

# London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee

## Chair's Report

Item no: 4

**Report by:** Katharina Winbeck    **Job title:** Head of Transport, Environment and Infrastructure, London Councils

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**Summary**                      This report updates Members on transport and environment policy since the last TEC meeting on 8 December 2016 and provides a forward look until the next TEC meeting on 15 June 2017.

**Recommendations**      Members to note this report.

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

### **Transport**

- TEC / TfL Commissioner meeting 16 February 2017
- Healthy Streets document published
- Meeting with Val Shawcross on 23 February 2017
- Mayor's Transport Strategy event with TfL 2 March 2017
- Congestion
- London Assembly Transport Committee – bus networks and bus safety investigation
- Response to TfL West End Bus Review consultation
- London Lorry Control Scheme review
- Promotion of CLOCS – Construction Logistics and Community Safety
- Press interviews

### **Environment**

- New LWARB Chair and Business Plan Briefing
- Emissions surcharge / ULEZ response
- London Assembly Environment Committee – green spaces and Thames Water evidence session
- Thames RFCC Chair being advertised
- Press interviews

### **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 8 December 2016 and provides a forward look until 15 June 2017.

## **Transport**

### **TEC / TfL Commissioner meeting 16 February 2017**

2. The TEC Vice-Chairs and I met Mike Brown the TfL Commissioner on 16 February. We discussed the new TfL Business Plan, particularly the situation around buses and the clean bus corridors. We also talked about the forthcoming Mayor's Transport Strategy and LIP guidance and the new Healthy Streets document that was published by TfL. We will pursue a London borough representative on the Healthy Streets Board, which the TfL Commissioner agreed to consider.
3. Although the Secretary of State has expressed his opposition to devolution to TfL of the south eastern franchise, TfL colleagues were taking lessons from the previous business case and remain hopeful that further discussions for rail devolution could still take place. We discussed the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) consultation and received assurances that TfL will provide additional modelling data in the near future. The Direct Vision Standard for HGV's consultation was also on the agenda and we were all mindful that the freight industry should not suffer excessive burdens and coordinate any vehicle changes required.

### **Healthy Streets document published**

4. The Mayor of London has published Healthy Streets for London: prioritising walking, cycling and public transport to create a healthy city. The foreword is by Will Norman, the new Walking and Cycling Commissioner, and it has a strong emphasis on health. It highlights the Healthy Streets approach, how TfL will work with boroughs, and gives examples of places in London where the healthy streets approach has already been applied in practice.
5. I will be speaking at the launch event on 17 March, highlighting the many cases where boroughs are already putting the Healthy Streets concept into practice.
6. Healthy Streets can be read here: <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/healthy-streets-for-london.pdf>

### **Meeting with Val Shawcross on 23 February 2017**

7. I met with Val Shawcross, Deputy Mayor for Transport, on 23 February where we discussed the Mayor's Transport Strategy and LIPs, Healthy Streets, ULEZ, the Go Ultra Low City Scheme project, and rail devolution.
8. Relating to roads, we discussed the bus network and clean bus corridors, electric vehicles, road user charging and freight initiatives.

### **Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS) event with TfL 2 March 2017**

9. London Councils held this joint event with TfL on 2 March which provided an opportunity for boroughs and TfL to discuss in more detail Healthy Streets, car reduction and mode shift, and support for Local Implementation Plans before the draft Mayor's Transport Strategy is published.
10. The day was well-attended and provided an opportunity for boroughs and TfL to discuss how aspects of the Mayor's Transport Strategy would work across London, and provided an opportunity to co-create policy.

11. We will continue discussions with TfL on the MTS going forward and will formally respond to the draft consultation document that is expected in May 2017.

## **Congestion**

12. London Councils submitted a written response to the Parliamentary Transport Select Committee inquiry into Urban Congestion. We commented on issues, such as bus prioritisation, road pricing, parking schemes, technological innovation, and a modal shift to more sustainable and active travel modes. We highlighted wider considerations such as flexible working models, and better managing and planning of construction and development works.
13. The London Assembly Transport Committee published a report into traffic congestion following their investigation last year, to which London Councils submitted evidence. It gives 11 recommendations, two of which are of relevance to London boroughs replicated here;

Recommendation 1 - In the short-term, the Congestion Charge should be reformed, so the payments levied better reflect the impact of vehicles on congestions. The daily flat rate should be replaced with a charging structure that ensures vehicles in the zone at peak times, and spending longer in the zone, face the highest charges.

