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| London Councils’ Transport & Environment Committee | | | | | | | |
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| Chair’s Report | | | | | | Item no: | 05 |
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| Report by: | Katharina Winbeck | | Job title: | | Head of Transport, Environment and Infrastructure, London Councils | | |
| Date: | 13 October 2016 | | | | | | |
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| **Summary** | This report updates Members on transport and environment policy since the last TEC meeting on 16 June 2016 and provides a forward look until the next TEC meeting on 8 December 2016. |
| **Recommendations** | Members to note this report. |

**Updates included in this report:**

* Meeting between Chair and CELC Leads for Transport and Environment
* Future engagement by London Councils officers with borough officers

**Transport**

* Meeting between TEC Chair, Vice-Chairs and TfL Commissioner
* Taxicard
* Response to London Assembly Inquiry into traffic congestion
* River transport: launch of the Thames Vision
* LIP3 working group
* Start of the night tube
* Sharing Skilled Transport Staff Initiative Update

**Environment**

* Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy
* Flooding video: how to reduce the risk
* Air quality
  + Public polling
  + London APPG: meeting on air quality
  + Response to phase 1 of the Mayor of London’s consultation on air quality
  + London Assembly Environment Committee meeting on air quality: speaking engagement
* Response to DECC Heat Network Investment Project consultation
* Green infrastructure: TfL SUDS guide
* Recycling press coverage and Recycle Week
* Defra
  + Update on Litter Strategy
  + National Consistency Framework for waste collection
  + Defra and Environment Agency 25 year Environmental Plan

**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 16 June 2016 and provides a forward look until 8 December 2016.

**Meeting between Chair and CELC Leads for Transport and Environment**

1. I met with Rob Leak, the CELC Transport Lead, and Niall Bolger, the CELC Environment Lead, on 12 July.
2. We discussed the Mayor’s air quality proposals; Defra’s work on waste harmonisation and its Litter Strategy; the work London Councils is undertaking on flood risk management; and green infrastructure.
3. On transport, we discussed the services TEC is responsible for; progress on the Go Ultra Low City Scheme; the future of borough transport funding; and the support London Councils is giving to rail devolution of routes to TfL.

**Future engagement by London Councils officers with borough officers**

1. London Councils officers have undertaken a review of the current arrangements regarding its officer advisers.
2. This was initiated due to a reduced attendance from borough officers at meetings arranged to discuss transport and waste policy and the changing policy priorities that London Councils is actively supporting.
3. This has resulted in London Councils taking a more ‘task and finish’ approach, already undertaken through the LIP’s working group for example. It is envisaged to set up a Mayor’s Transport Strategy, and Environmental Strategy task and finish group once the ‘towards… document’ has been published later in the autumn.
4. London Councils will set up these groups on the principle of representation based on region, political leadership, inner and outer London and will require the chosen representatives to feed back to and get input from the other authorities in their regions.

**Transport**

**Meeting between TEC Chair, Vice-Chairs and TfL Commissioner**

1. The Vice-Chairs and I met with the TfL Commissioner Mike Brown on 29 September. We discussed TfL’s Business Plan, which it is in the process of finalising, together with concerns from boroughs about the future of LIP, Taxicard and LEPT funding. The Commissioner, although not able to give guarantees as the business plan has not been signed off by the board, reassured Members that all three will be delivered at current levels in 2017/18.
2. The Mayor’s new Transport Strategy was on the agenda, as was an update on the work London Councils is doing with TfL and the GLA on air quality. Rail devolution, Homes for Londoners and the role TfL will play in land release, and feedback from TfL’s recent bus seminar were discussed.

**Taxicard**

1. In response to the London Assembly’s review of social needs transport, London Councils has been working with TfL to consider how best to implement the recommendations. In the short term, London Councils and TfL consider that joint procurement of the Taxicard vehicle supply and the taxi consolidator element of TfL’s Dial-a-Ride scheme could offer savings. Officers from both organisations will be meeting once a month until Christmas to assess the feasibility of this approach.

