

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

13 September 2016

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.20pm

Present: Councillors K Welsh (Chair), Piddington (Deputy Chair), Affleck, Bowerman, Drennan, Feeley, Fowler, Glover, A Holland, Homer, Newton, Patrick, Pearce, Reid, Sharif, F Travis, Whitehead.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Beeley, Bowden and Sidebottom.

The Chair opened the meeting and received apologies.

13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 2 August 2016 were approved as a correct record.

14. GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT VISION 2040

The Panel welcomed Simon Warburton, Interim Transport Strategy Director, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM); Nicola Kane, Interim Head of Strategic Planning and Research, TfGM; and Nigel Gilmore, Head of Strategic Infrastructure, Tameside MBC, to receive an update on the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 and plans for future transport developments and innovations in Tameside.

The Panel were informed that the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 is a long term plan to ensure that the right kind of infrastructural developments are made across Greater Manchester to; support sustainable economic growth; develop innovative living and working environments; improve quality of life for all; and protect the environment.

Ms Kane advised members that the strategy is informed by long-term research and data collection and is delivered through five-year local transport delivery plans. The overall Strategy is reviewed annually to account for any urgent matters or changes that need to be made, to ensure that the most effective outcomes can be achieved.

The Panel heard that one of the greatest challenges to the strategy is supporting sustainable economic growth whilst population growth is so rapid. With the population in Greater Manchester expected to reach 3 million by 2040, TfGM estimates that an additional 350,000 jobs and 200,000 homes will need to be created. This is expected to result in an extra 800,000 journeys made by public transport every day.

Mr Warburton informed the Panel that research carried out by TfGM and partners found that there has been a rise in the number of people living in urban areas over the last decade; a trend that promotes less car-dependent lifestyles and reduces inner-city road traffic. On top of this, approximately 31% of households in Greater Manchester have no car, and around 20% live in areas of high deprivation.

TfGM wants to ensure that public transport allows all people, regardless of their situation and access to public or private transport modes, to be able to access training opportunities, employment and recreational activities to make sure they have a good quality of life.

The Panel were made aware of the key spatial themes and ambitions for TfGM going forward, which include:

- Safer, more connected local neighbourhoods
- Regenerated town centres that are easier to get to, particularly through sustainable transport modes
- Introducing fully integrated transport networks that can support rapid economic growth and increase travel to, and within, the regional centre
- Better city-to-city links with transformed connectivity between the major cities of the North, the Midlands, London and Scotland
- A globally connected city region with transformed connectivity to the Airport and Port Salford via sustainable transport modes

Mr Warbuton added to this by highlighting the infrastructural transport developments that TfGM have committed to in Tameside. These include the electrification of the Manchester Victoria – Stalybridge rail line to improve journey times (expected December 2017), and the longer term Trans-Pennine route upgrades between Stalybridge and Leeds, York and Selby (expected December 2022).

The Panel asked what fuel the buses in Tameside and Greater Manchester currently use and if this is an area that can be improved on to reduce the local carbon footprint.

Mr Warburton informed members that buses are currently owned by a number of private companies that use diesel engines as this is cheaper to run. The Panel heard that TfGM have a longer-term, 'franchising' plan to reform the way buses are used and run in Greater Manchester, which will involve a shift towards more environmentally friendly engineering.

The Panel asked how TfGM will ensure that all residents, including those in areas without good transport links, have access to suitable and affordable transportation that allows them to fulfill their daily needs.

Mr Warburton assured members that TfGM strives to give all people the opportunity to travel where they want or need to. However, there is an understanding that it is not feasible to provide all people with all transport access links and as such, the Strategy aims to provide people with a better blend of choices for travelling.

RESOLVED: That Mr Warburton, Ms Kane and Mr Gilmore be thanked for attending the meeting.

15. UPDATE ON CURRENT REVIEW

The Chair updated Panel members on the progress of the review of Bin Swap and Delivering Future Improvements to Recycling, advising that the working group first met with Garry Parker, Head of Waste Services, to receive an overview of the Bin Swap scheme and the progress it has made. The group has also met with Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority to hear about the programmes being run in Tameside to improve recycling performance.

RESOLVED: That dates and details of the meetings be circulated to members of the working group by email and as a calendar invitation.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair informed Panel members that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 8 November 2016.

17. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

CHAIR