

SCRUTINY BOARD (INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT & INCLUSIVE GROWTH)

WEDNESDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

PRESENT: Councillor P Truswell in the Chair

Councillors N Buckley, L Cunningham,
N Dawson, K Dye, J Goddard, R Grahame,
C Hall, K Maqsood, M Shahzad, J Taylor
and P Wadsworth

19 APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

There were no appeals.

20 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

21 Late Items

There were no late items.

22 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

23 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

No apologies for absence had been received.

24 Minutes - 31 July 2019

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

25 Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme - General Update

The Director of City Development submitted a report that provided a general update on Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LPTIP); including programme governance, spend to date and forecast and scheme delivery status.

The following was appended to the report:

- Transport Strategy - Cross Party meeting May 2019 updated

- LPTIP delivery progress

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Lisa Mulherin, Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development
- Gary Bartlett, Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation, City Development
- Andrew Hall, Head of Transport Planning (Highways and Transportation), City Development
- John White, Civil Engineering Manager, City Development

Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation, introduced the report and highlighted a number of key points from within the report.

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- *Notice of construction / road works.* Members provided some examples of recent construction works which had caused disruption to busy routes, and that local residents had not been given advance warning to enable forward planning before travelling. Members were assured that comments would be reported to the Leeds Rail Programme Board, and that the timeline of handling information would be considered for future projects within the programme.
- *Transforming Cities Fund.* In response to an update request on the timescales for Transforming Cities Fund projects, Members were informed that an initial bid had been submitted and that feedback from the Department for Transport was expected in October / November 2019. The full formal bid would then be submitted and a decision received by Spring 2020, and if successful, funding would be available until 2023.
- *Connecting Leeds Bradford Airport.* In response to a query, Members were informed that a train station was intended to be built close by to the airport, with a dedicated bus service from station to the terminal. It was confirmed that the link road scheme would not be reliant on the train station project proceeding.
- *Bus patronage targets.* Members sought assurance regarding the rationale behind the bus patronage ambition, and were informed that despite trends suggesting bus usage had declined nationally, there was evidence of a marginal increase in Leeds.
- *Train station refurbishments across the city.* There were a number of ward specific update requests relating to the progress of refurbishments of rail stations and car parking facilities across the city by Members. Members were informed that individual updates would be provided to ward Members outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report, along with the presentation, be noted.

26 LPTIP: A660 Lawnswood junction proposals

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 9th October, 2019

The Director of City Development and the Head of Democratic Services submitted a joint report setting out concerns specifically relating to replacing the Lawnswood roundabout with a multi-lane light-controlled intersection; alongside the associated Director's response.

The following was appended to the report:

- Request for scrutiny from Councillor Jonathan Bentley
- Local residents' report on proposed changes to the Lawnswood Roundabout
- Concerns raised by the residents' group re the proposals for Lawnswood Roundabout
- Article Written by George Monbiot - appeared in "The Guardian" dated 22 August 2018
- Maps showing proposed changes

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Lisa Mulherin, Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development
- Gary Bartlett, Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation, City Development
- Andrew Hall, Head of Transport Planning (Highways and Transportation), City Development
- John White, Civil Engineering Manager, City Development
- Councillor Jonathan Bentley
- Mr Graham Sugden
- Mr Gareth Jones

Mr Jones addressed the Board of behalf of a local residents group and raised a number of concerns with previous plans for the Lawnswood roundabout, along with suggestions for management of the scheme moving forward, including:

- Local residents felt that public engagement during formulation of previous plans had felt like a 'box ticking exercise', and that more timely and more robust consultation process was needed for future proposals for Lawnswood roundabout;
- Members were advised that queueing north of the roundabout between 8 and 9am, Monday to Friday, is due to bottlenecks further downstream, at West Park where the bus lane starts, and further down in Headingley. Therefore, local residents felt that prospective changes to Lawnswood roundabout would be ineffective at reducing congestion;
- Some concerns were expressed around the decision making process for the original plans, and local residents requested that a general review of the framework, processes and principles that govern projects be undertaken.

Councillor Mulherin, Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development, informed Members that the revised project brief was predominantly focused on road safety, and particularly pedestrian and cyclist. Councillor Mulherin and officers present noted the concerns raised and lessons learned moving forward in the early stages of the revised scheme, particularly in regards to consultation.

