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| London Councils’ Transport & Environment Committee | | | | | | | |
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| Chair’s Report | | | | | | Item no: | 9 |
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| Report by: | Katharina Winbeck | | Job title: | | Head of Transport, Environment and Infrastructure, London Councils | | |
| Date: | 16 June 2016 | | | | | | |
| Contact Officer: | Katharina Winbeck | | | | | | |
| Telephone: | 020 7934 9945 | Email: | | Katharina.winbeck@londoncouncils.gov.uk | | | |
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| **Summary** | This report updates Members on transport and environment policy since the last TEC meeting on 23 March 2016 and provides a forward look until the next TEC meeting on 13 October 2016. |
| **Recommendations** | Members to note this report. |

**Updates included in this report:**

**Transport**

* New Mayor’s Priorities
* Response to DfT Walking and Cycling Investment Strategy
* Response to Transport Select Committee Inquiry on the rail passenger experience
* Meeting between TEC Chair, vice-chairs and TfL Commissioner
* Sharing Skilled Transport Staff Initiative Update

**Environment**

* New Mayor’s Priorities
* Update on the partnership project with the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to increase officer capacity in flood risk management
* Response to the Environment Audit Select Committee call for evidence on Treasury policy on meeting recycling targets
* Update on Defra’s Litter Strategy
* Greening Your borough event, morning of 16 June

**Forward Look**

Forthcoming meetings and consultations

**Introduction**

1. This report updates Members on London Councils’ work on transport and environment policy since the last TEC meeting on 23 March 2016 and provides a forward look until 13 October 2016.

**Transport**

**New Mayor’s Priorities**

1. Val Shawcross long-standing Assembly Member and Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee has been appointed Deputy Mayor for Transport.
2. Accessibility - Khan pledges greater accessibility on buses through more space for wheelchairs, and increased step-free access on the London underground and at TfL stations. He pledges to ensure Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard continue to provide support to those who need these services to get around London.
3. Aviation - Khan supports a new second runway at London Gatwick Airport and opposes expansion at London Heathrow Airport. Since taking office Sadiq Khan has removed the previous Mayor’s objections to expansion at London City Airport.
4. Buses - Khan pledges the introduction of a one-hour bus ticket which allows unlimited journeys within one hour. It has already been announced that from September 2016 it will be possible to undertake two journeys within the hour for the fare of £1.50, with unlimited journeys possible by 2018 once a TfL technology upgrade has occurred. Khan wants to encourage more competition in the bus sector, making it possible for both not-for-profit and mutual operations to bid, as well as TfL’s commercial arm.
5. Cycling - Khan pledges to increase the proportion of TfL’s budget that is spent on cycling. The Cycle Superhighway programme will be continued, with a focus on segregated provision. Quietways, cycle routes that run through parks and quieter backstreets, will be prioritised. A new round of town centre cycling improvement plans is also promised. Lorries will be safer and cleaner and the Safer Junctions programme extended to more accident ‘blackspot’ locations. More cycle storage will be required of developers in the London Plan, and the Mayor will work with boroughs to deliver on-street secure cycle storage. The Mayor supports the Rotherhithe-Canary Wharf cycle and pedestrian bridge.
6. Rail - Khan’s manifesto pledges to secure Crossrail 2 and start planning for Crossrail 3. Support for extending the Bakerloo line and London Overground, as well as new east London river crossings are mentioned. He supports TfL taking over responsibility for more commuter rail routes and intends to deliver the night tube. The night tube has since been announced for the Victoria and Central lines for 19 August. He supports the upgrade of the West Anglian rail line to improve journeys to Stansted Airport, Cambridge, and to support housing development in north London.
7. Roads - Khan pledges greater coordination of TfL work and utility company maintenance. He will seek powers to regulate rickshaws. SoS for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin MP has since stated that rickshaw drivers in London will require a licence to operate. Khan will work with businesses, boroughs and freight companies to reduce lorry journeys during peak times, and pledges a continuation of LIP funding. Khan supports Car Clubs to reduce congestion and the demand for parking and pledges to deliver the electric charging infrastructure needed to expand the uptake of electric vehicles.
8. Taxis and private hire vehicles - Khan pledges to ensure the markets for taxis and private hire vehicles are fair and retain the special privileges for taxi drivers, including exclusive use of bus lanes and ply for hire. He pledges to ensure that driver safety standards are enforced across both industries.
9. TfL - His manifesto commits to a freeze of all TfL fares for the next four years and continued support for the Oyster and contactless card payment methods. He pledges efficiency savings within TfL, for example by merging the engineering functions. TfL will become more commercially focused, with a trading arm that can run local transport services and sell TfL expertise nationally and internationally. The new Mayor pledges better industrial relationships and fewer strikes. Khan will review the ticket office closures.
10. Walking - Khan’s manifesto pledges safer walking routes for children walking to school, a reduction in street clutter on TfL roads and urban realm improvements. The new Mayor supports 20mph zones. He pledges the pedestrianisation of Oxford Street and the part-pedestrianisation of Parliament Square. He will appoint a pedestrian champion at TfL.