**Response to London Assembly Inquiry into traffic congestion**

1. We submitted a response to the London Assembly Transport Committee’s call for evidence on Road Traffic Congestion. Our key points were;
   * Support for the Mayor’s plans to encourage modal shift to more active and sustainable travel modes
   * Strong support for increased investment in new and improved cycling infrastructure across London
   * Required greater engagement between TfL and the boroughs to ensure local and sub-regional level solutions are implemented
   * Highlighted the good work that a number of boroughs are doing to encourage businesses to use consolidation centres
   * Jointly explore further the value and possibility of re-timed deliveries to help reduce the number of LGVs on the roads at peak times
   * The response calls for greater provision of efficient and reliable, sustainable public transport across London (bus, rail and tram), with a particular focus on identifying areas of poor accessibility.

The response can be viewed in full at <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/transport/roads>

1. Councillor Demirci will also be providing verbal evidence at the London Assembly Transport Committee meeting on traffic congestion on Tuesday 11th October.

**River transport: launch of the Thames Vision**

1. The Port of London Authority published a Thames Vision 2035 in July. The vision is a result of a yearlong consultation with multiple stakeholders and four external studies to provide strong evidence. London Councils responded to the consultation in March 2016.
2. Six goals have been identified which are;

* More trade and more jobs - the busiest ever Port of London handling 60-80 million tonnes of cargo each year
* More goods off roads and onto the river – every year over 4million tonnes carried by water taking over 400,000 lorry trips off the region’s roads
* More passenger journeys – double the number of people traveling by river reaching 20 million commuter and tourist trips every year
* More sport and sport and recreation participants – greater participation in sport and recreation on and alongside the water
* Improved tidal Thames environment – the cleanest river since the Industrial Revolution, with improved habitats ad awareness of heritage
* More people enjoying the Thames and its banks – a magnet for ramblers, historians, artists and others whether living nearby or travelling from further afield

1. Delivery will continue to involve a range of stakeholders and each of the six goals will be met through a rolling series of time-bound priority actions with key performance indicators. The Port of London Authority plans to have targeted events for Local Authorities and progress against the KPIs will be reported at an annual conference.

**LIP3 working group**

1. The working group met on 28 July. Officers reported back on discussions had at TEC Executive and an early engagement group on the Mayor’s Transport Strategy held by TfL for borough officers. A presentation given to the TfL Surface Board in May 2016 was circulated and discussed. The section of the LIP ‘Borough Transport Objectives’ was explored with TfL agreeing to consult its lawyers about the minimum needed for this section to meet the legislative requirements for the Plans. Sub-region updates were received. Minutes and other documents from these meetings continue to be circulated to all borough officers.

**Start of the night tube**

1. The night tube launched on 19th August, initially on the Central and Victoria lines, with both lines now running 24 hours on Fridays and Saturdays (between selected stops). TfL announced eight new 24-hour bus services linked to onward journeys from the new Night Tube services. The new 24-hour bus services will run on Friday and Saturday nights to complement the Night Tube and ensure customers travelling in the early hours of the morning have easy options to get home. These are:

* 34 (Barnet Church to Walthamstow Central)
* 123 (Ilford High Road to Wood Green)
* 145 (Leytonstone to Dagenham)
* 158 (Stratford to Chingford Mount)
* 296 (Ilford Broadway to Romford)
* E1 (Greenford Broadway to Ealing Broadway)
* W3 (Finsbury Park to Northumberland Park)
* W7 (Finsbury Park to Muswell Hill Broadway).

1. The Commissioner reported a smooth running of the night tube on the first weekends, reducing the otherwise experienced rush to get the last tube home. Transport and other police presence helped to keeping disturbances to a minimum.
2. The Jubilee Line will move to 24 hour operation on Fridays and Saturdays from 7th October, with the Northern and Piccadilly Lines to follow later this autumn.

