

Freight Council: Strategic freight corridors

Core focus: Strategic freight corridors or flows of freight into, out of, and across the UK of particular importance to the economy, health, and wellbeing of the country. Wider benefits to the freight sector of adopting a strategic corridor approach.

Issue:

1. Role of a Strategic Freight Corridor concept in the development of a long-term freight plan. The need to improve port connectivity and enhance cross-modal capacity (i.e. road and rail freight) along key freight corridors is emphasised in the recommendations put forward by the National Infrastructure Commission, the Port Connectivity Study and Peter Hendy's Union Connectivity Review interim report.

Outcomes:

2. That Freight Council members seek:
 - a) A common position on the meaning of strategic freight corridors.
 - b) A shared understanding of the opportunities and challenges presented by strategic freight corridors.
 - c) to agree on how the FoF plan can be utilised to influence key policy development and investment decisions affecting the strategic freight network and to amplify the needs of the freight system within wider planning programmes (both within central Government and beyond).

Consideration:

3. Some issues for discussion to stimulate the debate:
 - What do we mean by "strategic freight corridor"? Is it all modes?
 - To what extent do freight corridors diverge from wider strategic transport corridors? Do we need to be more concerned about the interaction and interconnectivity between different corridors when considering freight?
 - What evidence base would need to be developed to move strategic freight corridors from concept to useful tool? Which areas of policy and public and private investment could be enhanced by a corridors-based approach?
 - What areas of policy would need to be brought into the development of strategic freight corridors?
 - What evidence can be shared to demonstrate existing pinch points and limitations along key freight corridors?
 - How do we establish an understanding of future capacity across modes along these routes?

- How can Government investment plans / the planning reform programme be refined to better account for the needs of the freight system.