

SCRUTINY BOARD (SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND CULTURE)

THURSDAY, 14TH JULY, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor M Rafique in the Chair

Councillors S Bentley, D Cohen, G Hyde,
M Lyons, J Matthews, V Morgan,
M Robinson and G Wilkinson

10 **Declarations of Interest**

The following Members declared personal interests for the purpose of Section 81 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraphs 8 to 12 of the Members Code of Conduct:

West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan - Councillors Hyde, Lyons and Morgan declared personal interests as local authority appointed members of WYITA as METRO had submitted contributions to the Plan (minute 14 refers)

11 **Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atkinson and Lobley. The Chair welcomed Councillor Wilkinson to the meeting as substitute for Councillor Lobley

12 **Minutes**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held 16th June 2011 be agreed as a correct record

13 **Draft Terms of Reference - Inquiry into the engagement of young people in culture, sporting and recreational activities**

Further to minutes 6 and 7 of the meeting held 16th June 2011 when Members discussed the future work schedule for the Board, the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report setting out a proposed terms of reference for an Inquiry into the engagement of young people in culture, sporting and recreational activities. It was noted that the draft terms of reference had been discussed and received the support of Councillor Ogilvie, Executive Member for Leisure and relevant officers.

Catherine Blanshard, Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer attended for this item.

Members agreed a unified approach to the Inquiry was required to encompass all aspects of the delivery of schemes and events to young people and discussed the following:

- The impact of the Opera/Party in the Park events on and for young people
- How the Breeze scheme and culture in general engaged young people
- An assessment of how LCC communicates events to young people
- The funding available for schemes

- The success of schemes aimed at young people supported from LCC Area Committee well-being funds and the need to have an overview of provision
- The need to invite witnesses to the Inquiry from successful schemes supported by well-being funds (such as Headingley Carnegie and Leeds UFC mentoring schemes)
- Request for statistics on the uptake of cultural/sporting/recreational events held in Leeds for 2010 and 2011 for comparison to enable a review of the successes/failures
- Request for information on the partners involved in delivering schemes for young people

Members sought to ensure that young people were actively involved in the Inquiry and that representatives from relevant groups should be called as witnesses, to include Youth Council, Schools, faith groups, BMX and parcours groups, disabled groups and groups catering for young people outside the 11-19 age limit targeted by the Youth Service. Representatives from the service providers and scheme organisers should also be called as witnesses, to include the Youth Service, faith groups and voluntary sector groups.

Members noted the intention to take a phased approach to the Inquiry; and to include individual witnesses to provide information on their personal involvement in schemes. Additionally it was noted that some areas of the Inquiry may overlap into other areas of Scrutiny – such as health matters – and service areas – such as Children’s Services

RESOLVED – To note the comments made and authorise officers to incorporate them into the draft terms of reference for the Inquiry into the engagement of young people in culture, sporting and recreational activities.

14 The West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan and the Leeds Implementation Plan

Further to minutes 6 and 7 of the meeting held 16th June 2011 when the Board discussed the future work programme and identified “transport” as a priority, the Head of Scrutiny & Member Development submitted a report to support discussions on the future transport strategy for Leeds. A copy of “My Journey West Yorkshire” was included within the report which outlined the four themes within the overarching West Yorkshire Transport Plan (WYTP) as being transport assets, travel choices, connectivity and enhancements.

The WYTP had been adopted on 1st April 2011 and was intended to address all aspects of transport provision until 2026. The aspirations for Leeds were contained within the Leeds Implementation Plan (LIP) due to be considered at the September Executive Board meeting.

Mr Gary Bartlett, Chief Officer Highways & Transportation and Mr Andrew Hall, Acting Head of Transport Policy, attended the meeting for this item and made the following points:

- Recognised Members’ desire to address particular transport routes but suggested the Board take a strategic view of all forms of transport first which would inform detailed discussions later

- Tabled an indicative plan of the proposed transport network for the city showing rail, tram, NGT, motorway and A road routes
- Emphasised the need to consider how to enhance the existing network for the next 15 years
- Introduced the LIP and the agreed transport schemes to be implemented

Members discussed the following matters with officers:

- The expected rise in the population of Leeds in the context of the existing transport infrastructure
- The Inquiry would require the number of commuters travelling into and out of Leeds via all forms of transport

Road

- The need to have regard to the impact of new developments along the key routes identified – Woodside Quarry on A660/A65 and Grimes Dyke on A64

Impact of the NGT- A660

- LCC working with METRO to ensure implementation of the NGT scheme and mindful of the need to have a fall back position to provide a quality bus offer for Leeds should the NGT bid be unsuccessful, to include the best elements of the NGT scheme (priority lanes, better vehicle stock).