**Sharing Skilled Transport Staff Initiative Update**

1. The group is focused on exploring opportunities created by the government’s Apprenticeship Levy, which comes into force in April 2017. The group is examining whether the current apprenticeship frameworks provide the skills needed for London’s engineers and transport planners of the future; as well as seeking to identify whether there would be opportunities for boroughs and TfL to jointly procure the training element of an apprenticeship. This would make it more viable for a borough to offer such an apprenticeship, if they could tap into the training element with others. This is all in a very early stage and the group awaits further information from government about how the levy will operate.

**Environment**

**Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy**

1. Shirley Rodriguez has been announced the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy on 17 August 2016. Shirley is currently Acting Executive Director for Climate Change at the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and has a long track record of developing and implementing new environmental policies in London.
2. Shirley’s priorities will include dealing with the air quality challenge, oversee the delivery of Energy for Londoners and boost recycling rates and cut landfill.
3. Shirley has already confirmed that she will be attending full TEC in December.

**Flooding video: how to reduce the risk**

1. London Councils has produced a short video which covers how businesses and residents can identify if they are at risk of flooding, and what they should do to prepare for flooding. The video can be viewed at <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/29466>. Boroughs are welcome to use it on their websites or other materials if this is helpful. Cllr Bell was interviewed by London Live on its launch.

**Air quality**

**Public Polling**

1. London Councils has recently undertaken some public polling on air quality issues across London. The research aims to identify the awareness amongst the public on air pollution, and the impact that it has on their lives. The results are currently being analysed and the findings will be released to coincide with the launch of the second phase of the Mayor’s air quality consultation (expected on 10th October). We are hoping to gain media coverage on this research to inform and gain support from the public in our aims to improve air quality in London.

**APPG Meeting on Air Quality**

1. The All Party Parliamentary Group for London held a meeting to discuss air quality on 28th June 2016, co-chaired by Steven Reed MP and Bob Neil MP. The event had three key speakers, Dr Gary Fuller from King’s College London, Poppy Lyle from the GLA, and Cllr Julian Bell TEC Chair. Dr Fuller outlined the science behind air quality measuring and gave an overview of the effects of different types of air pollutants, namely PM 10, PM 2.5, NOX and CO2. Poppy Lyle discussed the work the GLA were doing to identify effective policies to tackle the issue of air pollution in London, such as plans for the ULEZ and t-charge, and outlined the next steps for the Mayor’s air quality consultation. Cllr Bell outlined the work the boroughs are doing in this area, and called on the Government to ensure air quality targets are not dropped, following the UK’s decision to leave the EU. The discussion then moved onto a Q&A session which covered areas such as the impact of policies on small businesses, and how to improve EV charging infrastructure. Cllr Bell’s comments were reported at Transport Xtra: <https://www.transportxtra.com/publications/local-transport-today/news/49402/we-must-stick-to-eu-air-quality-targets-say-mps>.

**London Councils Response to Phase 1 of Mayors Air Quality Consultations**

1. We submitted a response to the first phase of the Mayor’s air quality consultation on 29th July 2016. This consultation aimed to gather information which would shape the next two phases.

London Councils submitted a detailed response to the first phase, in which the following key points were made;

* Supporting the introduction of the ULEZ, and would also support plans to bring forward the implementation of this to 2019 if this can be done effectively without causing unnecessary disruption.
* Calling for more information on the perceived benefits and disadvantages of the potential boundary options for future ULEZ expansion, and for the boroughs to be engaged in this process;
* Supporting plans for a diesel vehicle and boiler scrappage scheme in London;
* Supporting the Emissions Surcharge (t-charge) in principle, but called for more detail on the enforcement times, and which emissions performance profiles for vehicles is to be used as a benchmark for petrol and diesel (i.e. Euro IV or V and older);
* Called for more coordination with mitigation strategies, such as improved use of green infrastructure and urban greening.
* Called for a contextual approach to tackling air quality, giving different boroughs the opportunity to address the issue of air pollution in a way that fits their situation, but that fits within a wider framework of action as well.

