

# London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee

## Chair's Report

Item no: 07

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**Summary**                      This report updates Members on transport and environment policy since the last TEC meeting on 13 October 2016 and provides a forward look until the next TEC meeting on 23 March 2017.

**Recommendations**       Members to note this report.

### **Updates included in this report:**

'A City for All Londoners' published  
Autumn Statement

### **Transport**

- Government decision on airport capacity announced
- New City Development Portfolio Holder – transport infrastructure overlap
- Future lines on the night tube open
- Future of London's Transport Strategy – speaking engagement
- London Travel Watch Cycling Conference – speaking engagement
- Road User Charging Adjudicators (RUCA) – Continuation of Appeals Tribunal Service

### **Environment**

- Phone call with Lord Gardiner regarding litter issues
- Air quality
  - Polling – media coverage
  - Client Earth win
  - Second phase of consultation
- TfL SUDS guide and GLA London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan
- Builders skips contravention code reserved
- London Assembly Investigation into Fuel Poverty

### **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 13 October 2016 and provides a forward look until 23 March 2017.

## **'A City for all Londoners' published**

2. The Mayor has published A City for All Londoners which sets out the broad principles and aims of his Mayoralty, building on his manifesto. The GLA is undertaking a series of consultation events, including on Transport and on Environment. The GLA is encouraging feedback until 11 December 2016.
3. We expect both drafts of the Environment and Mayor's Transport Strategies to be published in spring 2017, although GLA colleagues are considering the potential for consultation overload and therefore staggering the release of draft strategies.

## **Autumn Statement**

4. The Chancellor issued his Autumn Statement on 23 November 2016.
5. He announced a new National Productivity Investment Fund which will be targeted at four areas: housing, transport, digital communications and research and development. Between 2017-18 and 2021-22 this fund will provide £23 billion and build upon existing plans for investment over the Parliamentary term. Specific projects will be decided upon in due course.
6. Within transport, the following references are made:
  - Roads and local transport – funding for congestion relief and upgrades to road networks and public transport networks. Funding to tackle key pinch-points on strategic roads.
  - Next generation vehicles – funding for charging infrastructure, low emission buses and taxis, and the development of alternative aviation and heavy goods fuels.
  - Digital rail enhancements – funding to trial digital signalling technology and smart ticketing including season tickets for the UK's major cities. High Speed 2 Phase 1 will commence construction in 2017; the Chancellor notes he is looking forward to receiving a business case for Crossrail 2.
7. Additional motoring related policies include continuation of the freeze on fuel duty and new, lower Company Car Tax bands for 2020-21 to provide stronger incentives to purchase ultra-low emission vehicles.
8. On environmental policy, the government is developing an emissions reduction plan, and is considering structural changes to the way that energy costs are capped for customers. The Shale Wealth Fund is launched, and the government sets out its investment plans for flood defence measures.

## **Transport**

### **Government decision on airport capacity announced**

9. The government announced on 25 October 2016 that it supported expansion at London Heathrow Airport. The next steps are to launch a public consultation on the local impacts of its decision in early 2017. This will be followed by a national policy statement on aviation which will be ratified by Parliament in late 2017 or early 2018. The plans for expansion are likely to be approved using a Development Consent Order which includes impact assessment for health and the environment. Heathrow Airport is likely to request planning permission in 2019, with the potential for the runway to be built by 2025.

### **New City Development Portfolio Holder – transport infrastructure overlap**

10. Cllr Darren Rodwell has been appointed the new City Development Portfolio Holder. His portfolio encompasses infrastructure, planning and culture. I will continue to work closely with Cllr Rodwell on transport infrastructure matters, as I did with the previous Portfolio Holder, Cllr Claire Kober.

### **Meeting with TfL Commissioner**

11. The next meeting between the TfL Commissioner and the Chair and Vice-Chairs of TEC is on 6 December 2016. On the agenda is discussion about the TfL Business Plan which we expect to be published in mid-December; emerging Mayoral Strategies and A City for All Londoners; air quality and the second stage consultation.

### **Future lines on the night tube open**

12. The Northern line started running a night tube service on Fridays and Saturdays on 18 November and the Piccadilly line will follow on 16 December. A number of new night bus routes were announced in August following 24 hour operation commencing on the Victoria line. Since then it has been announced that Routes 307 and 319 have been extended following the Northern line 24 hour launch in November.
13. Anti-social behaviour or other complaints, such as noise do not seem to have increased significantly since its introduction, which points to a well planned introduction of service.

### **Future of London's Transport Strategy**

14. On 3 November I spoke at the Policy Forum for London event about the delivery of new developments and the role that transport plays in growth. I discussed the major strategic infrastructure London needs; encouraging more walking and cycling; the skills challenge; the role transport plays in connecting new developments, especially in housing zones and opportunity areas; and the work of the boroughs and London Councils to bring more electric vehicles to the capital.

### **London Travel Watch Cycling Conference**

15. I spoke at the Cycling Conference organised by London Travel Watch. I referred to the need to engage further with the Mayor to take the cycling revolution to the next level. I stressed the point that we now need to learn from schemes, such as Mini Hollands and Cycle Super Highways to design the best schemes for the highest outcomes.

