

SCRUTINY BOARD (CITY DEVELOPMENT)

WEDNESDAY, 12TH OCTOBER, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor P Truswell in the Chair

Councillors C Dobson, R Grahame,
G Latty, S Lay, A Ogilvie, D Ragan,
E Taylor, C Towler, P Wadsworth and
Wilkinson

25 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared at the meeting.

26 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were submitted by Cllr D Cohen, Cllr P Davey and Cllr J Walker. Cllr D Cohen was substituted by Cllr G Wilkinson, Cllr P Davey was substituted by Cllr R Grahame and Cllr J Walker was substituted by Cllr C Dobson.

27 Minutes - 7 September 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th September 2016 be approved as a correct record.

28 Road Casualty Reduction and Initiatives

The Director of City Development submitted a report which provided the Scrutiny Board with an overview of the progress made with regard to Leeds Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Road Casualty Reduction programmes. Updates on road safety initiatives, including road safety schemes, education and promotion campaigns were also provided.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Appendix 1 – Road Safety Action Plan Update 2016

The following representatives were in attendance to respond to Members queries and comments:

- Andrew Hall – Head of Transportation (City Development)
- Becky James – Team Leader, Road Safety
- Chief Inspector Mark Jessop – Protective Services, West Yorkshire Police
- Inspector Nick Berry – Safer Leeds, West Yorkshire Police
- Cllr Richard Lewis - Executive Board Member, Regeneration Transport and Planning

The key areas for discussion were:

- The impact of the comprehensive spending review on road safety. The Board was advised that this has necessitated a change in the way that road policing is provided. Protective Services have upskilled existing officers so that they are roads policing qualified therefore working smarter with the units available. All officers including PCSO's are involved in neighbourhood and traffic policing in varying degrees.
- The funding invested since April 2015 through an initiative called Viper Plus. There will be additional investment in ANPR and additional officers, with who will have traffic skills from April 2017.
- The use of pro laser speed gun technology and the operation of static speed cameras. The Board were advised that pro laser is being used effectively and can read speed over a considerable distance. It records the speed at that moment rather than average speed. A replacement programme of static speed cameras is being undertaken where cameras are being replaced with digital technology.
- Police focus on drivers under the influence of drink or drugs.
- Concern regarding drivers still using mobiles despite the introduction of increased penalties. The Board was advised of an initiative in Bradford, the potential to use police staff and invest in new technology to enforce traffic law, that car design is removing the need for handset use and the need for a cultural change through education, enforcement and social intervention.
- Concerns regarding the safety of cyclists due to the increase in activity in the city. The Board was advised of risk reduction through highways design, the education of cyclists and drivers, and the lessons that have been learned in London that could be applied in Leeds. Cycling training is not part of the school curriculum however cycling training is provided in schools in Leeds, usually in years 5 or 6.
- Cycle superhighway information production and distribution. The Board was advised of the range of provision for cyclists including advisory cycling lanes. On the A65 and A60 there are promotional initiatives to encourage drivers to take special care when turning.
- The responsibility of the Highways Authority for highways design, which includes an interactive process with the police and other emergency services in planning processes. The Board was advised that where there have been serious incidents there is analysis of what happened to identify any issues with the highways design.
- The collection of intelligence and data regarding casualties which enables the identification of risk locations.
- The role and co-ordination of Neighbourhood Policing Teams in dealing with local speeding issues.
- The risks to pedestrians due to parking on the pavement. CI Jessop suggested that there may be an opportunity for analysis of inconsiderate parking as a causation factor. The Board requested that this information be provided. In addition the Board was advised that pedestrian training is provided to children in school.

- Clarification regarding access to the minutes for the Executive Regional Partnership, Gary Bartlett represents from Leeds City Council.
- The use of Speed Indicating Devices which are loaned out to community groups or Neighbourhood Policing Teams.
- The Board requested additional information regarding lengths and sites for concern and the current 20mph zones.
- Cl Jessop invited members of the board to visit the ANPR unit to see it in operation.

RESOLVED – The Scrutiny Board:

- a) noted the information in the report of the Director of City Development.
- b) requested additional information referred to in this minute to be circulated to all members of the Scrutiny Board (City Development)

29 Inquiry into Bus Service Provision - Final Session

West Yorkshire Combined Authority submitted a report which provided the Scrutiny Board with an update on the ongoing Bus Strategy consultation and provided the opportunity for the Board to provide a response. The report also provided an outline of the Buses Bill and the opportunities this could introduce once enacted.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Appendix 1 – West Yorkshire Transport Strategy Summary
- Appendix 2 – West Yorkshire Bus Strategy Summary
- Appendix 3 – The Bus Services Bill and Overview, Department of Transport
- Appendix 4 – Letter from WYCA Transport Committee to MP's regarding the Bus Services Bill
- Appendix 5 – Local Government Association briefing note on Bus Services Bill
- Appendix 6 – UTG response to the Transport Select Committee

The following representatives were in attendance to respond to Members queries and comments:

- Andrew Hall – Head of Transportation (City Development)
- Tom Gifford – Project Manager, WYCA
- Dave Pearson – Director of Transport Services, WYCA
- Cllr Richard Lewis - Executive Board Member, Regeneration Transport and Planning

The key areas for discussion were:

- The involvement of operators in the West Yorkshire Bus Strategy. This was progressed regardless of the Bus Bill to enable focus on issues that can be addressed with bus operators in a collaborative way.
- Day to day bus service issues. The Board were advised that WYCA work with bus operators and Highways, looking at the corridors and routes that have the biggest problems with regard to punctuality and reliability. The Board was also advised of the work done to reduce congestion due to road works.
- Consultation update and the demographic make-up of responses. The Board sought clarity on how young people are being engaged in the consultation. In response to the consultation the Board expressed their concerns about bus reliability, the lack of sanctions for bus companies and affordability due to the consistent rise in bus fares.
- Fare structures for children and young people and the gradual decrease in patronage.
- The ability of the community to influence commercial bus routes and the subsidised services commissioned by WYCA.
- Appendix 4, Letter from the Combined Authority to all Leeds City Region Members of Parliament. The Board sought clarity regarding any response from the MP's to the concerns regarding franchising powers in the Bus Services Bill and the addition of requirements or tests which could render the legislation useless. It was confirmed that no response had been received. The Board acknowledged that further lobbying may be needed as the Bill in its current draft leaves the decision regarding franchising for authorities without an elected mayor to the secretary of state. This is a concern for a number of authorities not just West Yorkshire. The Scrutiny Board resolved to endorse the points made in appendix 4 and to support this by writing to MP's.
- Bus technologies and the need for greater investment in cleaner technologies.

RESOLVED – The Scrutiny Board:

- c) noted the information in the report of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, including the progress of the ongoing consultation with members of the public and stakeholders on the West Yorkshire Bus Strategy.
- d) Provided consultation feedback regarding bus reliability, the lack of sanctions for bus companies and affordability.
- e) Endorsed the points made by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Committee in their letter detailed as appendix 4. The Scrutiny Board will also write to MP's regarding the restrictive draft legislation relating to franchising.

30 Work Schedule

A report was submitted by the Head of Governance Services and Scrutiny Support which detailed the Scrutiny Board's draft work programme for the current municipal year.

The draft Scrutiny Board (City Development) work schedule for 2016/2017 and the Executive Board minutes for 21 September 2016 were appended to the report.

RESOLVED - The Scrutiny Board noted the content of the report and agreed the work program.

31 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 23 November 2016 at 10:30am (pre-meeting for all Board Members at 10:00am)

The meeting concluded at 12:55pm