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## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### ECONOMY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

**Thursday 15th February 2018**

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

In attendance: Councillor Peter McBride  
Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner

#### **1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Panel meeting held on 18 January 2018, were presented and approved as a correct record.

Members also used this opportunity to discuss matters arising and to explain that:-

- Members of the Panel would like more information on the demand for and use of the bus and rail links between Dewsbury, Huddersfield and Leeds, in order to consider the options that will provide passengers with the best service(s) and shortest journey times. Keith Bloomfield, the Operations Manager for the West Yorkshire Transport Fund, agreed to try to provide this information
- Kieran Dunkin, Network Rail, has indicated that he should be available to meet with the Panel, on an informal basis, on 15 March 2018. Details of this meeting will be shared with a number of other councillors and officers.
- Public announcements on the commitment and investment in the Trans Pennine rail upgrade scheme (TRU), including possible plans for the electrification of the route, are still awaited.
- Northern Rail is looking to update the timetables for its Trans Pennine routes with public consultation and meetings being planned in March and April 2018
- More work is still required to try to get the bus and rail operators in Kirklees to co-ordinate and integrate the timetables for their local services in North and South Kirklees, to make it easier for members of the public to plan and undertake journeys.

#### **2 Membership of the Committee**

No apologies for absence were received or noted.

**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.

- Keith Bloomfield – Operations Manager for the West Yorkshire Transport Fund
- Simon Taylor - Head of Development Management

Keith Bloomfield and Simon Taylor introduced a presentation containing information on the development of the strategic road network and local road network, plus the implications for Kirklees.

The presentation focused on:-

- Projects and schemes within the major Strategic Road Network (SRN) managed by Highways England
- Projects and schemes which Kirklees has in the West Yorkshire Route Network (KRN)
- Department for Transport (DfT) road studies, working in collaboration with Transport for the North (TfN), for major road studies in to the (i) Northern Trans Pennine routes (A66 Penrith to Scotch Corner) (A69 Carlisle to Newcastle). (ii) The Trans Pennine Tunnel (Manchester to Sheffield) and (iii) The Manchester North-West Quadrant (Junctions 8-18 on the M60)
- The work of Transport for the North (TfN) which is expected to be granted statutory status by the Secretary of State by April 2018, which is already consulting upon a “Strategic Transport Plan”, a 30 year plan outlining how the connections across the North of England need to be transformed to drive economic growth by 2050.
- The work of Highways England (HE) and (i) the delays to the M62/M606 Chain Bar scheme and (ii) The 2019/2020 start date for the M62 smart motorway scheme (Junctions 20-25)
- The priority which the Department for Transport (DfT) affords to motorways and trunk roads through the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and to strategic local roads through the Major Road Network (MRN)

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- The priority which the West Yorkshire Key Roads Network (KRN) affords to the development of our local roads in West Yorkshire
- The benefits of having a local agreement on the West Yorkshire Key Road Network
- Key routes for attention in the Kirklees in the local route network
- A map showing the major road schemes within the Kirklees area which are currently planned for completion pre 2021 and post 2021

*(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 welcome news that the Department for Transport and Highways England are looking to invest in the strategic road networks around the Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield areas.
- The need for these agencies to also consider the impact of these developments on the existing roads in the Kirklees area which people will use to access these improved strategic road networks, as some of these local roads may struggle to accommodate the extra traffic without significant improvements and/or investment too. For example, the A6024, A629 and A635 links to the improved Manchester and Sheffield routes
- Concerns that the current Transport for the North (TfN) consultation events on their Strategic Transport Plan do not include an event in Kirklees, and that the plan only contains a limited number of references to Kirklees and its transport needs. Members of the Panel are concerned by both of these issues. Keith Bloomfield agreed to raise these issues with TfN
- Concerns that the work by Transport for the North on its Strategic Transport Plan may be too focused on the development of the strategic road network and must consider the “bigger picture” if the development of better and more co-ordinated bus, rail and road links are ever to be addressed i.e. more roads could simply lead to more car journeys.
- The need for the Panel to look at the work of the Kirklees District Consultation Sub Committee in 2018/19 and the consultation which takes place on changes to local bus and rail services.
- The need for responses to the Strategic Transport Plan from both Kirklees and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, to make sure that all of our concerns and representations are made. Cllrs Peter McBride and Rob Walker agreed to discuss the issues and key points for inclusion within the submission which Kirklees will make.

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- The need for officers to contact Highways England to discuss the timing of the traffic lights around the new and improved Chain Bar junction, to deal with some of the significant delays that are occurring around the Oakenshaw area and to improve upon the safety and journey times for local residents. Keith Bloomfield agreed to raise these issues with Highways England.

- A map showing the road schemes within the Kirklees area which are planned for completion pre 2021 and post 2021, and a request for this map to be developed to show other projects and schemes which have been suggested but are still just proposals or are still in the very earliest stages of the various feasibility and funding processes. Keith Bloomfield agreed to try to provide this information within a revised map.

- A plea that officers do brief local councillors as the work on each of the local schemes does begin to take shape e.g. the Mirfield to Dewsbury to Leeds link (M2D2L) so that councillors can provide local insight and views from residents.

### **RESOLVED:-**

(1). That Keith Bloomfield and Simon Taylor be thanked for their attendance at today's meeting, plus their presentation on the development of strategic and local road links in Kirklees and West Yorkshire

(2). Members to submit any remaining questions about individual projects and schemes to Keith Bloomfield.

(3). That Cllr Rob Walker and officers be asked to follow up on the actions raised in today's debate.

## **6 Work programme**

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

It was also noted that the potential items for the next Panel meeting on 15 March 2018, were likely to include:-

- A review of the work programme for the Panel in 2017/18, plus potential topics for 2018/19

- Housing (Homelessness and allocations policy)

- Transport - Discussion with Kieran Dunkin, Network Rail

### **RESOLVED:-**

That the work programme be received and updated, and presented to the next meeting of the Panel on 15 March 2018.

## **7 Future meetings**

The Panel were reminded that the next meeting should take place at 0930 on Thursday 15 March 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 10:00.

### **RESOLVED:-**

That the next meeting of the Panel will take place from 10:00-1230 on Thursday 15 March 2018, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Huddersfield