**Response to DfT Walking and Cycling Investment Strategy**

1. London Councils responded to the DfT consultation on their walking and cycling investment strategy in May 2016, welcoming the publication of the draft strategy. We noted that very little of the funding committed to delivering the strategy would be available to London, as transport funding is devolved to the Mayor of London. We reiterated our concerns regarding the classification of TfL grants to boroughs as revenue rather than capital funding, putting them at risk with the reduction in TfL’s revenue grant from government. We called on the government to be more ambitious and set a more specific target for road safety than simply a year-on-year reduction in the number of cyclists killed or seriously injured per billion miles cycled.
2. Our response can be read in full on our website: <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/transport/cycling-and-walking>.

**Response to Transport Select Committee Inquiry on the rail passenger experience**

1. London Councils responded to this inquiry in May 2016, providing evidence and recommendations on the information passengers receive, smart ticketing and how part-time season tickets could operate in London, in-train facilities, performance measures, and mechanisms for holding operators to account for poor performance.
2. Our response can be read in full on our website: <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/transport/rail-and-tube>.

**Meeting between TEC Chair, vice-chairs and TfL Commissioner**

1. The Vice-Chairs and I met the TfL Commissioner on 25 May 2016. The meeting focused on the new Mayor and his emerging transport priorities, together with a discussion of TfL’s budget and LIP funding. Crossrail 2, the Social Needs Transport Review and an update on the Ultra Low Emission Zone were also on the agenda.
2. The Commissioner has confirmed TfL’s commitment to the new Mayors transport policies, such as fares freeze, clean bus routes, consultation on an extended Ultra Low Emission Zone and an earlier introduction of a ‘t-charge’ (toxicity charge) in 2017.
3. He has also expressed support for the continuation of Cycle Super Highways, which TEC Members welcomed.
4. TfL will undertake a comprehensive internal review as well as look at current and future projects to make efficiency savings, to plug some of the funding gap.
5. The Mayor has pledged his support for LIP funding in his manifesto and although this has not featured in any meetings as yet, this will be on the agenda for the regular meeting with Val Shawcross, the recently appointed Deputy Mayor for Transport.
6. TfL will be producing a new business plan over the course of the summer and will share a draft with TEC chair and vice chairs in time for the next meeting on 29 September.

**Sharing Skilled Transport Staff Initiative Update**

1. The working group continues to meet and following the inclusion of borough placements in TfL’s graduate schemes, as TEC agreed at its last meeting, the group is now exploring the possibility of a transport apprenticeship scheme with TfL, to address skills gaps that exist in both TfL and boroughs in the transport sector. The apprenticeship levy is introduced from April 2017, which will provide employers with access to funding for training for apprenticeships, which a shared apprenticeship scheme could take advantage of.