Mr Sugden queried whether environmental impact assessments had been carried out for the options set out within the report, particularly for the pupils of Lawnswood School, and were informed that monitoring was taking place and that air quality issues for school had been identified as modest.

Members provided further examples of areas surrounding the Lawnswood roundabout that suffer from queueing and contribute to the congestion along the A660. Members were advised that although congestion may not be a current pressure, consultants had advised that the roundabout will come under significant pressure in the future. Additionally, Members were informed that LPTIP schemes needed to evidence benefits to public transport in order to be eligible for funding, and therefore some of the areas suggested by Members were unsuitable.

RESOLVED –

- a) That a further detail of consultation activity be submitted to the Scrutiny Board in due course, to ensure meaningful engagement prior to decision making.
- b) That the contents of the report, along with the presentation, be noted.

27 Policy review - Powered two wheeler access to with flow bus lanes

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that introduced a range of information associated with powered two-wheeler access to with flow bus lanes; including information from Leeds Motorcycle Action Group and the associated response from the Director of City Development.

The following was appended to the report:

- Request for Scrutiny – Leeds Motorcycle Action Group
- Feedback Survey Results
- Director of City Development's response

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Lisa Mulherin, Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development
- Gary Bartlett, Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation, City Development
- Andrew Hall, Head of Transport Planning (Highways and Transportation), City Development
- David O'Donoghue, Principal Transport Planner, City Development

- Ambrose White – Policy Officer (Transport), West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Mr Richard Manton, Motorcycle Action Group Representative (Yorkshire and Leeds)
- Mr Colin Brown, Motorcycle Action Group, Director of Campaigns and Political Engagement

Mr Brown addressed the Board on behalf of the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG). Mr Brown noted that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) published a 20 year transport plan in 2017 that recommended that motorcycles should be allowed in bus lanes wherever possible. Mr Brown sought Members support in relation to a change in policy for Leeds to allow motorcycle access to bus lanes, in line with the guidance set out in the WYCA 20 year transport plan, and to ensure a consistent approach with all four other local authorities in West Yorkshire.

Mr Brown contested some of the narrative in the report of the Director of City Development in regard to possible implications of revising the policy to allow motorcycle access to bus lanes, specifically in relation to road safety, bus priority and air quality. Mr Brown noted that there was no evidence base set out in the report to support these claims. Mr Brown also noted that all trials allowing motorcycles to use bus lanes have become permanent. Mr Brown also advised that it is likely that motorcyclists who choose not to use bus lanes, do so to avoid facing fines, because of inconsistency across city borders.

Councillor Mulherin, Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development, commented on the varied approach across local authorities, and welcomed the Scrutiny Board's input to the discussion.

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- *The cost of implementation.* Members queried the cost of revising the policy to adopt the suggested approach by WYCA, and were informed that the most expensive element would be the consultations exercise and the resource allocated to manage representations. Members were advised that the advertising cost would be minimal, and in total, the revised changes would cost less than £100k.
- *Cyclists confidence and safety.* Members were informed that one cyclist lobbying group suggest that motorcycle access discourages cyclists who are less confident to use bus lanes. However, Members were also informed that this was not supported by surveys of cyclists. Mr Brown noted that cycle lanes and bus lanes are often combined, which separates motorcyclists from road bicycle users. Additionally, Mr Manton advised Members that most of the worries and frustrations that cyclists experience, are also the experience of motor cyclists, and that cycle lanes are protective to those road users but at the detriment of motorcyclists.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the principle of promoting the use of Powered Two Wheelers (PTW) as a mode of transport be supported;
- b) That the Department for Transport guidance suggesting an objective assessment of each location on a case-by-case basis be noted;
- c) The Scrutiny Board recommends that the Director of City Development implements a trial for motorcycle access to in an area identified in partnership with Motorcycle Action Group representatives, with the view to revising the policy;
- d) That the contents of the report, along with the presentation, be noted.

Councillors N Buckley, P Wadsworth, K Maqsood and J Goddard left the meeting during discussion of this item.

28 Work Schedule

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report which invited Members to consider the Board's Work Schedule for the remainder of the current municipal year.

RESOLVED – That the work schedule be noted.

29 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 9 October 2019 at 10:30am (pre-meeting for all Scrutiny Board members at 10:00am).

The meeting ended at 12:40 pm.