
**Economic Development and Transport Policy
and Scrutiny Committee**

18th May 2016

Report of the Director of City & Environmental Services

An Update Report on Major Transport Initiatives in York

Summary

1. This report provides Members of the Economic Development and Transport Policy and Scrutiny Committee with an overview and update on the major transport initiatives currently being progressed in the city.
2. Separate reports on individual transport schemes are presented to the Executive Member for Transport and Planning on a regular basis. The overall capital programme is monitored through the year with the latest report submitted to the April Executive Member Decision Session.

Local Transport Plan (LTP)

3. The city's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) sets out the transport strategy for the city and the measures to be progressed in the short-term (2011-2015), medium-term (2015-2021) and long-term (2021 -2031), under the following strategic themes:
 - Provide Quality Alternatives (to the car).
 - Provide Strategic Links
 - Implement and Support Behavioural Change.
 - Tackle Transport Emissions.
 - Improve Public Streets and Spaces
4. The Council has approved a new Council Plan in October 2015 which focuses on the following key objectives:
 - **a prosperous city for all** - where local businesses can thrive and residents have good quality jobs, housing and opportunities

- **a focus on frontline services** - to ensure all residents, particularly the least advantaged, can access reliable services and community facilities
 - **a council that listens to residents** - to ensure it delivers the services they want and works in partnership with local communities
5. The overarching Transport principle for the city is to encourage more people to travel sustainably. There is also a focus on making the most of the existing infrastructure to maximise the capacity of the road network for all road users.

Update on Transport Activities

6. The Transport Service is currently progressing a wide range of transport initiatives and improvements across the city using Local Transport Plan Funding, DfT, Better Bus Area Fund, Developer Funding and Council resources. The 2016/17 Capital Programme budget report was presented to the 14 April Executive Member for Transport and Planning Decision Session.
7. The following projects were completed in 2015/16
- Purchase and installation of new off-bus ticket machines at Park & Ride sites, and other improvement work at the Park & Ride sites.
 - Preparatory work to develop a prioritised list of schemes for the Traffic Signals Asset Renewal programme
 - Installation of six electric vehicle charging points at Park & Ride sites.
 - Construction of new off-road cycle route on Askham Fields Lane to link to Askham Bryan College (developer funded).
 - Construction of a new off-road cycle route along Jockey Lane.
 - Construction of a new pedestrian and cycle route between the two retail park areas at Clifton Moor.
8. The following projects are currently being progressed:
- **A19 Pinch Point Scheme** The A64/A19 junction inbound phase of the project was completed last year. Schemes to improve the reliability and reduce the outbound journey times are currently being developed.

- **James Street Link Road Phase 2.** The remaining section of James Street between Heworth Green and Layerthorpe is currently being constructed by the developer of the adjacent land. The Council is making a contribution to the scheme to enhance the road to provide additional through route capacity. The scheme is programmed to be complete by the end of 2016.
- **Clarence Street/Lord Mayor's Walk junction improvements –** Progress on the scheme to widen Clarence Street and provide additional signal capacity has been slower than originally anticipated to enable alternative utility diversion options to be considered. A revised scheme reducing the impact and cost of the utility diversions will be presented to the Executive Member at the June Decision Session.
- **Rougier Street Bus Shelter upgrade –** The planned replacement of the shelter has been delayed by the sale and subsequent refurbishment of Roman House. Scaffolding has now been erected with the shelter works planned to commence in November to coincide with the removal of the scaffolding.
- **Traffic Signals Improvements –** Funding has been allocated to upgrade approx. 30 signal sites across the city over the next 4 years. The first year will be focussed on the simpler pedestrian crossing locations allowing time to design the more complicated junctions for delivery in future years. The aim is to roll out new camera detection equipment to further junctions over the next 2 years.
- **Review of parking restrictions –** Annual Review of Traffic Regulation Order Requests now well underway, over 80 items to be progressed.
- **Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Exemplar City – York.** The city was successful in being named an exemplar GoUltraLow city. Unfortunately the city was not allocated the full amount of the bid but will receive £800k to provide additional electric rapid charger units across the area. This infrastructure project will deliver an additional 20 rapid chargers in locations that will support the fast charging of cars (typically 10-60mins) and provide a major benefit to ULEV and would-be ULEV drivers. Rapid chargers will be installed as multiple charger 'Hubs' to increase benefit to users,

reduce overall costs per charge point installation and improve resilience and reliability. The locations will mostly be on outer ring road areas e.g. Park&Ride sites which will assist with providing fast, reliable rapid charging for key vehicles groups such as taxis, business users, private motorists and buses.

