

REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 15 June 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

SUBJECT: Nominations of Members to the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel – Municipal Year 2011/12

WARDS: Boroughwide.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the Report is to seek nominations of Members to sit on the Council's Public Transport Advisory Panel for the Municipal Year 2011/12, and report on the key issues discussed / raised by the Panel when it met during the Municipal Year 2010/11.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) the Chair of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Transportation, nominates a Chair and three Members to the Public Transport Advisory Panel and for the Member nominated as the Chair to agree such deputies, as may be required from time to time;**
- (2) the Board endorse the nominations; and**
- (3) the key issues discussed by the Panel during the Municipal Year 2010/11, as set out in Appendix One of the Report, are noted.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At the start of each Municipal Year, it is necessary to nominate a Chair and three other Members to attend meetings of the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel.

3.2 The purpose of the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel is to:-

- Monitor the performance of the public transport network within the Borough to ensure it meets the mobility needs of local communities;
- To make recommendations to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on future developments and improvements to the conventional local public transport network; and

- To review and comment on the effectiveness of the Council's public transport priorities.

3.3 A summary of the key issues discussed at the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel, during 2010/11, is shown in Appendix 1

3.4 The Board is asked to support those nominations proposed by the Chair of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Transportation, which will be announced at the meeting.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

It is widely recognised that good quality and affordable public transport services can help to improve access to key facilities for children and young people within the Borough. A key role of the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel is to review progress and comment on emerging initiatives.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Halton Borough Council and its partners continue to provide a wide range of accessible and affordable public transport services within the Borough aimed at improving access to key employment, learning and training facilities within the Borough. These are reported at meetings of the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Improving access to health care facilities is acknowledged as a key priority in the Halton Access Plan and Halton Local Transport Plan. Progress on achieving these improvements are reported and discussed at the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel.

6.4 A Safer Halton

No direct implications.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Improving access to key regeneration areas by sustainable forms of transport including public transport, walking and cycling is widely acknowledged as playing a key role in sustainable regeneration and

urban renewal. The Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel plays a key role in discussing and shaping the future direction of those initiatives associated with public transport within Halton.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no risks associated with the report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Good quality and affordable public transport services can play a key role in ensuring all sections of the community can access a wide range of facilities.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 There are no background documents under the meaning of this Act.

Appendix One

Summary of the key Issues discussed at the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel – Municipal Year 2010/11.

Meeting Held Wednesday 18th August 2010

1. LOCAL BUS SERVICE CHANGES

The Panel considered a report from the Principal Officer, Transport Co-ordination, which identified recent changes to local public transport services in the Borough.

2. PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES

The Panel received a report with an update on Passenger Transport services provided in the borough included a range of issues relating to Children's and Adults transport provision in the Borough.

The General Manager of Halton Community Transport provided the group with an update on passenger journeys carried out on the services operated by their organisation. This included in particular the Dial-A-Ride and Woman's Safe Transport services.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD TRAVEL LINKS

The Panel received an update on the following projects:-

Links2Work – Details were provided regarding this demand responsive taxi service, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,

Cycling – The Cycle to Work Guarantee, a voluntary initiative from the Department for Transport which challenges businesses to become friendly employers by making it easy for staff to cycle to and from work.

Scooter Commuter – This service was introduced in April 2010. It enables people seeking employment to loan a scooter for a period of 6 months at a cost of £15 per week to the user. The lending of the scooter is also subject to the successful completion of a one day training course and the user signing a contract.

Green Travel Plans – A package of measures produced by employers to encourage staff to use alternatives to single occupancy car use and therefore encourage greener, cleaner and healthier travel choice.

Meeting held Wednesday 23rd February 2011

1. Public Transport Infrastructure

The Principal Officer, Transport Co-ordination, presented a report to inform the panel of the improvements carried out to public transport infrastructure within the Borough.

It was noted that this year a total of 15 new shelters have been installed at various bus stops across the Borough. Two new bus stops have also been commissioned in Wood Lane, Runcorn following requests from passengers.

Currently 48.25% of the bus stops in the Borough have been upgraded to conform to DDA standards. A total of 300 bus stops to date.

2. Halton Hopper Ticket

The Board received an update from the Lead Officer, Transport Co-ordination, relating to sales and the development of Halton Hopper Tickets since August 2010.

It was also reported that the key parties associated with the 'Halton Hopper Multi Operator Travel Card Ticket' had recently met to discuss increasing the pricing of the range of tickets, which had not increased for more than two years. Also, Halton Borough Council had so far funded all administration and ticket printing costs of the scheme, of which agreement had also been made for HBC to recuperate these costs. These costs were presented to the operators for reimbursement.

3. LTP3 Update

Rebecca Taylor, Policy Officer, addressed the Panel and briefed them on developments with Local Transport Plan 3.