



Report of the Director of City Development

Scrutiny Board (City & Development)

Date 10th November 2009

Subject: Leeds City Region Transport Strategy Vision

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose

1.1 Scrutiny Board is requested to review and comment on the proposed Leeds City Region Transport Strategy.

2.0 Background

2.1 As part of its Inquiry into Integrated Transport Strategies for Leeds and the Wider Region, this Scrutiny Board agreed to focus on the following:

- The governance arrangements for transport strategy within West Yorkshire and in the Leeds City Region and the way in which the needs of the people of Leeds are represented at each level.
- The recently announced forerunner status for the city region.
- The key priorities for local and regional transport as set out in the existing strategies, and the way in which these complement and interact with one another.

2.2 The first two were considered at the Scrutiny Board meeting on 8th October; the latter is covered by this report.

2.3 This particular piece of work is a refresh of the earlier Transport Vision, produced in 2006, which aims to produce a more focused strategy to link better with Local Transport Plans (LTP) and Major Schemes.

2.4 A Steering Group, comprising representatives from city region authorities, Metro, Government Office and Yorkshire Forward has overseen the work of Arup Consultants. Network Rail and the Highways Agency have also supported the Group. Each of the city region partners has also carried out local engagement as the strategy has been developed.

3.0 Information

- 3.1 Since the earlier Vision, the Department for Transport (DfT) has published its new approach to strategic transport planning beyond 2014, incorporating the Eddington and Stern recommendations for transport and the economics of climate change. 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System', DaSTS, published in November 2008, introduced 5 new national goals for transport:
- supporting economic growth
 - tackling climate change
 - better safety, security and health
 - greater equality of opportunity
 - improve quality of life
- 3.2 On behalf of city region partners, Arup Consultants have analysed the current and future demands on the transport network with particular focus on jobs and housing growth, and the transition to a lower carbon economy. The DfT have welcomed the Strategy moving forward from the earlier Vision, and its alignment with their new DaSTS approach.
- 3.3 The Strategy identifies the main issues and challenges for transport, the wider policy and spatial outcomes that it needs to support, and a framework for developing interventions to inform delivery and funding plans. The strategy will also inform the development of the next LTPs for April 2011.
- 3.4 Delivery of the Transport Strategy has been a key focus of this work. Recognising the uncertainty about future funding, the Strategy considers the implications of different funding scenarios and sets out some main principles for funding and delivery, for example, to secure funding freedoms and flexibilities through the ongoing negotiations for city region pilot forerunner status.
- 3.5 Alongside this work, the DfT have announced their support to fund a Leeds City Region DaSTS Connectivity Study that will form part of the implementation plan for the Transport Strategy. A brief is being agreed with DfT and the Inception Meeting will be held on the 9th November. It is anticipated that the study work can commence later in the month. The Executive Summary of the Transport Strategy with spatial priority and intervention plans is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.6 The draft Transport Strategy was presented to the Transport Panel on 5 October and the Leaders' Board on 8th October with the intention being to formally launch at the City Region Summit in November 2009.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Board is requested to review and comment on the proposed Leeds City Region Transport Strategy.