, particularly with respect to the tools EEH has developed as part of our regional evidence base. Government departments and arms-length bodies likewise have free access to all tools and technical work.

Appointment of Board Members

With the creation of the new Board, a key priority is to invite nominations for its membership. The legislative framework under which STBs are established is clear: the members of England's Economic Heartland are its relevant transport authorities, specifically county councils, unitary councils and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

As such, I am now inviting each partner authority to submit their nomination to the new Board. Given the significance that the Department for Transport places on EEH as the sub-national transport body for the region, it is anticipated that the political leader of each transport authority would wish to be the representative on the STB. However, by seeking nominations, each individual authority has the flexibility to determine who is best placed to represent their interests on the Board.

In line with the terms of reference for the Board, nominations will be invited on an annual basis, to be reviewed at the start of each municipal year. Given the timing of the Board's creation, current nominations will be invited to remain until May 2023.

I would therefore welcome confirmation of your nominated representative to be provided to EEH by close of business on **Tuesday 14th September 2021**.

In addition to core Board members, it is essential that membership of the STB reflects our strong and effective working relationships with sub-regional groupings, such as growth boards and with national and regional infrastructure and delivery organisations. Member arrangements for these groups are set out within the attached terms of reference.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the new Board will be elected at the beginning of its first meeting, on 24th September 2021.

Annual Report

The creation of the new Board marks a positive step in EEH's evolution and sets the organisation on a strong basis to continue our work programme and ambition. As such, I also attach a copy of EEH's most recent annual report, published in July 2021.

I very much look forward to meeting you, and to continuing our work with Oxfordshire County Council going forward. If you would like a more detailed discussion about the content of this letter, or any of the work underway by EEH business unit, I would be delighted to meet with you in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Naomi Green
Interim Director

(email: ngreen@englandseconomicheartland.com)

Copied to: Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive

