

Councillor Dave Merrett
Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability
Report to Economic & City
Development Overview & Scrutiny
Committee (ECDOSC) – January 2013

I have written this report taking into account the remit of ECDOSC. I am happy to answer any questions on this report or any questions relevant to areas in my portfolio that fall within the remit of this Committee.

Get York Moving

Expanding Park and Ride Services

- £15m of Government Funding secured through a nationally competitive process.
- Final design work, tendering exercise on site construction and highways work completed.
- Bus Priorities on A59 corridor will be completed by April 2013.
- Final DfT approval now being sought which would enable an April 2013 start at 13 month construction period.

Improving Bus Services

- Secured Better Bus Area Funding, an additional £3m funding from Government.
- BBAF programme developing Smart ticketing
- York's first multi-operator ticket developed, launched and introduced.
- Completed Bus improvement Study.
- Continued to provide bus services through 3 flooding incidents.
- Station public transport information centre opened and up and running.
- Over 4 million passengers per annum now using parking.
- Facilitated Bus Users UK surgery
- Held CYC Bus Consultation event, with a second shortly

Developing York's Cycling and Pedestrian Network

- Review of York's cycle network has been carried out.
- List of 'missing links' has been identified and prioritised for the cycle network.
- New off-road cycle route along the Outer Ring Road being progressed to complete the orbital route.

- Proposed cycling and walking improvements for the Clifton Moor retail / leisure area being consulted on
- Improvements to pedestrian links in the vicinity of the Barbican Centre and improvements to the Fishergate Gyratory have been consulted on and agreed for construction in 2013.

Improving Movement in the City Centre

- Footstreets Review stage 2 completed – with experimental measures to rationalise and extend footstreet hours agreed and access controls on Davygate to manage through access.
- BBAF programme includes upgrading 5 city centre bus interchange locations.
- Decluttering of the city centre continuing.
- Measures to improve enforcement of Coppergate in the offing

20mph Speed Limits in York's Residential Areas

- Policy approach been agreed, including with the Police.
- South Bank pilot completed.
- West of York (a third of the City) now being rolled forward with consultation underway.

Winning Hearts and Minds

- LSTF funded business travel planning service now up and running – contact has been established with over 80 businesses and the first travel planning conference was held in December 2012.
- LSTF funded personalised travel planning programme will commence this spring.
- iTravel website launched in September 2012 to improve availability of timetable and other travel and transport information and planning tools.

Future transport strategy

- We are working with West Yorkshire Authorities and Metro in terms of creating an investment fund to enhance the rather miserable level of Government funding for future major transport capital investment (only about £4 million for the next 4 year period.
- We have identified both from our own knowledge and in conjunction with the local business community and in discussions facilitated by the Outer York MP, Julian Sturdy, a series of potential strategic transport investments for transport in and

around the city, including various options for improving public transport and upgrading the northern outer ring road. These have been submitted and evaluated by the West Yorks Transport fund consultants for potential inclusion in the funding proposals. Schemes are being prioritised in line primarily with the Government's jobs growth priority.

- Other future funding opportunities will also be considered to help bring these schemes forward.

Other Achievements

- Successful handling of the Queen's visit and Olympic Torch Relay.
- Dealt with traffic and road closures with three major flood incidences.
- Agreed to form part of a West Yorkshire and York Local Transport Body to seek to maximise transport funding for the city.
- Overall a transformation transport change programme is underway with £35m of investment over the period 2011-2015.
- We are installing a network of electric vehicle charging points throughout the city via grant funding, charitable contributions and through the planning process.

Air Quality

- The results of the Low Emission Zone feasibility study are imminent. An LEZ will prohibit dirtier buses from passing through the city centre.
- The low emission strategy to reduce traffic and other pollution, especially in terms of nitrogen dioxide and carbon emissions, is now council policy.
- Through the Eco Stars fleet accreditation scheme and the low emission taxi project, we are working to reduce emissions from fleet and commercial vehicles and from taxis and private hire vehicles. A compressed natural gas and freight transshipment centre feasibility studies are aiming to reduce emissions from HGVs.

