
Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 23 March 2018

Subject: **Feedback from Working Groups**

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1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the areas that have been considered at meetings of the Transport Plan Delivery and Strategic Economic Plan Delivery Working Groups.

2 Information

- 2.1 At their meeting held on 13 July 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee established two working groups to focus on the delivery of the Transport Plan and the Strategic Economic Plan to ensure they were being delivered effectively.
- 2.2 The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) Delivery and Transport Plan Delivery Working Groups have now been in operation for two years. Feedback from the Working Groups for the first year of operation was provided to Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting in March 2017.
- 2.3 An overview of the areas considered by the group in the current financial year are provided below.

Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) Delivery Working Group

During the current financial year, the group has met on three occasions and has been looking at a range of issues which link to project delivery. These include the following:

- provide scrutiny and challenge to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's assurance framework
- review the risk register

- staffing – current position and challenges with regard to skills shortages

Assurance framework update

- 2.4 Of these thematic areas, the most substantive area that has been looked at by the members of the working group relates to the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework.
- 2.5 At each of the three meetings held, working drafts of the Assurance Framework have been reviewed ahead of the February 2018 submission to government. Key issues raised included:
- the document should be accessible to all, be practical and easy to read
 - importance of members' responsibilities to declare conflicts of interest and adhere to the Nolan principles
 - the key role to be played in the monitoring of governance arrangements
 - best practice being incorporated into the document following peer reviews with other authorities, putting the Combined Authority ahead of guidance in terms of transparency and accountability
 - the importance of communicating the framework to elected members across the City Region, as well as internal and external officers/users of the document.
- 2.6 The Working Group provided valuable input to the process of updating the assurance framework.

Review of Risk Registers

- 2.7 Members were provided with the portfolio risk register as well as examples of project risk registers. Key areas of focus included:
- consideration of when and how risks are reported to members
 - approaches to mitigating risks, including the general trajectory of risks.

Staffing Issues

- 2.8 Members were briefed on recruitment issues within the Delivery Directorate and the challenges that were currently being faced. In particular there was a focus on skills shortages and work around apprenticeships that was being undertaken.

Transport Plan Delivery Working Group

- 2.9 The Transport Plan Delivery Working Group has met on three occasions in the current financial year. A further meeting is planned for April 2018.

23 October 2017

- 2.10 The Working Group was provided an overview of the adopted West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040 and the policies contained within. The accompanying

performance management framework being developed to measure the Combined Authority's performance in delivering the Transport Strategy was also considered. Input was provided by the Working Group on the proposed targets and indicators included in the framework including how these are presented to stakeholders.

- 2.11 The Working Group also considered its role, format and forward programme and members were invited to propose areas of interest for consideration at future meetings, based on the policies identified in the Transport Strategy.

21 December 2017

- 2.12 The Working Group considered areas of interest based around the policies within the Transport Strategy including active travel and physical activity, road traffic collisions and safety, "local spend" policies, waterborne freight, smart technologies, place-making and bus interchange. In considering these areas of interest, members of the Working Group raised issues to be taken into account in developing the forthcoming transport strategy delivery plan. The Working Group was also provided with an updated draft of the performance management framework and provided further comments to be considered in its development.

19 February 2018

- 2.13 The Working Group considered two topics of interest:

(i) Performance management framework (targets and indicators): the Working Group was provided with a further update of the performance management framework for discussion. The Working Group provided input and comment on the proposed final set of targets and indicators to be presented to Transport Committee for endorsement. The Working Group was also satisfied that further public consultation was not necessary for the transport strategy targets and indicators, following an extensive consultation on the Transport Strategy 2040 which included questions on indicators.

(ii) Innovative, smart technologies: the Working Group was presented with an update on aspects of transport technology relevant to the region, including progress with the 'MCard' smartcard travel product and the theme of mobility as a service. The Working Group was presented with examples of current and planned local applications of technology to improve transport access and efficiency. The Working Group supported the work delivered to date and supported that the benefits of technology need to be accessible to all as part of delivering inclusive growth.

- 2.14 In summary the Working Group meetings held to date have provided detailed input into the development of the transport strategy performance management framework for its endorsement and approval from Transport Committee and Combined Authority. This has helped ensure that the targets and indicators proposed to measure performance of the Transport Strategy across the range of core themes and policies are meaningful and relevant to stakeholders and

the public, and measurable within the constraints of resource and data availability.

- 2.15 The Working Group expect to consider the transport strategy delivery plan in more detail at their final meeting in April 2018 and provide input into its development.

3 Financial Implications

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

4 Legal Implications

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

5 Staffing Implications

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

6 External Consultees

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the feedback from the Strategic Economic Plan and Transport Plan Delivery Working Groups.

8 Background Documents

- 8.1 None.

9 Appendices

- 9.1 None.