

Report of the Head of Scrutiny

Report to Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Date: 7th September 2016

Subject: Draft Terms of Reference – Inquiry into Transport for Leeds – Supertram, NGT and Beyond

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| Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

1. Summary of Main Issues

Leeds City Council has an ambition to be the best council in the UK, compassionate fair, open and welcoming with an economy that is both prosperous and sustainable so all our communities are successful. The Vision for Leeds 2011 – 2030 supports this ambition stating that for 2030 Leeds will have a high quality, accessible, reliable and affordable public transport. The Best Council Plan 2015 – 2020 identifies that working with partners the Council wants people and businesses in Leeds to benefit from transport that meets their needs by improving transport connectivity to connect people to jobs and services.

At its meeting on the 15th of June 2016, Scrutiny Board (City Development) considered a request for Scrutiny from Cllr Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council. The Leader asked that the Board consider the role of the Council, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority(WYCA)/METRO and the city's public transport operators in relation to the decisions for both New Generation Transport (NGT) and Supertram. It was resolved that this will be undertaken as the Boards main scrutiny inquiry for 2016/17.

At the meeting of the Scrutiny Board on the 20th of July 2016 the Director of City Development and WYCA provided a report which outlined initial background information on the development of the Supertram and NGT projects including decisions made by the Council and the approvals and guidance from the Department for Transport. It also provided a brief summary of the city wide conversation at the Transport Summit held on 10th June 2016.

2. Recommendation

The Scrutiny Board (City Development) is recommended to:

Note the information contained within this report, make further recommendation to update the terms of reference where necessary and agree the terms of reference for the inquiry.

Note that the terms of reference may incorporate additional information during the inquiry should the Scrutiny Board identify any further scope for inquiry or request further witness or evidence.

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1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report sets out the draft terms of reference for the Scrutiny Boards inquiry into the Supertram and NGT Transport Schemes and Beyond.

Terms of Reference

2. Scope of the Inquiry

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Board at its meeting on the 17th of June 2016 resolved to undertake an inquiry following a request for Scrutiny from Cllr Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council, which asked for consideration of the role of the Council, the WYCA/METRO and the city's public transport operators in relation to the decisions for both NGT and Supertram . The Board expressed a desire to have a clear understanding about the process and outcomes of both schemes and of what lessons could be learnt. The Board also stated the intention to challenge and support short, medium and long term options for future transport provision and infrastructure in the City, in order to appreciate which options could be most beneficial for Leeds residents and the wider Leeds economy.

The Board recognises that WYCA is developing a Single Transport Plan for West Yorkshire. It is hoped that the work of this Scrutiny Board will add value to this development and the work of the Combined Authority.

- 2.2 The purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
- To identify strengths and weaknesses of the Supertram and NGT schemes, what lessons can be learnt, and how learning can applied to future transport schemes and projects.
 - The developing transport strategy, short, medium and long terms options, maximising beneficial impact, and how options could be financed, planned and delivered.
 - Meeting the needs and aspirations of communities and stakeholders through engagement and involvement in the shaping and delivery of transport schemes and projects.
- 2.3 Additional guidance has been sought from the Chief Highways Officer City and NGT Project Manager, City Development in order to recommend areas of focus for the inquiry.

3. Desired Outcomes and Measures of Success

- 3.1 In conducting the Inquiry the Board wishes to focus on minimising risk to future schemes and projects by reflecting on the Supertram and NGT schemes. In addition the Board will consider the strategy for alternative transport options which will deliver the objectives for people and businesses set out in the Vision for Leeds and the Best Council Plan.

- 3.2 It is important to consider how the Scrutiny Board will deem if its inquiry has been successful in making a difference. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 3.3 Following the inquiry the Scrutiny Board will publish its report which will identify clear desired outcomes. These will be reflected in the recommendations made. The director or organisation to whom the recommendations have been made will be responsible for monitoring the impact of each recommendation and for advising the Scrutiny Board accordingly as the board reviews progress.

4. Comments of the relevant Director and Executive Member

- 4.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.1 where a Scrutiny Board undertakes an Inquiry the Scrutiny Board shall consult with any relevant Director and Executive Member on the terms of reference.