Protect the Environment

Sustainable Development

Category	Achievement
<i>Climate Change, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Integrated effects of future climatic change into corporate risk registers;</i>• <i>Ensured Board interests integrated into Economic Strategy;</i>• <i>Wrapping Up York – 163 cavity walls and 441 lofts insulated under scheme (in addition to measures installed through CERT);</i>• <i>Secured funding for – a collective energy switching pilot across LCR, an LCR Heat Map (including maps for each LA), and increased support to address fuel poverty;</i>• <i>DIF bid to accelerate understanding of opportunities for district heating networks;</i>• <i>Renewable energy – 208 PV panels installed on HQ, 17 ASHPs installed in social housing (through DECC funding).</i>
<i>Carbon Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>On target to deliver original CMP target of 25% reduction in emissions (5,810tCO₂) by end March 2013 (from 2006/07 baseline);</i>• <i>Green Audit completed – projects identified to deliver 445tCO₂ of savings;</i>• <i>Salix Finance – 38 projects completed to date.</i>
<i>Environmental Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Signed-up to Investors in the Environment (IiE) accreditation scheme (basic environmental management system) and committed to achieving bronze accreditation during 2013/14;</i>• <i>Environmental Protection Assessment (EPA) integrated into evaluation of projects put forward through the capital programme.</i>
<i>Green Deal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Secured funding for a solid wall insulation pilot in three areas of the city;</i>• <i>Representation of York’s interests in continued development of LCR Green Deal offer.</i>

Category	Achievement
Low Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low Emissions Strategy (LES) adopted;</i> • <i>Secured funding to – investigate suitability of electric vehicles in CYCs fleet, and for five schemes to improve air quality in the City;</i> • <i>Approval to install electric charging points in CYC car parks;</i> • <i>Obtained free charging points for hotels, B&Bs and leisure facilities;</i> • <i>Appointed consultants to deliver EcoStars Scheme;</i> • <i>Incentive scheme for taxi drivers to buy hybrid vehicles.</i>
Community Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Launch of York is ENGAGE'd campaign;</i> • <i>Phase II of Green Neighbourhoods Challenge;</i> • <i>Climate Week 2012;</i> • <i>Championed GeniUS Challenge Four.</i>
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approval for seconded officer to aid in development of Local Plan climate change policy;</i> • <i>Input into major planning applications;</i> • <i>Climate Change Skills Fund for Planners and Elected Members.</i>

Development Management

Progress on Major sites is subject to direct reporting to ECDOSC, so I will not cover action there, other than to say that constant pro-active work with developers is being maintained to ensure obstacles to development are dealt with and sites can come forward. Interest is rising, and it's interesting to note that the recently Huntington application included a significant 30% affordable housing element without demur by the applicant. Flexibility is being offered on more difficult to bring forward sites. Other measures to bring forward new housing are being worked on jointly with housing and my colleague Tracey Simpson-Laing and will be the subject of an important forthcoming Cabinet report.

Local Plan visioning, call for sites & next steps

Following the withdrawal of the LDF core strategy, visioning and background work for the new Local Plan is well underway. The new economic strategy work is expected imminently and discussions are continuing with business and city centre retailers on it. The call for sites has identified a significant number of potential sites and these are being considered against the background tests as with the previous LDF core strategy sites. A positive meeting was held with the Planning minister Nick Boles, who was wholeheartedly behind the growth strategy the Leader and myself outlined to him. We sought his help in terms of obtaining a clearer and simpler approach by Government to government grant funds in line with Michael Heseltine's recent report to the Government on unlocking growth.

Work is currently on schedule for the draft plan to be issued for consultation in the spring.

Flooding Strategy & Investment

The Council has delivered a series of milestones in developing a comprehensive approach to flooding in response to the Pitt review and subsequent legislation, including the recent Surface Water Management Plan. The Leeman road flood protection scheme has been granted permission and a pre-site commencement meeting held earlier this week with local residents. The Clementhorpe feasibility study is progressing.

Budget

Over the two years since taking office T, P&S on-going revenue expenditure will have been reduced by £2.5 million in response to the Government's reduction in grant funding to York.

Dave Merrett

Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability

17th January 2013