

**REPORT TO:** Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 25 June 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Transportation

**SUBJECT:** Nominations of Members to the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel – Municipal Year 2014/15.

**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 2014/15, and to report on the key issues discussed / raised by the Panel when it met during the Municipal Year 2013/14.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) the Chair of the Environment & 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 2013/14, 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 Liaison Panel, during 2013/14, is shown in Appendix 1

3.4 The Board is asked to support those nominations proposed by the Chair of the Environment & 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. 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 Halton. 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 2013/14.**

Two meetings were held during 2013/14 Municipal Year, as follows:

- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 at Civic Suite, Runcorn Town Hall
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at The Board Room, Municipal Building

#### **PTA4 & 38 LOCAL BUS SERVICE CHANGES**

The Panel was updated at both meetings on changes to the local bus network during the period leading up to the meeting. This update includes cancellations of services, introduction of new bus services and changes to supported bus services, either timetable changes or requirements to re-tender.

#### **PTA5 & 39 INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE**

The Panel was informed of improvements carried out to public transport infrastructure and information, including:

- The addition and replacement of bus shelters at locations around the borough and procurement exercise for the provision of bus shelters.
- Shelter advertising contract with Clear Channel UK (Adshel) and maintenance/cleaning of HBC shelters.
- Improvements and investment to infrastructure and waiting facilities (cleanliness/seating, etc) including Runcorn High Street Bus Station, Widnes Green Oaks, Halton Lea South major interchanges.
- Details around bus stop upgrades to accessible standards including locations, numbers of stops upgraded and percentage of stops at accessible standard
- Timetable information, detailing information updates, replacement information due to damage/vandalism and changes on the website, etc.

#### **PTA6 & 40 LSTF / BIDS UPDATE**

The Panel received progress updates on several bids including:

- Mid-Mersey Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) including details of bus service introductions and successfulness, marketing activities, travel planning as well as a number of other key developments

- Regional Growth Fund including activities undertaken in conjunction with Sci-Tech Daresbury, primarily purchase of buses to be used on the 200 service
- Local Pinch Point Programme, detailing the bid process, the amount Halton had been allocated and what would be achieved as a result, this being junction improvements around the Daresbury area (M56 Jct 11 and A56) to relieve future congestion due to predicted growth in traffic volumes
- Better Bus Area Fund in conjunction with Liverpool City Region partners which would enable fitting of particulate traps to older vehicles operating through Air Quality Management Areas and attracting of further funding for investment into public transport projects
- Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) where Halton were part of a successful LCR funding application that provided a dual electric charging point at Runcorn Mainline Station, OLEV provided 75% of the funds with Virgin Trains providing the other 25% match

## **PTA7 & 41 PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES**

The Panel received updates on a range of issues including:

- Contract re-tendering, detailing re-planning of services, the outcome of Logistics Division efficiency review, savings requirements affecting transport services provided on behalf of Children's and Adults
- Replacement passenger vehicles, notifying the panel that six low-floor accessible minibuses had been replaced and seven cars during 2013. These vehicles required replacement due to expiry of the contract hire arrangements
- In-house Fleet Vehicle Advertising, detailing that vehicle advertisements were present on seven minibuses vehicles including Halton CCG (4), Children's Centres (2) and Runcorn Market (1)
- In-house Fleet Vehicle Safety Equipment including installing of TomTom units to all vehicles, fitting of CCTV to all minibuses, fitting of reverse parking sensors to all minibuses, fitting of wheelchair winches to two minibuses and winch kits to all ramp access minibuses, purchase of heavy duty wheelchair restraints for each minibus
- Health related Transport Journeys, detailing transport services and trials undertaken in conjunction with Halton CCG including a hospital discharge transport service as well as numerous ad-hoc transport jobs
- Vehicle and Passenger Booking System, describing the tender process for purchase of a replacement transport system and the financial savings attributed as compared with licensing/support costs of previous system

- Independent Travel Training, including the continued success of travel training, the reported benefits to individuals and the financial savings involved as well as the potential to run 'Train the Trainer' courses.

- Accessible Transport Services, providing an update on door-to-door transport services provided by Halton Community Transport, including passenger numbers using the Dial-A-Ride daytime and evening service.

## **PTA8 & 42 NEIGHBOURHOOD TRAVEL LINKS**

The Panel was presented with a report which informed them of the work carried out by the Neighbourhood Travel Team since the last meeting in March 2012 and included information relating to:

- Cycling (including Cycle to Work Guarantee, Bikeability, Pool Bikes and Wheels for all)

- Job Centre Plus initiatives (including weekly and monthly Halton hopper tickets purchased by JCP and issued to their clients)

- Scooter Commuter (detailing a reduction in usage of the scheme and reporting towards the end of the scheme, including disposal of the scooters)

- Green Travel Plans (detailing sites and locations for which GTP's had been produced and those for whom travel plans had been updated)

- Car Share System (providing information about potential providers of a replacement car scheme database to be used by the Council and beyond)

- Travel surgeries (detailing travel surgeries that had taken place, including those held at Sci-Tech Daresbury promoting usage of sustainable modes of travel)

## **PTA9 & 43 OTHER UPDATES**

The Panel was presented with reports and updates relating to various other transport related matters including:

- The Traffic Commissioner's paper on local bus services which was out to consultation via the Department for Transport

- A Passenger Focus paper titled 'passenger views on value for money on public transport' which was very in-depth and informative

- A Department for Education's statutory guidance on Raising the Participation Age and consequent impacts on school transport

- The Department for Transport's 'Door to Door Strategy' that had been released focussing on improving sustainable transport in a number of ways

- Forthcoming changes to the Bus Service Operator's Grant for tendered bus services whereby future payments would be made by local authorities, payments relating to commercially operated bus services would remain unchanged (administered by DfT).