5. Timetable for the inquiry

- 5.1 Preliminary discussion was undertaken by the Scrutiny Board at the July 2016 meeting. It is anticipated that the inquiry will take place over a number of sessions from September 2016, to conclude before May 2017. The length of the inquiry and range of evidence to be collected is however subject to change by agreement of the Board.

6. Submission of evidence

Reflection

- Background and context for the Supertram and NGT schemes including anticipated impact on the economy, poverty and social inclusion with retrospective information which clarifies decisions made by the Council, advice received and the approvals and guidance from the Department of Transport.
- Supporting retrospective information to identify the strengths and weaknesses of both schemes and the lessons that can be, or have been learnt.
- Evidence to support the identification of challenges and/or risk during the NGT project and actions to mitigate risk.
- Evidence to support the identification of challenges and/or risk at the conclusion of the NGT project as stated in the Inspectors report and summarised by the Secretary of State for Transport, to identify if these were known, and if not, could have or should have been identified and action taken.
- Technological advancement during the NGT project and opportunities to change or enhance proposals.
- Public relations, consultation with and involvement of communities, experts and stakeholders and how this was utilised.

Developing transport for Leeds

- Evidence which outlines transport requirements for Leeds to support growing communities, promote economic growth and reduce poverty particularly in areas of high need.

- Building on the Transport Summit held on 10th June 2016, future public relations, ongoing consultation and engagement with communities, stakeholders and experts to shape and support the delivery of improved transport system(s).
- The transport strategy, short, medium and long term vision, objectives and aspirations, including known financial requirements and anticipated benefits.
- Opportunities to develop existing infrastructure and networks and the potential use of Council/transport assets.
- How lessons learnt from previous schemes, the experience of other Transport Authorities, and the knowledge of transport experts will be applied in the planning, development and delivery of future transport schemes and projects for Leeds.

7. Witnesses

7.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- Leeds City Council Officers
- Elected Members
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority, which could include WYCA Scrutiny Board and Transport Committee representatives.
- NGT Project Board Members
- Department for Transport
- Transport Experts, Key Stakeholders and Community Organisations

8 Corporate Considerations

8.1 Consultation and Engagement

Where the board deems it appropriate to undertake in consultation in order to conduct the inquiry or gather necessary evidence consultation could be undertaken.

8.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.

- 8.2.1 Equality Improvement Priorities have been developed to ensure our legal duties are met under the Equality Act. The priorities will help the council to achieve its ambition to be the best City in the UK and ensure that as a city work takes place to reduce disadvantage, discrimination and inequalities of opportunity.
- 8.2.2 Equality and diversity will be a consideration throughout the Scrutiny Inquiry and due regard will be given to equality through the use of evidence, written and verbal, outcomes from consultation and engagement activities.
- 8.2.3 The Scrutiny Board may engage and involve interested groups and individuals (both internal and external to the council) to inform recommendations.
- 8.2.4 Where an impact has been identified this will be reflected in the final inquiry report, post inquiry. Where a Scrutiny Board recommendation is agreed the individual, organisation or group responsible for implementation or delivery should give due regard to equality and diversity, conducting impact assessments where it is deemed appropriate.

8.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

This inquiry will support objectives as defined in The Vision for Leeds 2011 – 2030 and the Best Council Plan 2015-20

8.4 Resources and Value for Money

There is no resource or value for money implications relating to this report. At the conclusion of the inquiry any identified impact will be reported in the final inquiry report.

8.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

None

8.6 Risk Management

There are no risk implications relating to this report. At the conclusion of the inquiry any identified risk will be reported in the final inquiry report.

8.7 Recommendations

The Scrutiny Board (City Development) is recommended to:

- 8.7.1 Note the information contained within this report, make further recommendation to update the terms of reference where necessary and agree the terms of reference for the inquiry.
- 8.7.2 Note that the terms of reference may incorporate additional information during the inquiry should the Scrutiny Board identify any further scope for inquiry or request further witness or evidence.

8.8 Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.