- **iTravel** – The funding for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund project, which commenced in 2011, ended on 31 March 2016 (£1m received in 2015/16). The Transport Service has been restructured with staffing levels reduced in line with the reduced budget. A bid for approximately £400k for funding from the Sustainable Travel Transition Fund has been submitted with an announcement expected shortly. The itravelyork website remains the focus for all travel information for the city for travellers and the Council. There were over 25,000 hits to the website on 27 December to check on travel conditions during the flood event.

Future Programme

9. Recent reports to the Executive and Executive Member Decision Session provide the principal areas of work for the service over the next year.
10. Coppergate – The reintroduction of a camera enforced traffic restriction on Coppergate with the times altered to 8:00am to 6:00pm (7 days) was approved at the Executive on 29 October. A further report will be presented to the Executive on 30 June to gain authority to revise the TRO and proposed signage and commence consultation.
11. A Boards – Consultation with Key stakeholders has commenced. The outcome of the consultation and a draft policy will be presented to the Executive in August.
12. Park & Ride Procurement – Approval to procure the Park & Ride Service was granted in September 2015. The procurement process commenced later than expected owing to the delays in the announcement of grant funding for low emission vehicles. The formal process will start shortly with the expectation that the new service will commence in February 2017.
13. City Centre Network Management – An update on the review of traffic restrictions in the city centre was the subject of a report to the 12 November Executive Member for Planning and Transport Decision

Session. Options for further investigation are presented for approval on the following items:

- Extending loading and unloading only periods either side of the pedestrian zone (excluding Stonegate and The Shambles)
 - Standardise the general vehicle access restriction outside the daytime pedestrian zone / loading period hours(excluding Stonegate)
 - Extending the period of the road closure at the Nessgate / Spurriergate junction into the evening or through the night
 - Blue badge and Green permit access to the pedestrian zone
 - Piccadilly / Pavement / Stonebow vehicle access and enforcement
14. Future Reports – Reports updating the strategy for investment in cycling and pedestrian crossings will be submitted in the summer. There will also be reports on the Annual Review of Parking Restrictions and updates on the delivery of the Transport Capital Programme.
15. Major Transport Schemes – (Outer Ring Road upgrade, York Central Access, York Station Frontage Upgrade). Subject to the outcome of the devolution debate reports will also be brought forward on these major transport schemes currently planned to be delivered through the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund. The arrangements for devolved governance in the area have taken longer than expected to be finalised and announced. Growth fund bids for development funding for a number of schemes: Haxby Station, Outer Ring Road Dualling, A1079 capacity enhancements are currently being progressed with the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership. It is currently planned to present a report to the Executive in August to identify potential routes for funding of Major Transport schemes.

Transport Service Budgets

16. There are a number of major challenges to maintaining the current level of service within the Transport Service in 2016 and future years. The recent restructure principally to address the ending of the LSTF funding in March 2016 saw a reduction of 3 posts covering the promotion of sustainable transport in the city. Currently a further 4 posts are maintained on a temporary basis using Better Bus Area, business and Police funding pending the announcement of the Sustainable Travel

Transition Fund. Further staffing and budget savings of £450k are identified in the Transport Service for 2016/17 with further savings anticipated in future years.

17. The Transport Team continue to investigate funding opportunities to maintain and improve the city's transport network. It is anticipated that further funding will become available from the LEPs and potentially through the devolution process.

Consultation

18. Not applicable as this item is for information only

Options

19. Not applicable as this item is for information only

Council Priorities

20. These transport initiatives accord with the Council's priorities relating to a prosperous city for all by improving access and reducing journey times for residents, a focus on frontline services such as the maintenance of traffic signal equipment and a council that listens to residents through consultation on projects and initiatives.

Implications

21. There are no financial, human resources, crime and disorder, information technology, property or other implications directly associated with this information only report.

Risk management

22. Not applicable as this is an item for information only.

Recommendations

23. That the Committee note the present position in relation to major transport initiatives in the city.

Reason: To ensure Members are kept updated on major transport initiatives in the city.

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Report **Date** 6/5/2016
Approved

For further information please contact the author of the report

Wards affected – ALL