



Cllr Keith Glazier
Chair
Transport for the South East

By email: tfse@eastsussex.gov.uk

25th October 2020

Dear Cllr Glazier,

Transport for the South East (TfSE) – Proposal to government for statutory status

We are writing on behalf of the Confederation for Passenger Transport UK. CPT UK is the trade association of the bus and coach industry, representing over 1000 operators including large bus and coach companies and numerous SME companies.

We can confirm that CPT supports TfSE's proposal to government for statutory status, especially in relation to the strategic and economic case the proposal sets out and also the general powers and functions TfSE has requested.

We would like to repeat the comments previously included in our consultation response, and also expressed during meetings with officers that TfSE should primarily be a strategic body that focuses on securing funding and influence for the region, and not on localised delivery of services, especially where powers relating to that delivery already exist and are held by local transport authorities.

CPT will look to continue and build upon the positive relationship that already is in place between our respective organisations. We offer to work collaboratively along with our operator members to ensure bus becomes not only an obvious alternative to continued car use, but the transport mode of choice for everyone. CPT and our operator members would support any request by TfSE to join in new or existing voluntary partnerships. We will also work closely with TfSE to develop new and exciting payment methods that allow customers to access public transport in a flexible and integrated way that is easy to use and cost effective, whilst also maintaining revenue.

The South East is a vital motor for the UK's economy, contributing more than any other region outside London, and is the UK's principal international gateway for people and goods. The formation of a statutory sub-national transport body for the South East will enable us to speak with one voice on our strategic transport priorities, ensuring a better connected, more prosperous and more sustainable South East.



TfSE offers an important opportunity to bring together the public and private sectors to achieve better economic outcomes and to improve the experience for transport users.

For this reason, we very much recognise and welcome the significant value that TfSE will clearly be able to add.

Yours sincerely

Karen Tiley
CPT Regional Manager

Mark Purchase
CPT Operations Manager