

LCR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Authority Chamber - No.1 Mann Island, Liverpool, L3 1BP on Thursday, 1st December, 2022 the following Members were

P r e s e n t:

Councillor Steve Radford
Chairperson of the Committee
(in the Chair)

Councillor Pat Moloney, LCR Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor John Abbott, Halton Council
Councillor David Burgess-Joyce, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor George Davies, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Edna Finneran, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Christine Howard, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Trisha Long, St Helens Council
Councillor Brian Spencer, St Helens MBC
Councillor Carran Waterfield, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R Austin, E Dourley, S Gorst, J McManus, B O'Brien, T O'Brien, K Taylor, A Teeling and M Uddin.

24 INQUORATE MEETING

The Chairperson, Councillor S Radford, advised Members that the meeting of the Committee was inquorate and he was supportive of continuing with the meeting as an informal discussion.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

The inquorate meeting noted the minutes of the previous meeting of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 September 2022 as a correct record.

27 DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN FOR THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Policy, Strategy and Government Relations and the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality which provided an update on the process of developing the new Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the Liverpool City Region.

Councillor Liam Robinson, Portfolio Holder – Transport and Air Quality, explained to Members that the previous Local Transport Plan (LTP) was created in 2011 and pre-dated the existence of the LCR Combined Authority. He explained that creating an LTP was a statutory duty placed on local authorities and in this instance the LCR Combined Authority

was the local transport authority for the City Region. As such it was timely and appropriate to develop a new LTP which also reflected Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram's manifesto commitment to deliver a 'London style-transport system'.

Councillor Robinson emphasised that the forecast for not bringing about changes to transport and carbon emissions were stark and as such the LTP would develop a strategy and delivery plan which would have to be ambitious.

Huw Jenkins, Lead Officer for Transport Policy, provided an update on the development of the vision and goals for the LTP, which through extensive public consultation had achieved broad consensus. Members attention was drawn to the four scenarios set out at paragraph 4.12. The scenarios highlighted how travel and transport may look in the future and how they could be tested to understand the transport and carbon implications.

It was emphasised that without a strong strategy the City Region would fall short of the 2040 net zero target. As such a bold shift in the transport infrastructure was required. In conclusion, the Committee was advised that the Department of Transport (DofT) had yet to publish new guidance on LTPs to replace the outdated guidance from 2009.

Trudy Bedford, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, presented a proposal to establish a Task and Finish Group to support the development of the LTP and drew Members attention to the draft scoping document, which was set out at Appendix One.

Members raised the following questions and comments:

- Highlighted that the north of Liverpool suffered significant match day traffic congestion and suggested that the Bootle branch railway line should be introduced to alleviate the congestion and improve the transport infrastructure for the area.

Members were advised that feasibility work was being undertaken to explore the options available to the North of Liverpool. However, the Bootle Branch line was used for freight which presented challenges when also looking to use it for passengers too.

- Reflected on the introduction of cycle lanes, which in some areas had been dysfunctional and with limited consultation. It was suggested that future consultation processes should be proactive and reach all areas of the community.

Councillor Robinson informed Members that as part of the recovery from the pandemic, Government had provided funding to install pop up cycle lanes. It was reported that Liverpool City Council was currently undertaking consultation to determine whether the pop up cycle lanes should be made permanent and recognised that more could be done to undertake extensive consultation.

- Members expressed concerns regarding the transport infrastructure and how it limited people's ability to access employment and learning across the City Region.

Councillor Robinson explained that there were a number of improvements to transport infrastructure which would shortly be coming on stream which were the new trains, improvements to disabled access at train stations, the introduction of hydrogen buses on the No.10 route.

- Recognising the impact diesel HGV's had on the environment, clarity was sought on what engagement had been undertaken with the Road Haulage Association.

Members were advised that the 'State of Freight' had been commissioned which had provided the data in respect of the Liverpool City Region. This information had focused on the Port of Liverpool and would be used to build data to understand the movement of HGV's across the City Region.

- Councillor Pat Maloney recognised the complex process of developing the LTP and welcomed the progress made to improve the cycling infrastructure across the City Region.
- Councillor Burgess-Joyce welcomed the exciting work which had been undertaken to date. However, he stressed the importance of not excluding people in the drive towards cashless payment systems. He also suggested that encouragement should be given to employers to consider basing themselves in areas which have good transport access.

The inquorate meeting noted:

- (i) the process in shaping the development of a new Local Transport Plan for the Liverpool City Region, starting with the "Vision and Goals" document;
- (ii) the key messages emerging together with the broad support that was emerging in light of consultation and engagement on the "Vision and Goals" document;
- (iii) that an Integrated Assessment of the Plan had been commissioned looking at the plan's likely impact on the environment, habitats, equality and diversity and social value and how these could be mitigated against;
- (iv) there was a delay to the publication of new, draft guidance on Local Transport Plans by the department for Transport and that this introduced a degree of risk;
- (v) the establishment of an LTP4 Task and Finish Group;
- (vi) Councillors S Radford, P Maloney, D Burgess-Joyce, T Long, E Finneran, G Davies, C Waterfield and C Howard be nominated to the LTP4 Task and Finish Group; and
- (vii) the Scrutiny Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair finalise the scope for the Task and Finish Group.

28 WORKPROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer which provided an update on the progress of the Committee's work programme.

Members were advised that the report and recommendations of the Apprenticeship Task and Finish had been presented to the meeting of the LCR Combined Authority on 14 October 2022 by Councillor Radford. The LCR Combined Authority had welcomed the report and agreed the recommendations and in doing so, had also agreed an Action Plan which set out a timeframe for the implementation of the recommendations. The Committee would receive timely updates on the implementation of the recommendations.

The inquorate meeting noted:

- (i) The Work Programme as set out at Appendix One;

- (ii) The Action Plan for the Apprenticeship Task and Finish Group as set out at Appendix Two; and
- (iii) Authorised the Scrutiny Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to progress activity in relation to the Committee's Work Programme.

The meeting closed at 3.32 pm

Minutes 23 to 28 be received as a correct record on the 18th day of January 2023.

Chairperson of the Committee