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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday 18th January 2018

Present: Councillor Rob Walker (Chair)
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Judith Hughes
Councillor Darren O'Donovan

In attendance: Paul Kemp
Naz Parkar, Strategic Director for Economy and Infrastructure

Apologies: Councillor Marielle O'Neill
Mark Mercer (Co-Optee)

1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Panel meeting held on 14 December 2017 were presented and approved as a correct record.

2 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were noted on behalf of Councillor Marielle O'Neill, plus Mr Mark Mercer (Co-optee).

3 Interests

Councillors Martyn Bolt and Rob Walker declared non pecuniary interests in item 5 below, on the following basis:-

- Councillor Martyn Bolt – Member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) Transport Committee.
- Councillor Rob Walker – Chair of the Slaithwaite and Marsden Action for Rail Transport.

4 Admission of the Public

The meeting was held in public session.

5 Transport in Kirklees and West Yorkshire

The Panel welcomed the following officers to the meeting:

- Richard Hadfield, Head of Strategy and Design
- Simon Taylor, Head of Development Management

Richard Hadfield introduced a presentation containing information on the rail issues for Kirklees arising from plans for the:

- Development of the rail franchises (2023/2025)

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- Trans Pennine upgrade scheme, including plans for the electrification of the route (TRU) (2025)
- High speed rail link (HS2) (2033)
- Northern powerhouse rail link (NPR) (2046)
- Other local rail issues e.g. the need for the improvement of local stations, the need for more car parking at stations and the increasing use of the Huddersfield to Sheffield line "*The Penistone line*"
- The agencies that are involved in making the final decisions for these various schemes and ventures to progress – Department for Transport, Network Rail, Highways England and HS2 Ltd.

(NOTE: The actual presentation, plus webcast of the discussion which took place during the meeting, is available via the Kirklees website).

In summary, the presentation and the discussion which followed focused on:

- The growing demand for improved rail links and services to Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield, and the good news that agencies are looking to invest in rail services in Kirklees and across West Yorkshire
- The delays associated with some of the major projects announced to-date
- The growing problems with some of the facilities and services currently available in Kirklees. For example, limited capacity and services and overcrowding on some key routes
- A genuine concern that the focus on improving the links between Manchester and Leeds and the speed of the journey times, could result in a reduction in the number of trains that actually stop at the local stations on each of the routes.
- The need for more information on the demand for and use of the bus and rail links between Dewsbury, Huddersfield and Leeds, and further consideration of the options that will provide passengers with the best service(s) and shortest journey times.
- The long term economic and social impacts on communities if the improved rail services do/do not stop at some of the local stations and towns as they pass through Kirklees
- How to get agencies to consider these issues and the bigger picture, as well as the co-ordination and integration of their new projects and links with other key improvements to local highway and transport services.
- The need to review and invest in the facilities available at a number of the local stations along these routes, and the possibility of creating some new

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“parkway stations” to accommodate the demand from commuters and local people who have to park and ride

- The impact of these deliberations on the development of rail and road links upon the proposals which are contained in the Kirklees Local Plan
- How Kirklees can make its case for change and improvements constructively, working with colleagues from Network Rail and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority

RESOLVED -

- (1) That Richard Hadfield and Simon Taylor be thanked for their attendance at today’s meeting, plus their presentation on “Rail issues for Kirklees”.
- (2) That the Panel follow up on some of the issues raised in today’s discussion at the next meeting on 15 February 2018.
- (3) That a representative of Network Rail be invited to attend the Panel meeting on 15 March 2018, to talk informally about their plans for the development of the new facilities, links and services in the Kirklees area.

6 Work Programme

The Panel received a current copy of the work programme for 2017/18.

It was also noted that the potential item for the next Panel meeting on 15 February 2018, was likely to be “Transport and road links - The issues and implications for Kirklees”.

Members also reflected briefly on their discussions on housing at the Panel meetings on 7 November and 14 December 2017, and the follow up work still required. This includes:

- The creation of a member reference group to discuss housing issues, including affordable housing, extra care and supported housing schemes and the review of the councils own housing allocations policy.
- A visit for members of the panel to see the extra care housing schemes in North and South Kirklees.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the work programme be received and updated, and presented to the next meeting of the Panel on 15 February 2018.
- (2) That Cllr Rob Walker and Steve Copley to follow up on the actions from the Panel meetings in November and December 2017.

7 Future Meetings

The Panel were reminded that the next meeting should take place at 0930 on Thursday 15 February 2018, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Huddersfield.

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However, members agreed that the start time for the meeting should be put back to 10.00am.

RESOLVED - That the next meeting of the Panel will take place from 10.00am – 12.30pm on Thursday 15 February 2018, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Huddersfield.