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

18th November 2015

Report of the Acting 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 in relation to the major transport initiatives in the city currently being progressed.
2. Separate reports on individual transport schemes are presented to the Executive Member for Planning and Transport on a regular basis. The overall capital programme is monitored through the year with the latest report submitted to the November 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 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 Transport Service is reviewing its priorities to achieve these aims. The overarching principle to encourage more people to travel sustainably remains at the heart of the work undertaken but there will also be a focus on making the most of the existing infrastructure to maximise the capacity of the road network for all road users.
 6. The programme for a refresh of the Local Transport Plan to ensure that it aligns with the Local Plan and Local Government Devolution initiative will be confirmed when the timing and outcome of these is clearer.

Update on Transport Activities

7. The Transport Service is currently progressing a wide range of transport initiatives and improvements across the city using Local Transport Plan, Local Sustainable Transport Fund, Better Bus Area Fund and Council resources. The latest update on the Transport Capital Programme was presented to the 12 November Executive Member for Planning and Transport Decision Session. The following projects are currently being progressed:
 - **A19 Pinch Point Phase 1 A64/A19 - complete** - Major improvement to junction to reduce queuing in the area and reduce journey times for bus services from the south. It is anticipated that consultation on phase 2 of the project will commence when the timescale for the delivery of the access junction to the Germany Beck development is confirmed.
 - **Haxby to Clifton Moor Cycle Route - opened** in April 2015- £1.3m project to provide a cycle route adjacent to the Outer Ring Road to reduce severance of the communities by the high volumes of traffic in the area.
 - **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. Subject to a satisfactory solution being established the work will commence in early 2016.

- **Rougier Street Bus Shelter upgrade** – The planned replacement of the shelter has been delayed by the sale and subsequent refurbishment of Roman House. The timescale for this has now been confirmed with the shelter replacement planned to be undertaken in early 2016.
- **Other Capital Transport Projects**
 - Burdyke Avenue Layby - complete
 - Askham Bryan College cycle link – complete
 - Clifton Moor Pedestrian & Cycling Link Improvements – complete
 - Osbaldwick Primary Safe Routes to School – complete
 - Jockey Lane Cycle Route – under construction
- **Traffic Signals Improvements** – The trials of new detection equipment are going well. The aim is to roll out the new technology to further junctions later this financial year
- **Vehicle Activated Signs Review** – review ongoing – to be reported to the November Decision Session.
- **Review of parking restrictions** – Annual Review of Traffic Regulation Order Requests now well underway, 84 items to be considered by the Director for progression.
- **ULEV Exemplar City – York** Shortlisted as one of 12 cities across the UK to be able to bid for £35m of funds to provide measure to encourage the take-up of low emission vehicles. Final bid submitted on 2 October.
- **Festival of Cycling** – 12/13 September (Saturday affected by poor weather but Sunday very busy tying in with Sky Ride – approx. 8,000 registered on Sky Ride)
- **iTravel** – Approx. 7,000 Personal Travel Planning visits to properties in the Holgate/Poppleton area. Continued activities to promote sustainable transport options in the city including Business and School Travel Planning, Bike Belles Cycling initiative, iTravelyork website and journey planning tool.
- **Streetworks** – Significant increase in maintenance and new supply activity due to development e.g. St. Leonard's Place and City Fibre supplies in Clifton and Rawcliffe

- **Network Management – Highway Regulation** – continued regulatory activity dealing with obstructions, skips, scaffolding, Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders, events (Tour de Yorkshire) etc.

Future Programme

8. Recent reports to the Executive and Executive Member Decision Session provide the principle new areas of work for the service for the remainder of the year.
9. 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. Future reports will be presented for approval following consultation on the revised restriction and the proposed signage.
10. A Boards – Approval for the consultation with key stakeholders on the introduction of a licensing arrangement for A Boards in suitable locations across the city was granted in September.
11. Park & Ride Procurement – Approval to procure the Park & Ride Service was granted in September. The formal process will start shortly with the expectation that the new service will commence in February 2017.
12. City Centre Network Management – An update on the review of traffic restrictions in the city centre is 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

13. Speed Management - An update on the management of speeding complaints in the city is the subject of a report to the 12 November Executive Member for Planning and Transport Decision Session. The report is split into 3 parts addressing the partnership work with the Police and Fire Service, proposed engineering measures for sites prioritised through the speed management process and a review of the Vehicle Activated Signs across the city.
14. Transport Systems Renewal Programme - An update on the maintenance of traffic signals and the provision of vehicle detection equipment is the subject of a report to the 12 November Executive Member for Planning and Transport Decision Session. Subject to approval it is proposed to allocate funding for the maintenance of traffic signals over the next 5 years from the Integrated Transport Block of the Local Transport Plan. This will ensure that the traffic signals continue to manage traffic effectively and reliably with the lowest revenue cost.
15. Future Reports – Reports reviewing the Strategy and Operation for Parking in the city and the strategy for investment in cycling are proposed to be presented in early 2016. There will also be reports on the Annual Review of Parking Restrictions and updates on the delivery of the Transport Capital Programme.
16. 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.

Transport Service Budgets

17. There are a number of major challenges to maintaining the current level of service within the Transport Service in 2016 and future years. The Transport Service is currently undergoing a restructure principally to address the ending of the LSTF funding in March 2013 which will see a reduction of 8 posts out of the current 14 covering the promotion of sustainable transport in the city. Anticipated budget reductions affecting discretionary services such as CCTV, Supported Bus Services and School Crossing Patrols will also need to be investigated as part of the process to set the Council budget for the next 4 years. Further reports will be brought forward for these service areas.

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.

Recommendation

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

Reason: To inform Members of major transport initiatives in the city.

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Services

Report
Approved



Date
10/11/2015

For further information please contact the author of the report

Wards affected – ALL