We will also be submitting co-ordinated responses to the consultations in phase two, which will be launched on 10th of October, and phase three, to be held in autumn 2017. Our response can be viewed in full at <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/environment/air-quality>

**London Assembly Environment Committee Investigation on Air Quality**

1. Cllr Bell attended the London Assembly Environment Committee meeting on air quality on 13th July. This meeting was an evidence gathering session for the consultation and covered many of the same points as our response.

**Response to DECC Heat Network Investment Project consultation**

1. At the beginning of August, London Councils submitted a response to the Government’s consultation on the Heat Network Investment Project (HNIP). This project was carried out by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) which was merged with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in July 2016 to form the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The consultation was a detailed overview of the plans to spend £320m worth of capital funding to support heat network investment in the UK. The response highlights London Councils’ views on who should be eligible to apply for the capital funding, the types of funding mechanisms to be used, what criteria should be used to assess the capital funding applications, and finally how schemes should be monitored. The response can be viewed at <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/environment/energy-and-climate-change>

**Green infrastructure: TfL SUDS guide**

1. TfL has produced a guide to introducing sustainable drainage into London’s streets. Borough officers were members of the steering group. This is very a comprehensive document, including technical information about the considerations needed for SUDS as well as case studies of SUDS in London and other cities in the UK and abroad. It includes a section that ‘reimagines’ a series of types of streets – from quiet residential roads to major A-roads, and how SUDS can be integrated in all of these. It is intended for use by TfL, highways authorities, developers and contractors as well as anyone with responsibility for public realm.
2. Once the final guide has been published, boroughs are encouraged to use it, especially when considering major works to their highways or during planning applications.

**Recycling press coverage and Recycle Week**

1. On 23 August Cllr Bell was interviewed by BBC Radio London about recycling rates in the capital.
2. Recycle Week ran this year from 12 to 16 August with a focus on the ‘Unusual Suspects’ of items that are recyclable that are often forgotten about at home. LWARB promoted a series of press opportunities, securing coverage in local and London-wide media.

**Defra**

**Update on Litter Strategy**

1. Cllr Clyde Loakes is the member who sits on the Litter Strategy group. The publication of the Litter Strategy has been delayed from its optimistic publication in August to later this autumn, partly due to the change in government. Defra is currently focusing on how to build the data set needed to monitor a reduction in litter, as this is likely to be one of its headline aims.

**National Consistency Framework for waste collection**

1. WRAP on behalf of Defra has developed a framework and business plan to deliver greater consistency in local authority waste and recycling collections. A national advisory group which consisted of local authority and industry representation included Resource London (LWARB sub-committee). In brief, the framework proposes three types of collection that all local authorities should offer as well as a series of measures that the packaging industry should commit to. In London, all boroughs are already collecting in one of the three ways, with the exception of offering food waste. The National Consistency Framework can be read here: <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/consistency>.

**Defra and Environment Agency 25 year Environmental Plan**

1. Defra and the Environment Agency are beginning its process of producing a 25 year Environment Plan. London Councils were invited to attend early discussions about what the plan should include and its aspirations. London is split between different Environment Agency areas and as such the Plan could struggle to be relevant with citywide governance.

**Forward Look**

**October**

Tbc – announcement on airport capacity in the south east expected by the Government

10 – launch of second phase of air quality consultation

11 – London APPG meeting on airport capacity in the south east

19 – Go Ultra Low City Scheme Event in Nottingham

19 – Thames RFCC Main meeting

**November**

3 – Speaking engagement on the future of London’s transport strategy

17 – TEC Executive

17 – Planned launch date for London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan and TfL Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance

21 – Speaking engagement on London Travel Watch Cycling Conference

23 – Autumn Statement

24 – Thames RFCC Main meeting

**December**

8 – TEC Main meeting