**Environment**

**New Mayor’s Priorities**

1. No Deputy Mayor or Adviser has been announced for the Environment at the time of writing this report.
2. Air quality - Khan’s manifesto pledges to bring forward the introduction of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), and expand it. It has already been announced that Khan will introduce a “toxicity charge” (‘t-charge’) for vehicles entering the Congestion Charge Zone, in addition to the Congestion Charge; and will consult on extending the ULEZ to the north and south circular roads. Khan pledges to introduce Clean Bus Corridors which will prioritise clean buses for the most polluted routes. By 2018 he aims to purchase only clean electric or hydrogen buses and have agreement from other European and global cities to do the same. He will press the government to introduce a diesel scrappage scheme.
3. Climate change - Khan wants to divest the London Pension Fund Authority of its remaining investments in fossil fuels, and work with other cities to develop solutions to environmental challenges such as climate change that cities face.
4. Energy - Khan’s manifesto includes the creation of Energy for Londoners, not-for-profit company providing a energy services to help Londoners generate more low-carbon energy. He support district heating schemes, will promote the roll-out of smart meters and produce a solar energy strategy. His manifesto pledges that all new developments will meet low carbon, energy efficiency and sustainability standards.
5. Flooding and water - Khan’s manifesto pledges to plan for the replacement of the Thames Barrier. He wants to promote initiatives that reduce water consumption and roll out water metering.
6. Green infrastructure - Protection for the green belt and the strengthening of protection for other types of open space in the London Plan is pledged in Khan’s manifesto. He plans a tree-planting programme for London and wants to make London a National Park City. He wants more than 50 per cent of London to be green. He wants to complete the Thames Path, open up more walking routes and protect biodiversity by creating green corridors.
7. Waste - Khan pledges to reinvigorate efforts to increase the amount of waste London recycles so that London is recycling 65 per cent of its waste by 2035. He wants to see greater promotion of employment in the reuse, repair and remanufacturing industry.

**Update on the partnership project with the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to increase officer capacity in flood risk management**

1. London Councils has been working in partnership with the Environment Agency, GLA, Thames Water and local authorities in London and outside London to establish a partnership project that brings greater resource to Lead Local Flood Authorities (in London, all London boroughs) to assist them in developing capital schemes for investment by the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
2. The governance arrangements have been established, with two of the London TRFCC representatives (Cllr Daniel Anderson – representing North, and Cllr Nick Draper – representing South West) on the Project Board together with Thames Water and the Environment Agency. An officer Steering Group has also been established and includes a senior officer from Kensington & Chelsea together with officers from London Councils, the GLA and local authorities outside London.
3. Recruitment has commenced for Team Leaders and Advisers. It is hoped a team will be in place by September 2016.

**Response to the Environment Audit Select Committee call for evidence on Treasury policy on meeting recycling targets**

1. London Councils plans to submit evidence to the Environment Audit Select Committee on how the Treasury’s policies affect meeting recycling targets, and how aligned Treasury and Defra policies are. Our response is likely to reference harmonisation, moving to a circular economy, waste exports, feed in tariffs and landfill devolution.

**Update on Defra’s Litter Strategy**

1. London Councils has been invited to be part of the Advisory Group assisting Defra in developing its new Litter Strategy. The LGA and a few local authorities are also on the Advisory Group, together with environmental charities such as Keep Britain Tidy and private sector organisations such as the Food Packaging Association and McDonalds.
2. Defra plans to produce its strategy over the coming months. London Councils has been invited to be part of the working group on roadside litter.
3. In addition, Defra is considering the case for extending the littering from vehicles powers beyond London to the rest of England. We have been assisting in providing some of the lessons learnt from London boroughs on this.

**Greening your borough**

1. This event, chaired by Cllr Julian Bell is scheduled to take place in the morning of TEC. Aimed at TEC members and flooding portfolio holders, it will start with a short, local site visit of small-scale green infrastructure and sustainable drainage in the vicinity of London Councils offices and then move on to more traditional presentations from a number of boroughs and other stakeholders, such as the Thames RFCC, Thames Water, the GLA and Groundwork.

**Forward Look**

**June 2016**

* Potential Government announcement on airport expansion
* 23 – EU referendum / purdah ends
* 28 – London APPG will discuss air quality, TEC chair, GLA and Kings College to present

**July 2016**

* TfL consultation on ‘t-charge’ and extension of ULEZ expected
* 21 – TEC Executive

**August 2016**

* 19 – Night tube on the Victoria and Central lines expected to start

**September 2016**

* 15 – TEC Executive
* 29 – TEC Chair and Vice-Chairs meeting with TfL Commissioner

**October 2016**

* 11 – Chair’s meeting with London Councils CELC (Chief Executive) leads for Transport and Environment
* 13 – TEC Main