

Report to: Transport Committee

Date: 15 January 2021

Subject: Urban Transport Group Presentation

Director: Alan Reiss, Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications

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| Is this a key decision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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: | |

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To introduce and welcome the presentation from Jonathan Bray, Director of Urban Transport Group (UTG), who will be presenting Transport Committee with the current research being undertaken by the organisation.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 Jonathan Bray, Director of The Urban Transport Group (UTG), will be attending Transport Committee to provide an overview of the organisation and recent pieces of work UTG have undertaken.
- 2.2 The Urban Transport Group is the UK's network of city region transport authorities. The work they undertake ensures transport contributes towards greener, fairer, happier, healthier and more prosperous places.
- 2.3 The Urban Transport Group represents the seven strategic transport bodies in Greater Manchester (Transport for Greater Manchester), Liverpool City Region (Merseytravel), London (Transport for London), Sheffield City Region (South

Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive), Tyne and Wear (Nexus), West Midlands (Transport for West Midlands) and West Yorkshire (West Yorkshire Combined Authority). There is also a wider professional network made up of several associate members including Tees Valley, Nottingham and Northern Ireland.

- 2.4 Jonathan Bray is the Director of The Urban Transport Group. Throughout his career Jonathan has overseen the development of transport policy and has effectively advocated for this work. This includes leading a campaign to shift national resources away from road building and into public transport. He is also a visiting senior fellow at LSE Cities, a Commissioner on the Commission on Travel Demand and a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation.
- 2.5 Ben Still represents West Yorkshire Combined Authority at the Urban Transport Group and sits on the board of directors.

Combined Authority context

- 2.6 The work of the UTG spans across all public transport modes and various policy areas which are of importance to the work of the Combined Authority. This includes modal specific research on bus, rail and active travel and policy areas including funding, governance, social inclusion, and sustainability.
- 2.7 Notably during the pandemic the Urban Transport Group have been working with transport authorities to address the challenges of keeping the public transport network running and looking forwards to what recovery in public transport looks like. They have also recently launched the new Metropolitan Bus Model which helps access future scenarios for bus patronage during the pandemic and beyond.

3. Clean Growth Implications

- 3.1 The decarbonisation of transport is acknowledged through The West Yorkshire Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways (CERP) study which was commenced in 2019 to demonstrate the ways in which the climate emergency could be addressed, and the target met. Peer learning on the decarbonisation of transport is important to acknowledge to meet the net-zero carbon ambitions of the Combined Authority, with the UTG having Sustainability as one of their core areas of work.

4. Financial Implications

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

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Staffing Implications

6.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

7. External Consultees

7.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That the Committee thanks Jonathan Bray for his presentation

9. Background Documents

9.1 None.

10. Appendices

10.1 None.