

Developing Locality Based Accessibility Action Plans

1.0 Purpose of This Report

To introduce the concept of Locality Based Accessibility Planning and invite the Area Committee to be involved in the pilot.

2.0 What is Accessibility?

“Accessibility means whether someone is able to reach the key services they need, either by travelling to these services or by the services being available where they are”.

2.1 Key Services:

- Jobs
- Health care
- Learning
- Food shops

3.0 What is Accessibility Planning?

3.1. A framework for transport authorities and other relevant agencies to:

- work together to assess more systematically whether people can get to places of work, healthcare facilities, education, food shops and other destinations that are important to local residents, and
- develop and deliver solutions to accessibility problems depending on the particular needs and priorities of local areas

4.0 West Yorkshire Accessibility Strategy

4.1. Improving access to services is a central theme of the 2nd West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (WYLTP) 2006–11. An Accessibility Partnership has been established by Metro which includes representatives from key organisations such as District Councils, Primary Care Trusts, Hospital Trusts, Learning and Skills Council, Job Centre Plus etc.

The WYLTP includes an over-arching accessibility strategy.
<http://www.wyltp.com/NR/ronlyres/BD7025CD-B204-41DE-A994-EA602126FB30/0/060420AppendixCAccessibilityStrategy.pdf>

4.2 An Action Plan has been put together to address strategic, countywide issues and local, district based issues but this now need revising. The Action Plan is not an exhaustive list of accessibility issues in West Yorkshire. To date there has been limited progress with developing District Council Area accessibility audits and action plans and it is now recognised that identifying accessibility issues even at a district level is complicated and smaller geographic areas should be considered.

- 4.3 It is felt that a more local geography, for example that of Area Committees, would be more appropriate for developing local focussed accessibility interventions. Area Committees / Forums are well established in 4 of the 5 Districts in West Yorkshire and Metro could like to establish a more robust working relationship with all Area Committees, including Outer North West Leeds.

Some excellent accessibility projects have been introduced but these have tended to be in response to specific highlighted issues rather than in-depth research into a geographical locality.

5.0 Accessibility Planning Tools

- 5.1. Metro and the District Councils use software known as Accession which measures travel by public transport, private car, walking and cycling and maps time, distance or cost as contours. The software is now being widely used to identify gaps in the public transport network.

An example Accession map is attached to this report.

6.0 Aim of Local Accessibility Planning

The key aim of the work would be to produce accessibility action plans which identify the key local issues (top 3 priorities) and suggest appropriate solutions which can be implemented.

7.0 Local Accessibility Plans – Pilot Areas

- 7.1 It is proposed to produce Local Accessibility Action Plans for 5 pilot areas during 2009/10. The Outer North West Leeds Area Manager has been approached about being involved in a pilot but authorisation is still needed from the Area Committee members.

The pilot areas have been chosen after considering a number of factors including; awareness of key accessibility issues, availability of skilled staff, balance between rural/urban localities.

- 7.2 The five proposed pilot areas are:

District	Locality / Area Committee	Wards
Bradford	Shipley Area Committee	Baildon, Bingley, Bingley Rural, Shipley, Wharfedale, Windhill and Wrose
Bradford	Bradford North Area Committee	Bowling & Barkerend, Bradford Moor, Eccleshill, Idle and Thackley, Manningham, Undercliffe and Bolton
Calderdale	Lower Valley Area Forum	Greetland & Stainland, Elland, Hipperholme & Lightcliffe, Brighouse, Rastrick
Kirklees	Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw Locality	Batley East, Batley West, Birstall and Birkenshaw
Leeds	Outer North West Leeds Area Committee	Adel and Wharfedale, Horsforth, Guiseley and Rawdon, Otley and Yeadon

7.3 It is anticipated that the results and feedback from each pilot area will be shared with partners. There would then need to be an evaluation of the merit of the process and the resources needed to roll out throughout West Yorkshire.

8.0 Officer Involvement

8.1 The work would be led by Clare Davies, Accessibility Co-ordinator at Metro. Other colleagues, including Jane Chidley, Metro's Transport Projects Officer, would be able to offer assistance in developing a Outer North West Leeds Accessibility Plan (Jane is jointly funded by Metro and Otley Town Council).

Transport Planners from Leeds City Council, who are active partners on the Accessibility Partnership, will be able to support the work.

It is anticipated that the Area Co-ordinator's team will need to assist with the community consultation.

9.0 Proposed Stages of Developing Local Accessibility Action Plans

9.1 Area Committee to be formally asked to be involved in the pilot (purpose of this report).

9.2 Area Co-ordinator's Team to provide any existing maps of the Locality and details of any statistical work (e.g. demographic profile etc) that has already been carried out.

