

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

**DATE:** 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Environment

**SUBJECT:** Nominations of Members to the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel - Municipal Year 2009/10.

**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 2009/10, and report on the key issues discussed / raised by the Panel when it met during the Municipal Year 2008/9.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:-**

- 1) The Chair of the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, 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 2008/9, 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 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 2008/9, is shown in Appendix 1

3.4 The Board is asked to support those nominations proposed by the Chair of the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, 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 2006/7 – 2010/11. 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 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 7.1 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.

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 8.1 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 2009/10.**

#### ***Meeting – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008***

1. The Meeting received a presentation from Mr Robin Tudor (General Manager Corporate and Community Affairs – Liverpool John Lennon Airport), detailing progress being made to implement a range of transport improvements to improve access to the Airport for employee's and passengers. The Airport has an adopted Airport Surface Access Strategy, which contains targets to encourage more people to travel to the Airport by public transport and other sustainable modes of transport. Mr Tudor highlighted the increase in the number of local bus services linking the Airport, including the service 82A from Widnes and Runcorn. The Airport also welcomed the funding Halton BC has given to 'pump priming' the service 700 (now X2), which links the Liverpool Airport to Widnes and Manchester.
  
2. The Panel reviewed and commented on planned changes to the local bus and rail services, in particular the new improved service 13, which links the Cherry Sutton area of Hough Green with Widnes town centre and the Widnes Waterfront regeneration area. The frequency of the service, which has been increased to hourly (Monday to Saturday daytimes) is now operated by a dedicated low floor easy access vehicle. It was noted that the North West Development Agency (NWDA) has provided grant funding for the service.
  
3. The Panel received an update from the North Cheshire Rail Users Group, highlighting the work of the Group to improve station environments through the Station Adoption Scheme. The Group highlighted that they had recently adopted Runcorn East Station with Arriva Trains Wales.

#### ***Meeting – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008***

2. The Panel received a presentation from Passenger Focus (the independent national rail; and bus passenger watchdog).
  
3. The Panel were consulted on the draft Mersey Gateway Sustainable Transport Strategy.
  
4. The Panel were consulted on draft responses being made by Halton Borough Council to the following European and national transport policy documents:-

- Consultation on revised arrangements for Bus Quality Partnerships (Department for Transport) stemming from the Transport Act 2008;
- Response to the consultation document issued by the European Commission Services Director – General ‘Energy and Transport’ (July 2008) on greater integration of air and rail passenger service links across the European Union.