16. I also spoke about the Ealing Cycling Commission where the former Mayor of Copenhagen spoke; a video clip can be found [here](#).

### **Road User Charging Adjudicators (RUCA) – Continuation of Appeals Tribunal Service**

London Councils operates the Road User Charging Appeals (RUCA) service under contract with the Greater London Authority (GLA). The current contract ends on 31 December 2016 and Transport for London (TfL) has now concluded its re-tender exercise on behalf of the GLA. London Councils has successfully retained the contract for a further term of five years with the option to extend for a further two years.

## **Environment**

### **Phone call with Lord Gardiner regarding litter issues**

17. Lord Gardiner requested a phone call to talk about littering issues. He was keen to learn from the London experience for the rest of the country and was interested in how enforcement could pay for itself. I gave him the Ealing example, where contractors are employed to enforce littering and get a proportion of the FPN fine.
18. Lord Gardiner was also interested in hearing about the new fine for flytipping, introduced in May this year and I told him of the TEC steer to boroughs to introduce the highest fine of £400 across London.

### **Air quality**

#### **Polling – media coverage**

19. London Councils commissioned public polling on air quality issues across the capital, which aimed to identify the awareness amongst the public on air pollution, and the impact that it has on their day-to-day lives. The key findings showed that nearly half of all Londoners feel poor air quality has had a negative impact on their health.
20. A number of media outlets covered the story, including the Evening Standard, and a number of local newspapers such as the Sutton Guardian. The research will feed-in to London Councils' work on air quality, including the response to the second phase of the Mayor's air quality consultation.

#### **ClientEarth court case ruling**

21. In early November the Environmental law firm ClientEarth won its High Court case against the UK Government over the failure of ministers to tackle illegal air quality levels across the country. The judge ruled that the Government's 2015 Air Quality Plan failed to comply with the Supreme Court ruling or relevant EU Directives and said that it had erred in law by fixing compliance dates based on over optimistic modelling of pollution levels. The Prime Minister Theresa May accepted the ruling and stated that the Government will bring new policies forward to combat air pollution.

#### **Second phase of the Mayor's air quality consultation**

22. London Councils will be submitting a response, and has been working with borough officers to develop this. Please see the separate TEC report for further details, to be discussed as a separate item at the meeting.

## **TfL SUDS Design Guide and the GLA London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan**

23. These documents were planned to be launched on 17 November but have been delayed. Both are expected to be published prior to the end of 2016. Both strategies explore the opportunities to retrofit sustainable drainage in streets, roads, pavements and open spaces; and onto buildings such as schools, hospitals, large retail complexes and social housing estates. Both documents have had input from boroughs, and the Sustainable Drainage Action Plan was discussed at TEC Executive in November 2015.

## **Builders' skips contravention code reserved**

24. In October 2015 TEC approved penalty levels for contraventions concerning builders' skips. The remaining piece of work was for London Councils to reserve a contravention code on the list that is used nationally to identify which contravention a Penalty Charge Notice has been issued for. London Councils has reserved code 72 for use for builders' skips contraventions. This will enable those boroughs preparing to proceed with enforcement to do so.

## **London Assembly Investigation into Fuel Poverty**

25. London Councils submitted a response to the London Assembly Environment Committee Investigation into Domestic Energy & Fuel Poverty. The main issues highlighted were: the many challenges London faces in improving the energy efficiency of its housing stock - for instance the many old, difficult to treat properties in London, the large private rented sector, and the transient population; London's poor performance on solar energy; and improving the identification and targeting of fuel poor households through greater collaboration between the key stakeholders. The report recommends that the Mayor:

- a) Should run a public awareness campaign to inform Londoners of the benefits of good energy efficiency practices and installations. This should also include a specific focus on renters and landlords, providing information on the relevant requirements and opportunities.
- b) Lobby nationally for a clear, long-term policy framework from the Government, to ensure policy certainty which will allow the energy efficiency market to develop.
- c) Facilitate the sharing of information on best practices to residents and on the opportunities for improving their energy use and encourage demand reduction, for example through the smart meter roll out.
- d) Work with the boroughs and energy companies to make the cheapest tariffs clearly available to London residents.
- e) Work with boroughs to create a borough owned not-for-profit cooperative specialising in the procurement of district energy (especially heating) products, given London's leading role in this area.
- f) Promote an integrated fuel poverty action plan, linking borough housing officers with other relevant stakeholders, such as health professionals, third sector organizations, and independent experts.

## **Forward Look**

### **December**

Tbc – publication of TfL SUDS Design Guide and GLA London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan

9 – Wider South East Summit for Leaders

9 – London Assembly investigation into green spaces closes

11 – ‘A City for All Londoners’ closes for responses

18 – TfL consultation on proposals to improve air quality closes

31 – London Assembly investigation into making TfL land work for Londoners closes

31 – London Assembly investigation into air pollution in London closes

### **January**

31 – London Assembly investigation into London's congested roads closes

### **February**

9 – TEC Executive

16 – TEC Chair and Vice-Chairs meeting with the TfL Commissioner

### **March**

23 – TEC Main