Park and ride –

- Members generally supported provision of P&R schemes and queried whether there were any schemes being drawn up for implementation in the near future
- It was reported that LCC had prioritised provision of the NGT, and P&R was an important element of that scheme. If the NGT bid was unsuccessful, P&R provision on key transport routes would be considered
- LCC was in the process of identifying 2 new sites which could be introduced prior to and independent of the NGT
- Most P&R schemes which served Leeds were provided elsewhere across West Yorkshire as Leeds stations did not have the capacity
- Noted discussions on the P&R scheme at King Lane introduced in 1999 which was not regarded as beneficial to the strategic road network and which highlighted the different views of whether local residents supported or opposed the scheme and the difficulties in implementing schemes.

Rail

- The growing number of commuters travelling through Leeds station daily and whether the station and the network had sufficient the operational capacity
- Successful implementation of the High Speed rail Network would bring greater visitor numbers to Leeds
- Members recalled the discussion at the last meeting on the possibility the high speed rail link would require another station to be built near to

Leeds City Centre and they reconfirmed their view that the HSR link should be city located.

New rail stations

- Officers noted the comment about Woodside Quarry, but responded that line capacity was an issue bearing in mind that development of the Kirkstall Forge & Apperley Bridge stations was a priority
- The Woodside development was not of sufficient size to warrant a new rail station or generate the necessary funding
- METRO Rail Plan 6 was currently under review.

Train capacity

- Noted the bid for additional second hand rolling stock from Edinburgh
- Noted the government had not supported the increase of carriages from 3 to 4 on the Trans Pennine routes.

Enforcement

- Officers noted concerns over the misuse of bus lanes by other vehicles and that the lanes should be robustly enforced
- Members cited the approach taken by Edinburgh City Council as an example of good practice
- Reported that a protocol for enforcement in development with Environment & Neighbourhoods with the intention of implementing in the city centre first then rolled out city wide.

Ticketing

- Consider introduction of a travel card similar to Oyster card.

Transport assets

- Commented on the damage to roads caused by utility companies undertaking works necessitating removal of the highway surface
- Poor quality reparation works undertaken by the utility companies incurred additional expense to the LCC to make good those surfaces
- Noted permits were issued by LCC to enable utility companies to undertake works. LCC employed a robust inspection regime of the reparation works and had had some success at claiming costs.

Canals

- Noted that Leeds canals largely recreational use, and not freight/utility due to the number of motorway bridges the freight needed to clear.

To conclude, officers reported the LIP was intended to provide a 15 year strategy and reflect matters discussed at WYITA and city region level with implementation proposed within 3 years. LCC sought to discuss the LIP with partner organisations to enable partners to share and sign up to the transport strategy. Members sought Scrutiny Board involvement in the LIP consultation

RESOLVED –

- a) To thank officers for their attendance
- b) To note the contents of the initial discussions on the WYTP and the emerging Transport Strategy for the city
- c) To note that the LIP will be discussed in greater detail at the September Board meeting

15 Work Schedule

The Head of Scrutiny and Member development submitted a copy of the work Programme for the 2011/12 Municipal Year which had been populated with the six priority areas for scrutiny identified at the previous meeting.

Arising from the discussion on the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (minute 14 above), a suggestion was made that Mr Bartlett and Mr Hall, along with relevant representatives of WYITA, should be invited to present a seminar to all members of Council on the Plan

RESOLVED –

- a) To note the contents of the Work Schedule and the comments made
- b) To note the contents of the Executive Board minutes dated 22nd June 2011 and the forward plan covering the period 1 July to 31 October 2011
- c) To request officers discuss proposals for a seminar for Members on the West Yorkshire Transport with Councillor R Lewis, Executive Member Development & the Economy, and the Member Development Officer

16 Date and time of next meeting

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of the next meeting as Thursday 22nd September at 10.00 am

17 Chairs Closing Remarks

Councillor Rafique noted this would be the last meeting of the Scrutiny Board to be attended by Mr P Marrington, Head of Scrutiny & Member Development as Ms S Newbould would be returning from maternity leave shortly in time for the next meeting. The Chair and Members thanked Mr Marrington for his work with the Board since its establishment in May 2011.