



Report to:	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
Date:	13 February 2024
Subject:	Mass Transit Sustainability Strategy Update
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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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To update the Committee about the development of the Sustainability Strategy for West Yorkshire Mass Transit, introduced to the Committee at the October 2023 meeting and to seek endorsement of the final draft Sustainability Outcomes Framework.
- 1.2. This report also seeks agreement that the final public facing strategy document can be shared with the Committee through written representations to support the programme for public consultation for the first phase of Mass Transit.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1. The Combined Authority, supported by the Environment Partner, is undertaking a review and refresh of the sustainability objectives for the Mass Transit system ready for the first phase development, building on the Mass Transit Vision 2040 and work undertaken to date.
- 2.2. West Yorkshire Mass Transit is at the Strategic Outline Business Case stage and is currently defining which corridors will form the first phase of development and identifying

the leading route options. A public consultation on Phase 1 and the route options is planned for summer 2024. It is important that the sustainability objectives for Mass Transit are defined, agreed and embedded into the project delivery as the project moves into option selection and scheme development stages. It is intended that the sustainability aspirations for Mass Transit will be consulted on in summer 2024, in the form of a public-facing Sustainability Strategy.

- 2.3. A paper was presented to the CEE committee in October 2023, which set out the methodology for developing the sustainability strategy and the emerging sustainability outcomes framework. This paper provides an update on the development of the strategy, the final outcomes framework for endorsement and an early draft of the public facing strategy for consultation in summer 2024.

Progress since October 2023 committee

- 2.4. The draft outcomes framework shared with the CEE in October 2023 has been subject of further consultation with the following organisations:
- District Partners (original workshop invitees)
 - Statutory Environmental and Health Bodies (e.g., Environment Agency, Historic England)
 - Delivery Partners (in particular the Business Case partner and Design Development partner)
- 2.5. Feedback received regarding the range and scope of outcomes, the ability for the project to influence them, the wording, and the prioritisation.
- 2.6. All feedback has been reviewed and addressed, and the wording of each outcome amended, in particular to ensure consistency with the Strategic Outline Business Case, the Approach to Placemaking and the EDI Strategy.
- 2.7. Following the review, the original 26 themes and 51 outcomes have been rationalised and combined with the final draft framework focussing on 20 themes, with 38 outcomes. The full sustainability outcomes framework is presented at Appendix 1.
- 2.8. In order to make sure the public-facing strategy is impactful and accessible to the public, it will focus on the highest priority outcomes that are core to the success of Mass Transit. Following the prioritisation workshops and analysis of feedback the following themes are recommended to be the priority outcomes, aligning with the messaging within the Mass Transit Vision 2040 and considering each of the pillars of sustainability (these priority themes are highlighted in green in the full framework at Appendix 1):
- *Sustainable transport* – outcomes focus on Mass Transit contribution to transformational change in travel patterns and positive integration of Mass Transit stops to adjacent spaces and active travel opportunities.



- *Carbon reduction and minimisation* – outcomes focus on minimising Greenhouse Gas emissions (including how this will be done through project delivery) and aligning Mass Transit with net zero ambitions.
- *Air Quality* - outcomes focus on role that Mass Transit can play in improving local air quality, and the design of stops to improve air quality for users.
- *Social Value, Skills and Employment* – outcomes focus on local skills and employment opportunities, supporting local businesses and voluntary enterprises and promoting high standards through construction.
- *Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion* – outcomes focus on accessible and inclusive infrastructure and contribution to fair and equitable distribution of benefits.
- *Local Development and Regeneration* – outcome focussed on supporting policy-driven regeneration and redevelopment.
- *Customer Value/Value for money* – outcome focussed on Mass Transit providing good value for money for the region and customers.

2.9. The full final sustainability outcomes framework is presented in Appendix 1.

Development of public facing strategy document

- 2.10. Building on the Mass Transit 2040 Vision document, the public facing strategy document will set out the priority outcomes and explain how Mass Transit can contribute to them.
- 2.11. It is proposed that the Sustainability Strategy forms part of the options consultation in summer 2024, in order to increase visibility of it with the public, to obtain feedback on the priority focus areas, and to seek input from the public and key stakeholders to inform the evidence gathering around the core areas.
- 2.12. The strategy document will include:
- *Overview* - why sustainability is important for Mass Transit (and how Mass Transit will contribute to sustainable transport for our Region) and the purpose of the strategy.
 - *Four pillars of the strategy* – summary and introduction to themes.
 - *Section for each pillar (Transport, Environment, Social, Economic)* -highlighting the priority themes and outcomes and providing narrative as to how each will be delivered.
 - *Outcomes Framework* – description of wider framework and its purpose and commitment to accreditation. It is not currently proposed that the full outcomes framework will be included in the strategy, but each of the twenty themes will be woven into the narrative under the relevant pillar.
- 2.13. The draft strategy document is currently in development and will be shared in due course with Committee members via written submission.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. Carbon emissions generated by transport are currently at levels that, without significant intervention and changes to processes, a net zero carbon future by 2038 will not be achievable. Road transport is the biggest contributor to roadside air pollution with cars

being the largest source of emissions. To meet the 2038 net zero target, and even with a shift to zero/low emission vehicles, analysis suggests that a reduction of total vehicle kilometres exceeding 20% is necessary, accompanied by an increase in the use of sustainable modes (walking and cycling) and public transport. Transit also has the opportunity to support improvements to air quality and contribute to carbon reduction goals by providing an attractive lower carbon, lower emission transport option. Increased capacity provided by transit will allow for additional capacity on congested corridors, which affords the opportunity to improve vehicle flows which in turn will improve air quality.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. A central common theme of the Connectivity Plan, Mass Transit Vision and Approach to Placemaking as part of that, is that investment in transport accessibility will make a positive contribution to driving forward inclusive growth. Our approach to transport seeks to provide practical alternatives to the private car that will help to tackle air quality issues and help provide access to jobs and education, especially for people currently less likely to access these opportunities. Our plans particularly focus on how to support the hardest to reach communities to realise economic opportunities.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. Through the Combined Authority's role in managing the delivery of the Transport Strategy, the Connectivity Plan and bidding for funding, focus will be placed on ensuring that equality and diversity needs are addressed, with a particular emphasis on improving accessibility for all.

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 The draft outcomes framework has been shared with all District Partners and the Statutory Environmental and Health bodies. Feedback received has been incorporated into the final framework.
- 9.2 The public facing Sustainability Strategy will be consulted on during the Options consultation for Mass Transit in summer 2024.



10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That the Committee endorses the final sustainability outcomes framework for Mass Transit and priorities (see Appendix 1).
- 10.2. That the Committee endorses the direction of travel for the public facing Sustainability Strategy, and that the final Strategy document can be reviewed by the Committee through written submissions, as required to support Mass Transit first phase 'options consultation' in summer 2024, ahead of the next CEE Committee meeting.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Final draft Sustainability Outcomes Framework