For the long-term, the Mayor needs to start to develop proposals now for replacing the Congestion Charge with a new citywide road pricing scheme, which charges vehicles according to the extent, location and timing of their road usage. Road pricing could also replace Vehicle Excise Duty, which should be devolved by the Government to the Mayor. There may be a case for the scheme to be wider than the existing Congestion Charge zone; discussions with all boroughs should take place to determine whether and how road pricing should cover their local road network.

Recommendation 4 – The Mayor and TfL should take steps to encourage more delivery consolidation. This will involve working with those running large construction schemes and retailers, potentially through Business Improvement Districts. The new London Plan should promote consolidation for new developments. TfL should also work with London Councils to reduce restrictions on night-time deliveries. The Mayor and TfL should write to the committee by the end of April 2017 setting out their plans to reduce commercial traffic in these ways.

Both London Councils submissions can be read in full on the Roads section of London Councils' website:

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/transport/roads>

## **London Assembly Transport Committee – bus networks and bus safety investigation**

14. London Councils provided written and oral evidence to this investigation. We highlighted a number of issues including better bus-led development; more orbital links; and more opportunities for boroughs to influence TfL's route and network planning. The response can be read in full on the Buses page of our website:

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/transport/buses>

## **Response to TfL West End Bus Review consultation**

15. London Councils responded to the TfL consultation on changes to buses in central London, the West End and Oxford Street to allow for changes to access to Oxford Street and the opening of the Elizabeth line. Whilst supportive of the principle being consulted on, our response outlined that we felt the review of bus routes could have been more

holistic, for example identifying opportunities to improve London's air quality and create links with the Opportunity Areas, which were missed. The response can be read in full on the Buses page of our website:

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/transport/buses>

### **London Lorry Control Scheme review**

16. The London Lorry Control Scheme (LLCS) is run by London Councils on behalf of the boroughs and controls the movement of heavy goods vehicles over 18 tonnes at night and at weekends. The scheme is in place to help minimise noise pollution in residential areas during unsocial hours through restricted use of London's road network. The LLCS review aims to assess whether the scheme continues to provide essential environmental benefits and protection for Londoners, as it has done for more than 30 years. The review is progressing well and the freight and haulage industry was invited to contribute to the review at a dedicated Operators' Workshop on 9th March. The aim is to complete the review and report recommendations to TEC this summer.

### **Promotion of CLOCS – Construction Logistics and Community Safety**

17. I was written to recently by the Director of the LHC (the public sector procurement specialist organisation) in my capacity as TEC Chair to help promote the CLOCS standard amongst London local authorities in their procurement activity. CLOCS was developed by Transport for London to help improve road user and community safety in connection with construction logistic activities. It is now a nationally recognised standard and the responsibility for implementing the standard has been passed to the construction industry and LHC is part of the team tasked with promoting CLOCS to public sector clients. Their aim is to get the CLOCS standard recognised in procurement, planning and transport departments.
18. I have asked London Councils' officers to help promote the standard through relevant officer networks and to bring to Members' attention through this report.
19. For more information - <http://www.clocs.org.uk/>

### **Press interviews**

20. London Councils and TfL issued a joint press release in January 2017 to reassure Londoners that they were prepared for winter weather and would be doing their bit to keep the capital's transport network moving. I was interviewed by Vanessa Feltz on the BBC Radio London Breakfast Show about this.
21. In January 2017 I provided a positive statement for inclusion in the Mayor of London's press release announcing successful Neighbourhoods of the Future bids.  
*Cllr Julian Bell, Chair of London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee and the Go Ultra Low City Scheme Steering Group, said:*  
*"These projects showcase the diverse and innovative work that London boroughs are doing to promote electric vehicle use and improve air quality. They also contribute to the overall Go Ultra Low Cities Scheme to implement charging infrastructure across the capital. It is great to see London boroughs working with the Mayor and TfL to test exciting new policies that could be rolled-out nationwide."*

## **Environment**

### **New LWARB Chair and Business Plan Briefing**

22. Dr Liz Goodwin OBE has been announced by the Mayor as the new Chair of the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB). She was previously chief executive of WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Plan).
23. The LWARB Board held an informal business plan briefing session in February 2017 which London Councils and the GLA attended, in addition to the Board members.

