



Report to:	Transport and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 March 2024
Subject:	West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan
Director:	Simon Warburton, Executive Director for Transport
Author:	Megan Reilly, Project Manager

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Transport and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee on the new West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan which is currently being co-developed with District Partners.

2. Information

Background – Local Transport Plan Renewal

- 2.1. A new West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) is being co-developed by the Combined Authority and District partners. This will be the new statutory LTP4 for the region, the last plan being the 2040 Transport Strategy adopted in 2017.
- 2.2 Since our current LTP was adopted in 2017, a lot has changed in West Yorkshire. A devolution deal was agreed with government in 2020 and in May 2021, Tracy Brabin was elected Mayor of West Yorkshire, with responsibility for transport, housing and planning, and finance powers. A number of key plans have also been developed including our Mass Transit Vision, Bus Service Improvement Plan, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, Rail Strategy. As well as the Climate and Environment Plan 2021-2024.
- 2.3 The LTP programme builds on the recent engagement and consultation undertaken on both bus, mass transit and rail, as well as climate and the environment. Central to the LTP programme is the intention of the Combined Authority and the five West Yorkshire district partners to pursue one integrated transport strategy for West Yorkshire. The LTP is a co-developed transport plan for which formal District endorsement will be sought prior to adoption.
- 2.4 Transport Committee at its meeting February 2023 approved the development of a new West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, and subsequently at the meeting of November 2024, endorsed a two-stage approach to engagement and consultation and noted the continued co-development of the Local Transport Plan with the district partners led by the Combined Authority to be presented for adoption later in 2025.

Progress update

- 2.5 The first phase of the LTP co-development is currently underway with district partners, focussing on the strategic ambition and building consensus on the vision and objectives of the new LTP.
- 2.6 The key output from the current phase of work is a proposed, co-developed West Yorkshire LTP vision, objectives, and high-level policy public engagement document for mid-2024. This will form the basis of the public and stakeholder engagement exercise taking place in summer 2024. This document will connect with the people of West Yorkshire, whilst building on the West Yorkshire Plan, Bus Reform and Mass Transit programmes.
- 2.7 Integral to the co-development of the new LTP will be a people first, outcome-based approach, which responds to our diversity of place, and embeds equity, diversity and inclusion, health and our 'Vision Zero' approach to road safety throughout the plan. The key building blocks under development for this period of engagement include the LTP evidence base, proposed vision, objectives and the logic model to understand the types and scale of outcomes required to achieve the proposed vision and objectives.
- 2.8 Understanding people, communities and function of places now and into the future is key to planning an effective and efficient transport system. The new LTP vision will help deliver a transport network that serves the real needs and wants of the people who live in West Yorkshire. The Department for Transport have not published guidance for development of LTPs, however the draft guidance promotes use of the 'Theory of Change logic mapping for future planning. This 'vision and validate' approach to transport planning is good practice and is being used to guide development of the LTP.

Renewing the LTP Vision

- 2.9 The proposed LTP vision statement will be strongly aligned to and is subsidiary to the recently adopted West Yorkshire Plan, which identifies that transport is a crucial component in supporting our vision for a brighter West Yorkshire. The LTP vision statement will be underpinned by the West Yorkshire Plan missions which include;
- A prosperous West Yorkshire built on an inclusive economy with well-paid jobs.
 - A happy West Yorkshire, full of great places and healthy communities.
 - A well-connected West Yorkshire, held together by a strong transport system.
 - A sustainable West Yorkshire, rich with greener lives and communities.
 - A safe West Yorkshire, free of the fear of crime so everyone can flourish.
- 2.10 The Vision will be supported by a set of network principles that enable the development of a better, more efficient and affordable transport network. West Yorkshire's transport

network should be oriented around the real wants and needs of the people who live here and businesses who operate here. So everyone can all benefit from it together.

Spatial themes and Place-Based approach

- 2.11 Spatial themes and a Place-Based approach have emerged as a method through which the LTP will be articulated.

Spatial Themes: The proposed approach to the new LTP is to deliver an integrated transport network where everyone can easily choose a sustainable option. All helping to create a more joined up, properly connected West Yorkshire community, with improved links to destinations beyond West Yorkshire, a network that brings people together, provide access to opportunity and reduces isolation and inequality.

Understanding the different types of journeys, and the modes that are most suitable for them, as well as the different contexts of the places where these trips will be undertaken, is a really important element of an effective integrated transport network. It is proposed that the engagement exercise in June – July 2024 also includes the opportunity for stakeholder and public feedback on a spatial approach to the development of a new LTP. This will use the following potential journey themes (northern, national and international journeys, inter – urban journeys, radial journeys and local journeys).

Place Based approach: How the new LTP responds to our diverse communities and geography, is a key element in helping to ensure the proposed new vision is one we can collectively support across West Yorkshire. It will need to recognise that some places are harder or more expensive to get to by public transport in West Yorkshire than they should be right now, and that transport solutions are likely to look and feel different in more rural areas than towns and cities. It is proposed that the engagement exercise also includes the opportunity for stakeholder and public feedback on the importance of place within the LTP.

Delivering our BSIP Objectives and Mass Transit

- 2.12 The LTP will provide the policy framework to help deliver our BSIP Objectives, which are centred on the following strategic priorities: A safe and inclusive bus system – a bus service that is fully accessible which is designed with passengers in mind. Better connected communities – a bus service which connects communities across the region – particularly areas of high deprivation and rural areas – ensuring access to employment, education and leisure opportunities. Decarbonisation and integrated, sustainable travel – supporting the Combined Authority’s net zero carbon economy by 2038 through enabling modal shift and embedding a zero-carbon transport network.
- 2.13 The LTP will also provide a new statutory transport policy framework to help facilitate the benefits of the Mass Transit programme alongside the development of planning policy related to Mass Transit, e.g. Local Plan polices, route alignment Area Action Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents. Mass Transit will provide the missing link in our

transport system, providing fast, high capacity and direct connectivity that reflects our 21st century footprint for growth. It will link major current and future employments sites, areas of significant new housing, Park and Ride sites and areas of regeneration, as well as connecting with other modes within the network.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 One of the aims of the updated West Yorkshire LTP is to help facilitate the decarbonisation of the transport sector, as well as encourage more travel by walking, cycling, bus and other sustainable modes in order to help tackle the climate emergency.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 One of the key aims of the updated West Yorkshire LTP will be to improve connectivity and support the region's inclusive growth ambitions.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Supporting Equality and Diversity through ensuring the transport is attractive, inclusive and accessible for all is a key aim of the updated West Yorkshire LTP. Public engagement will prioritise engaging with seldom heard groups and, where possible, obtaining data on protected characteristics from participants, in order to strengthen the insights, it provides to support Equality and Diversity.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the scrutiny committee notes the report and provides any comments or feedback.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.