

Leeds Transport Expert Advisory Panel

Date: 24th November, 10.00am -12.00pm

Board Members: Geoff Inskip, Rashik Palmer, Jagdeep Passan, Stephanie Burras, Ellie Evans, John Dales, Rosslyn Colderley, Greg Marsden, Mary Naylor, David Brown, Chris Longley, Alex Hynes, Nigel Foster, **In attendance:** Cllr Judith Blake, Tom Riordan, Martin Farrington, Gary Bartlett, Andrew Hall, Ben Still, **Apologies:** Rob McIntosh

Cllr Blake opened the meeting and stated her appreciation that such a group could offer in terms of its time group expertise and experience. The £173.5 has been crucial in un-locking the bigger conversation required on Transport not just the shorter term but the longer term as well. In particular the City needs to be at the forefront of cutting edge technology over next the next two decades. Part of the responsibility of this group is to review that bigger picture.

Nigel Foster: reinforced the message that the panel needed to be both realistic but most importantly ensure that it supports sustainable growth and better accessibility in the City.

Notes of last meeting 27th October: Chris Longley at Scrutiny yesterday raised the issue that in his view external validation is required. The response from the panel was that this issue would need further consideration to understand how this would add further to the review and challenge already provided in a number of areas.

Andrew Hall presented the draft proposals and Nigel invited the Panel views on the Strategy recognising the need to consider the short term while remaining engaged with the longer term, but for now to consider how the shorter term proposals create a platform for the longer term vision.



Vision/ Context/Delivery: There was a lengthy discussion around the objectives and narrative of the strategy. Need to get the storyboard right in terms of how the city is growing by articulating the background data and mechanisms for evaluation that are planned. For example how the proposals are leading to more jobs in Leeds and so helping the government to meet its objectives around growth and to include a spatial element of showing where the key growth areas are, and how the transport proposals are integrated with them.

- Need to better understand the strategic fit (e.g. City Deal, HS2, NPR) which appreciate was covered more in the first meeting, this could be addressed through a workshop.
- What doing to be 'future ready' – integrating infrastructure into future development sites including employment areas such as South Bank, Aire Valley, Thorp Park, White Rose and the city centre more generally and key residential locations in the site allocations plan.
- Is there an appetite for more transformational change and what it might look like in the future for example, relook at the 1970s infrastructure and how this now serves the City?
- Note that £173.5m is a very good opportunity to build a strong foundation in the short term ahead of a longer term set of interventions in Leeds and the City region. Need to place a marker with the DfT that this is the first stage and will be coming back for more.
- The Panel identified the importance of ensuring that there is a project team up and running to deliver in short timescales with a multi-disciplinary team bringing it all together.

Themes: There was a discussion around the key themes that need to be considered over the shorter and longer term as part of the strategy.

Behaviour:

- Behavioural change how looking to harness and influence this and travel choices.
- Sustrans offered to share over 20 years' experience on behaviour change.

Technology

- Technology and mobility as a service will be important in the future about making the decision to move about and key to ticketing examples given such as the Helsinki service Apps, and should Leeds consider upfront funding for Apple Maps,
- How do we use data better?

Accessibility:

- Need to see clearer outcomes dealing with accessibility issues.
- Need to make rail stations accessible, and have a comprehensive bus service which can help with issues of social severance and isolation.
- Require some quick wins to show progress.



Buses:

- The Panel would like to see further details on the proposals to understand what these bus improvements would mean in terms of transforming infrastructure and bus services and the customer experience.
- Improving bus services is a clear priority from the Transport Conversation and key to this process will be growing the relationships with the bus companies and also the need to consider how new technology can help such as electric buses with emissions and air quality issues.

Interchange:

- Looking to improve gateways and key interchanges in the city centre. It can be a variable experience and consequently need to improve the arrival points into the City centre and the experience of waiting and getting off the bus.

Park and Ride:

- Park and Ride requires faster and more reliable journeys in the City centre. To achieve this can require road re-allocation and a very difficult process for politicians, and they will need to recognise this challenge.

Cycling and Walking:

- Sustrans can demonstrate through their largest survey last year that 75% want to see more cycling in the UK. How will these active modes be included is of crucial importance and the Panel is looking forward to seeing more detail on these options.

Air quality:

- With the headlines on VW, people understand better about the air quality impacts in congested cities, this issue is only likely to grow and become a very important message to include in the rational, for some of the improvements and to persuade people to switch from car to public transport, bringing the issue of air quality to the fore.



Summary Response: In summary the Panel recognised there are a lot of challenges and some very difficult issues around timing and deadlines and the importance of delivering a range of interventions by 2020/21.

- General agreement about where the interventions are in the short term and that the City needs to ensure the 'fundamentals' are functioning efficiently.
- The strategy is also based on successful schemes elsewhere in the City for example the new Park and Ride at Elland Road.
- However it also needs to be transformational so that people see an immediate improvement for example the Harrogate bus.
- It might also include some quick wins that everyone in Leeds will see the benefit from. This is essential to continue to engage with the 8,500 that responded on the Transport Conversation questionnaire and workshops
- To develop the strategy further a storyboard and clear narrative is required (repeated often) about the longer term solutions and value for money.
- This process was seen as a good challenge to the team and further consideration may need to be given to external validation.
- With the potential for the Panel to undertake a more detailed workshop.