### **Emissions Surcharge / ULEZ response**

24. Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Mayor's air quality consultation, to which London Councils submitted evidence, Sadiq Khan recently announced that he is going to introduce the Emissions Surcharge, also known as the T-Charge, on 23 October 2017. The Emissions Surcharge of £10 will apply to vehicles that do not meet the Euro 4 standard (those registered before 2006). The charge will operate on top of, and during the same operating times and area as the Congestion Charge (Monday to Friday 7am-6pm). In our response, London Councils called on the standards for diesel vehicles to be stricter, set at Euro 5 rather than 4, and for the operating time to be 24-7, with fewer exemptions.
25. Phase 3 of the consultation (bringing forward and extending the ULEZ) is planned for 2017, however TfL have not yet shared the exact details of this.

### **London Assembly Environment Committee – green spaces and Thames Water evidence session**

26. Cllr Feryal Demirci, Vice-Chair of TEC attended an evidence session of the London Assembly Environment Committee which looked at green spaces in London and the issues concerning their funding and maintenance. The Environment Committee also spent a short time with Thames Water exploring the burst water main incidents that had occurred recently.
27. Cllr Demirci highlighted the key borough role in promoting green infrastructure, especially through the planning role. London Councils supports the London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan, and is positive towards better quantifying the value of green space benefits so that a proper value can be placed on them, helping ensure their long-term protection.
28. In terms of the future funding of green spaces and parks, Cllr Demirci highlighted the need for continued revenue funding to ensure maintenance; and that transferring assets to others did not necessarily address this challenge. London will also need to be creative about how it creates new green and open spaces as large tracts of land to create large parks are unlikely to be regularly available. Instead green roofs and other green infrastructure will need to be part of new development to deliver new green spaces. London Councils does not support green spaces becoming a statutory responsibility of local authorities, particularly if there is no additional funding attached.

### **Thames RFCC Chair being advertised**

29. Amanda Nobbs, who has chaired the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for the past seven years, is nearing the end of her appointment. TEC has established a good working relationship with the Chair in recent years and I hope this will continue with the new Chair. The role is currently being advertised and I hope TEC will be able to meet the new Chair at its meeting in October 2017.

## Press interviews

30. In December 2016, the Mayor of London announced he would be doubling air quality funding to £875m over the next five years, I issued a statement to the Municipal Journal.

*Cllr Julian Bell, executive member for transport and environment, said: "We know air quality is a big concern for many Londoners and London Councils is fully supportive of the Mayor's plan to make this issue one of his top priorities.*

*"Worrying findings by King's College London this week show pollution is having a real impact on the health of our residents, which is why boroughs have been doing active work together to achieve air quality targets, promote cycling and walking and cut down on emissions.*

*"We will continue to work alongside the Mayor to ensure we are given the tools and support from Government to clean up the capital's air and improve the health and quality of life of Londoners."*

31. At the end of December 2016, London Councils issued a press release encouraging Londoners to recycle waste generated during the festive season. BBC London TV was interested in covering this story and I was interviewed at Ealing Recycling Centre on this issue. London Councils also created an infographic illustrating the amount of food waste that could be recycled across the capital over Christmas and New Year to communicate the scale of the challenge but also how everyone can do their bit to help.
32. In February 2017 ITV London had FOled councils in London to find out the number of reported flytipping incidents and prosecutions that had occurred within a 12 month period. I was interviewed live in the studio about this, representing the perspective of the London boroughs, alongside an ITV London reporter who had explored the issue further by visiting Haringey, the borough with the most recorded incidents in the country.

## **Forward Look**

### **March**

- 13 – LWARB Board Meeting, City Hall
- 22 – Natural Capital Account for London stakeholder meeting
- 24 – The Future of Transport in London conference

### **April**

- 11 – Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee main meeting
- 13 – GLA & London Councils London Environment Strategy pre-consultation event for TEC members and officers
- 19 – [tbc] TfL night tube event
- Tbc but before 24 April – National Defra Air Quality Strategy Consultation

### **May**

- 23 – TEC/TfL Commissioner Meeting
- Tbc – draft London Environment Strategy published, three month consultation
- Tbc – draft Mayor's Transport Strategy and LIP guidance published, three month consultation

### **June**

- 14 – Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Programme Sub-Committee
- 15 – TEC Main