

# WP09 FREIGHT STRATEGY

Work Package Update

12 July 2022

***Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Board before taking effect.***

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**It is recommended that:**

- (a) The final Freight Strategy report is approved;
- (b) The Board agrees that Work Package 9 is signed off as complete; and
- (c) Approve the support of the establishment of the South West Freight Forum and approve the funding allocated for this in 2022/23

### **1. Background/Introduction**

Peninsula Sub-national Transport Body (STB) in conjunction with Western Gateway STB have produced a Freight Strategy for the South West. This Strategy was presented in draft to the Board in December and has subsequently been through an extensive consultation process with key stakeholders, including the Department for Transport (DfT). This paper provides a brief update on the Strategy and the next steps.

The Freight Strategy will be used as part of the evidence and recommendations in the development of the detailed Transport Strategy.

### **2. Priority Intervention Packages**

The freight strategy is a culmination of the work between Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway which has looked to reflect the freight and the associated supply chains operate on a more regional, national and international basis than is the case for passenger movements.

Through a comprehensive process of evidence gathering, analysis and stakeholder engagement a set of 46 freight interventions has been developed and refined. These have then been refined down to five intervention packages were identified as:

- ◆ Modal Shift Rail
- ◆ Modal Shift Coastal Shipping
- ◆ Decarbonisation
- ◆ Operational Efficiency
- ◆ Freight Forum

### **3. South West Freight Steering Group**

One of the objectives of the Freight Strategy was to establish a South West Freight Steering Group. The inaugural Freight Steering Group is to be held on July 14<sup>th</sup> 2022. The group will meet bi-annually with key stakeholders from the private and public sector invited to attend.

It is envisaged that the Steering Group will support the prioritisation and delivery of interventions and opportunities across the South West.

### **4. Consultation, communication and engagement**

Two stakeholder workshops were held with local authorities and key rural and other transport organisations gaining useful and insightful information and feedback on rural mobility issues. Officers from all the Peninsula Transport (and Western Gateway's) constituent authorities have been consulted on the draft Freight Strategy and their comments incorporated into the final version.

### **5. Financial Considerations**

The costs of producing the Freight Strategy document was provided from allocated funds from the Department of Transport (DfT).

The FY22/23 Business Plan includes a proposed funding allocation for the support of the Freight Steering Group with the potential for additional funds for any key recommended interventions or initiatives.

### **6. Environmental Impact Considerations**

There are no environmental considerations associated with this paper.

### **7. Equality Considerations**

There are no specific equality considerations associated with this paper. An Executive Summary has been developed to be accessible for all.

### **8. Legal Considerations**

There are no specific legal considerations associated with this paper.

### **9. Risk Management Considerations**

The Peninsula Transport Programme Management Group reviews risk and assigns the required mitigation actions across the Peninsula Transport work packages on at least a monthly basis. The group reports monthly to the DfT in compliance with the terms of the DfT's funding support letter.

This policy/proposals have been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken/included to safeguard the STB position.

## **10. Public Health Impact**

There are no public health impacts associated with this paper

## **11. Reasons for Recommendations**

The recommendation is proposed to support the publication of the final Freight Strategy in line with the process agreed at the previous Peninsula Board meeting in September 2021.

The Freight Strategy has been developed through a robust and formal process: collecting data; looking for best practice freight operations and case studies from other geographical areas; and, gaining wider input from industry, the LEPS, Local Authority officers, trade bodies, universities and other stakeholders.

This process will help meet the DfT requirements to research, develop and publish a transport strategy for the Peninsula STB region and will also inform the development of Western Gateway's transport strategy.