
CARDIFF'S TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Purpose of Report

1. To brief Members on the approach being taken to develop Cardiff's new Transport Strategy prior to it being considered by Cabinet at their meeting on the 14 July 2016. In considering this report Members will:
 - Receive an outline of the purpose of the strategy and the proposals it contains;
 - Receive an explanation of the rationale and supporting evidence for particular transport interventions;
 - Have the opportunity to discuss a range of technical matters and the linkages between the Strategy and other areas of Council policy/service delivery;
 - Have the opportunity to discuss options for public consultation on Cardiff's new Transport Strategy;
 - Have the opportunity to discuss ways of raising and maintaining public awareness of/interest in the Strategy through communications.

Background

2. Cardiff's Local Development Plan (LDP) was approved in January 2016; the plan covers the period from 2006 to 2016. This important document highlights the need for a shift to sustainable transport to support the future growth of the city - in doing this it sets a target for 2026 of 50% of all journeys to be made by sustainable modes of travel.
3. Cardiff's new Transport Strategy will provide a summary of the Council's transport priorities and proposed transport projects which it is hoped will help achieve the 50% target by 2026.

Future Growth & Modal Shift

4. The City of Cardiff is set to grow. The recently-approved LDP provides for 41,000 new homes and up to 40,000 new jobs by 2026. It is estimated that this expansion of the city will generate a 32% (net) increase in road traffic which, in turn, will intensify pressure on the city's highway network.
5. In order to accommodate growth on this scale, the overall share of daily journeys made by car must decrease and a greater proportion of trips need to be made by walking, cycling and public transport. As stated previously the LDP also sets a target of 50% of all journeys to be made by sustainable transport by 2026. To enable this 'modal shift', policies in the LDP seek to secure significant improvements to the public transport and active travel networks in combination with new developments.

Liveable City

6. Cardiff was recently named the 'Most Liveable City' in the United Kingdom. The Council's ambition is for Cardiff to become Europe's 'Most Liveable Capital City'. Most of the world's most liveable cities have grown alongside the development of sustainable transport networks which allow people to travel freely by public transport, walking and cycling. Integrating new developments with the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure is seen as one of the key enablers in achieving the Council's Liveable City aspirations.

Cardiff Capital Region – City Deal

7. Cardiff is the economic driver of a major city region that is home to over 1.4 million people, i.e. half the population of Wales. The city provides one third of the region's employment.
8. People make approximately 1.5 million trips every day travelling within and to and from Cardiff (over 25% of trips in the South East Wales Region), with large numbers of journeys coming from the neighbouring local authorities such as the Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Caerphilly. These movements exert considerable pressures on Cardiff's transport network.

9. Development of the Cardiff Capital Region Metro project will form one of the central elements of the £1.2 billion package of investment secured through the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. The Metro will provide the connectivity needed to support the growth of the City Region's economy and make it competitive with other UK cities and city regions. It will also support Cardiff's delivery of sustainable transport and its Liveable City ambition.

The need for a City Transport Strategy

10. Up to now, the Council's transport vision and priorities have not been outlined in an individual strategy document. However, with the LDP now adopted, and transport set to play a central role in its implementation and the City Deal initiative it makes sense for the Council to set out its Transport Strategy in a single document.

Purpose of Strategy

11. The strategy document is intended to provide a complete overview of plans to improve Cardiff's transport system and, crucially, to explain why the proposed projects are needed to support the future growth of the city and the wider city region. The strategy will provide the principal reference for future communications and public engagement on transport matters. The aim for publishing the strategy is to generate a stronger public awareness of the transport challenges we need to address.
12. The document draws together the existing transport vision and priorities for Cardiff within the context of the LDP; the Local Transport Plan (LTP); the aspiration to make Cardiff Europe's Most Liveable Capital City and other important regional developments including the new 'City Deal'.

Contents of the Transport Strategy

13. The Transport Strategy will outline a number of key transport issues facing Cardiff, these include:
 - The main transport issues and challenges which the Council and its partners are working to address;

- How improvements to Cardiff's transport system are needed to support the development of new sustainable communities envisaged within the Local Development Plan;
- The Council's priorities for individual modes of travel and key proposals for improving the transport system including:
 - Development of the Active Travel Network including a bold new plan to increase cycling
 - Bus Corridor and wider network enhancements
 - Improving the integration of public transport services
 - Development of a new bus and multi modal interchange as part of the Central Square redevelopment
 - Better management of the highway network to improve its operation and support sustainable travel
 - Supporting the development of the Cardiff Capital Region Metro
 - Expanding the application of Digital technology to support sustainable travel choices

'Living' Document

14. The strategy will be a living document which will be updated periodically as delivery progresses or in response to developments in policy or other matters of strategic significance. Bulletins highlighting progress on the delivery of the strategy will be published periodically.

Timeline

15. Initial consultation was carried out with Members in August 2015. This, together with internal officer consultation, has informed the production of a draft City Transport Strategy document. Which will be made available at the meeting. An indicative timeline for progressing Cardiff's Transport Strategy is outlined below.
 - June 2016: Consideration of Draft Strategy by Environmental Scrutiny Committee;
 - July 2016: Cabinet for approval to carry out public consultation on the document;
 - Public consultation: July – October 2016;

- December 2016: Submission of Final Strategy and Strategy Action Plan to Cabinet for final approval.

Way Forward

16. Councillor Ramesh Patel, Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning & Sustainability and officers from the City Operations Directorate have been invited to attend. They will deliver a short presentation and answer Members' questions.

Legal Implications

17. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

18. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- Consider the information in the report;
- Decide whether they would like to make any comments to the Cabinet;
- Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

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8 June 2016