

Meeting:	JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT	
Date:	7 th September 2018	
From:	Joint Officer Steering Group	Agenda Item: 7

Transport Update

1 SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on the transport related issues across the Greater Nottingham conurbation. The report provides an update on the Inclusive Transport Strategy, Blue Badge review, Department for Transport consultations, Rail Update and Consultation on our Local Plan to Improve Air Quality in Nottingham.

2 BACKGROUND

Inclusive Transport Strategy

2.2 On the 25th July 2018, the Department for Transport (DfT) announced its new Inclusive Mobility Strategy, replacing previous guidance. The document outlines its aim for the transport network to be fully accessible by 2030.

2.3 Some of the measures include:

- A request to “pause” the development and design of further “shared space” schemes whilst guidance is updated.
- An update by DfT of tactile paving guidance to be undertaken this year.
- £300m to the rail stations “access for all” programme.
- £2m for audio-visual equipment on buses.
- £2m for Changing Places facilities at motorway service stations.
- Evidence gathering on issues regarding pavement parking.
- DfT to announce how to prioritise wheelchair access on buses.
- A list to be published each year of local authorities that do - and do not - publish lists of wheelchair accessible taxis.

2.4 A ministerial letter has also been provided to local authorities outlining this announcement. Some of these actions, such as the pause to shared space development, will have an immediate impact while awaiting updated guidance regarding this.

Blue Badge Review

2.5 On the 29th July 2018, the DfT also published a review regarding the Blue Badge scheme, following a consultation that took place regarding the scheme. It was announced that from 2019, individuals with “hidden” disabilities such as autism and mental health will be eligible for a blue badge (subject to meeting other Blue Badge criteria).

Department for Transport Consultations

2.6 At the end of July 2018, a series of consultations/call for evidence have been announced by the DfT:

- Misuse of drones (consultation close: 17th September)
- Call for evidence regarding Air Quality issues caused by brake, tyre and road surface wear (close: 28th September)
- Call for evidence regarding “last mile delivery” solutions (close: 10th September)
- Call for evidence regarding “future of mobility grand challenge” (close: 10th September)

Rail update

- 2.7 On the 7th June 2018, the DfT announced its Invitation to Tender (ITT) document for the East Midlands Franchise, as well as the outcome of the consultation regarding service requirements for the upcoming franchise.
- 2.8 The DfT also announced a public consultation regarding the Cross Country Franchise, which is due to end in December 2019. The consultation includes Nottingham-Birmingham/Cardiff services and closes on the 30th August 2018.
- 2.9 Works are progressing on the Derby re-signalling project. This will see track and signaling replacement, as well as two new platforms being provided in Derby station. The works started on the 22nd July and will continue through to 7th October. The engineering works are affecting all rail services through Derby, including the East Midlands Trains Matlock - Newark Castle service and Nottingham-Birmingham/Cardiff Cross-Country services.

Consultation on our Local Plan to Improve Air Quality in Nottingham

- 2.10 On the 3rd August 2018, the City Council launched a consultation regarding its draft plan to address air quality issues within Nottingham. The City is under Ministerial Direction to develop a plan to reduce concentrations of nitrogen dioxide to within legal limits as soon as possible.
- 2.11 Nottingham has for many years been promoting sustainable transport with the aim of supporting economic growth, reducing congestion and improving air quality. Significant investment has been made to improve public transport and the local cycle network, together with incentivising the use of cleaner vehicles. These measures have already gone a long way to achieve a cleaner city, but further measures are needed to reduce pollution levels to within legal limits.
- 2.12 Government funding to retrofit buses operating in both the City and County areas with cleaner exhaust technology has been secured. The City's Taxi and Private Hire Strategy requires all Hackney Carriage licensed by the Council to be Euro VI compliant by 2020. In addition the Council is also modernising its own fleet to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV's). The modelling predicts that with these measures in place, air quality in Nottingham will be compliant with legal limits by 2020.
- 2.13 In order to bring forward compliance, it is also proposed to support taxi drivers to adopt ULEV's through licensing initiatives and an expanded 'try before you buy' leasing scheme.
- 2.14 To align the outcome of local modelling with existing local air quality monitoring it is also proposed to vary one of the existing Air Quality Management Areas, expanding it to cover the whole of the Nottingham City Council's administrative area, and at the same time to seek legal powers to tackle engine idling.
- 2.15 To take part in the consultation see www.transportnottingham.com/cleanair . The consultation closes on the 10th September 2018. Once feedback is received, the final plan will be submitted on 15th September 2018 to central government.

Access to East Midlands Airport bus issues

- 2.16 The County Council continues to engage with the EMA transport group which includes bus operators, developers, District Council's and adjoining County Councils; and rural connectivity is acknowledged as an issue for all parties. A number of workshops have now been set up to discuss this in more detail with operators, to inform a future bid for external

monies to address these transport gaps, if a funding opportunity is identified. In parallel to this the first meeting with the Roxhill developers about future bus services has been convened and this work will dovetail with the wider EMA transport group work. The group continues to work on addressing the connectivity issues to the job opportunities and there is further discussions scheduled with the bus operators in September to inform the way forward.

3 RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report.

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 4.1 Inclusive Transport Strategy, DfT, July 2018
Blue Badge Review, DfT, July 2018
East midlands Rail Franchise Invitation to Tender, DfT, June 2018
Cross Country Rail Franchise Consultation, DfT, June 2018
Draft Air Quality Plan, Nottingham City Council, August 2018

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