9.3 Area Committee and Community Representatives to identify the key facilities which need to be accessed within the Locality and therefore mapped. Access to facilities outside the Locality would also have to be considered, possibly through the identification of hubs and longer-distance routes (e.g. rail station and rails services).

A variety of maps could be produced to show accessibility within the Locality though to avoid unnecessary work it is important to justify the merit of producing each map.

Examples of maps could include:

- Bus network maps, including frequencies of services at different times of the day
- Location of rail services and stations
- Location of and access to; health facilities, shopping areas, employment sites, training, leisure facilities etc. Maps can be produced for different times of the day, different walking criteria (Accession maps normally consider access to bus services within a 400 metre walk) and different lengths of journeys (e. g. for hospitals it is usual to measure access within 30 minutes).

9.4 Production of accessibility maps, using Accession

9.5 Interpretation of maps

9.6 Presentation of maps and findings to the Area Committee and Community Representatives.

9.7 Identification of the key local accessibility issues. The priorities (e.g. top three) need to be decided by the community.

9.8 Identification of appropriate solutions and funding for solving key accessibility issues.

9.9 All information to be incorporated into a Local Accessibility Action Plan.

9.10 Annual review of Local Accessibility Action Plan.

10.0 Progress so far

The Area Coordinator attended an initial methodology meeting at Metro on 30th January 2009. The following access issues were briefly discussed:

10.1 Access to Health Services:

- Otley to St James Hospital (journey length, interchange, perception of Leeds as big city/great distance from Otley – particularly for older generations)
- Access to Eccleshill Health Centre
- Access to Wharfedale Hospital (only 2 buses per hour from Otley).
- Access to GPs in general is possibly an issue – mapping may help to clarify. Sites include Yeadon LIFT centre, Holt Park GPs. Also LIFT centre proposed for Kirkstall.
- Access to dental services.

10.2 Access to Further Education

- Park Lane college has sites in Horsforth (relatively large site) and Otley. Unsure if access to FE is an issue. If people from this area do tend to look to Horsforth for FE, how easy is it to get there from across the Locality? Mapping activity?

10.3 Access to leisure (particularly for young people)

- Lack of leisure opportunities within the area – nearest cinemas Kirkstall and Harrogate.
- Area Committee has just funded programme of activities to be delivered at Yeadon Tarn. Can Young People access the Tarn?
- Otley Chevin and Yeadon Tarn are great local resources but not thought to be that well used by local people – particularly those without access to a car/keen walkers.
- Otley bus links are poor in the evening – limits ability to access leisure

10.4 Access to Employment

- Airport is a big local employer, and there are plans to expand with a new terminal, creating new jobs.
- Are people aware of the available public transport options?
- Access to Rail Stations
- Issues with parking at rail stations – Menston, Guiseley and Horsforth (new 100 space car park is being built for Guiseley station)

10.5 Access to Food

- Discussed but not thought to be an issue – some high end supermarkets but also a number of Morrison's supermarkets across the Locality.

10.6 The Area Co-ordinator has given Metro the Outer North West Area Committee Delivery Plan 2008 – 11.

Metro is attending the three Outer North West Leeds Partner Events on 10th March, 1st April and 25th April. The events will be used to start gathering information about local accessibility issues.

11.0 Local Accessibility Solutions

11.1 The local Accessibility solutions could be quite diverse and don't necessary just have to be transport based. A few examples are listed below. It would be up to the community to decide the most appropriate solutions and assist with the identification of funding.

Interventions	Examples of Solutions	Costs of Solutions
Transport	Re-timing of bus services, community transport solutions, AccessBus, MetroLocal, Taxicards, new bus services, Car Clubs, Social Car Club Schemes, additional bus shelters etc.	Could vary considerably. May be possible to re-allocate some tendered services money? Additional funding would need to be found for new projects.
Access to Services	Mobile service delivery, one-stop-shops, virtual (ICT / Phone) services, Supermarkets offering a home delivery service.	May be able to build on existing provision with a small amount of funding?
Service Design	Changing doctor's surgery times.	May be cheaper to implement?

12.0 Conclusions

Metro is going to pilot a new method of working during 2009/10 and will engage with a number of Area Committees throughout West Yorkshire to identify local accessibility issues and solutions. Outer North West Leeds Area Committee is invited to be involved in this pilot.

13.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of the report
- Agree to participate in the Local Accessibility Planning Pilot
- Consider whether a steering group should be established with representation from the Area Committee