

Report to:	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Date:	14 March 2024
Subject:	Local Transport Plan
Director:	Simon Warburton, Executive Director Transport
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Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To approve an eight week public and stakeholder engagement exercise in June and July 2024 on the proposed vision, objectives and overall approach to the new West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.
- 1.2 To delegate finalisation of the engagement documents to the Executive Director Transport following input from the Transport Committee in May 2024.

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 LTP for the region, the last plan being the Transport Strategy 2040 adopted in 2017.
- 2.2 Since the 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 the West Yorkshire Plan, Mass Transit Vision, Bus Service Improvement Plan, Local Cycling



and Walking Infrastructure Plan and Rail Strategy, as well as the Climate and Environment Plan 2021-2024.

- 2.3 Transport Committee at its meeting in February 2023 approved the development of a new West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, and subsequently at its meeting in January 2024, endorsed a two-stage approach to engagement and consultation.
- 2.4 Following the finalisation of legal advice, the following is proposed by way of engagement and consultation on the LTP:
- **Stage 1: Engagement exercise**
Timing: June – July 2024
Duration: 8 weeks
Audience: Public/stakeholders
Scope: Vision, objectives and overall approach
 - **Stage 2: Formal consultation**
Timing: Spring/Summer 2025
Duration: 12-13 weeks
Audience: Public/stakeholders
Scope: The full text of the draft LTP i.e. the ‘preferred LTP’
- 2.5 Approval for the stage 1 engagement exercise is being sought through this paper.

Renewing the LTP Vision

- 2.6 As part of the process of renewing the LTP, the vision for transport across West Yorkshire is being renewed. To support this activity, a high-level document is being developed which will be used to engage with stakeholders and the public. This document is being co-developed in partnership with district partners. This is to ensure that collective ambitions are reflected and that partners are content with the material. Transport Committee are supporting the development of this material.
- 2.7 The proposed LTP vision statement is 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: – *‘Our vision for the future is rooted in our region’s extraordinary story. A brighter West Yorkshire – a place that works for all. An engine room of ideas and creativity where anyone can make a home’*. The LTP vision statement is 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.

2.8 The proposed 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.

2.9 **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 greatly improved links to destinations beyond West Yorkshire, a network that brings people together, provides 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).

2.10 **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. Spatial analysis that covers each Local Authority in West Yorkshire will be utilised. The Plan 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.

2.11 Development of the engagement documents for the exercise in June and July 2024 will take place with input from Transport Committee. Approval is sought from the Combined Authority to delegate finalisation of the documents to the Executive Director Transport.

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 Reaching diverse groups and communities is central to the engagement objectives and marketing activity. This will include reaching all the West Yorkshire districts we serve with a particular focus on EDI. The engagement content needs to reflect and talk to these diverse groups. We will do everything we can to alleviate any barriers that could prevent a person taking part in the engagement activities. Demographic information will be monitored throughout to strengthen insight to support equity, diversity and inclusion. Any gaps in response rates or low proportional response rates will be identified, and promotional and engagement methods adapted to reach those groups. The outcome report produced at the end will demonstrate how the voices of groups with protected characteristics or those communities who are seldom heard, are being represented in the decision-making process.

6. Financial Implications

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

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Legal advice on the proposed route to adoption for the new LTP has been obtained. This has informed the two-stage approach to engagement and consultation.
- 7.2 In accordance with the voting arrangements of the Combined Authority, all Combined Authority members may vote on this item with the exception of the Non-Constituent Council Combined Authority Member.

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 Combined Authority approves an eight week public and stakeholder engagement exercise in June and July 2024 on the proposed vision, objectives and overall approach to the new West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.
- 10.2 That the Combined Authority delegates finalisation of the engagement documents to the Executive Director Transport following input from the Transport Committee in May 2024.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.