

Transport Delivery Committee

Date	10 February 2020
Report title	Air Quality, Congestion & Environmental Sustainability Lead Member Reference Group Annual Report
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Managing Director, TfWM 0121 214 7444 laura.shoaf@tfwm.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Jake Thrush, Associate Policy Advisor, TfWM 0121 214 7235 Jake.Thrush@tfwm.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Councillor Richard Worrall, Lead Member Air Quality, Congestion and Environmental Sustainability

Recommendation for action or decision:

Transport Delivery Committee is recommended to:

Note the progress to date with the work of the Lead Member Reference Group for Air Quality, Congestion and Environmental Sustainability.

1. Purpose

1.1 To outline the work of the Air Quality, Congestion and Environmental Sustainability in 2019/20.

2. Background

2.1 The TDC Air Quality, Congestion and Environmental Sustainability Lead Member Reference Group terms of reference are:

Group Terms of Reference

-To monitor and report on the future development of measures to reduce road traffic congestion in the West Midlands. Plus measures to monitor and cut its associated negative air quality and associated environmental impacts, including any measures supporting the delivery of the environmental objectives within the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan and other strategic planning documents.

-To monitor progress on programmes seeking to effect cuts in congestion and its associated health and environmental impacts in line with WMCA policies, strategies and timescales.

-To monitor and support work with public transport operators passenger groups and members of the public to support the delivery of reduced congestion on the roads, plus general improvements in air quality across all forms of private and public transport.

-To give guidance and input during the preparation and clearance of reports within the portfolio area which are to be considered at any Transport Delivery Committee meeting

2.2 The Group's membership is:

Cllr Richard Worrall (Lead Member)

Cllr Celia Hibbert

Cllr Robert Alden

2.3 The 2019/20 group's inception meeting was 23 September 2019, followed by meetings in November and January.

2.4 The work programme of the Group is set out below:

Work Plan 2019/20

1. In essence, the Group's main areas of activity will be to monitor and support relevant work, report back to, and from, their local authority, and provide guidance and input to relevant TDC reports. To help inform this work, a series of technical visits to see best practice will be of value.
2. The main issues to be considered by the Group in 2019/20 for this work are:
 - A. Transport strategy and measures to reduce West Midlands' greenhouse gas emissions
 - B. Transport strategy and measures to improve West Midlands Local Air Quality (particularly NO₂ and PM 2.5), including the role of green infrastructure
 - C. Transport strategy and measures to reduce road traffic congestion

A. Transport strategy and measures to reduce West Midlands' greenhouse gas emissions

3. The Group will monitor and support:
 - i. Development of WMCA's action plan to achieve its zero carbon emissions targets (2041 zero emission target and interim targets for 2022 and 2027)
 - ii. How the zero carbon action plan relates to the review of the Movement for Growth strategic transport plan
 - iii. Progress in achieving carbon reductions from transport serving the West Midlands
4. The Group will provide guidance and input to relevant TDC reports related to carbon reduction, eg progress with the new West Midlands Ultra Low Emission Vehicles Strategy and West Midlands Low Emission Bus Delivery Plan Update
5. Potential technical visits to inform this strand include:
 - ii. University of Birmingham Rail Research Centre for hydrogen powered train development
 - iii. Long Marston – VivaRail battery powered trains
 - iii. A longer term potential visit to Tyseley Energy Park, for hydrogen power issues

B. Transport strategy and measures to improve West Midlands Local Air Quality (particularly NO₂ and PM 2.5), including the role of green infrastructure

6. The Group will monitor and support:
 - i. WMCA and local authority air quality strategy development
 - ii. Progress in delivering the Mayor's pledge to ensure the entire West Midlands Metropolitan Area's bus fleet is Euro VI or better by April 2021.
 - iii. Progress with the WM-Air research project, led by University of Birmingham
 - iv. Green infrastructure initiatives
7. The Group will monitor:
 - i. Progress with First, Second and Third Wave local authority measures to reduce nitrogen dioxide
8. The Group will provide guidance and input to relevant TDC reports related to local air quality, eg reports on the above.
9. Potential technical visits to inform this strand are:
 - i. A potential visit to Leicester for street environment improvements

C. Transport strategy and measures to reduce road traffic congestion

10. The Group will monitor and support:
 - i. Progress in delivery of the TfWM Congestion Management Plan
11. The Group will provide guidance and input to relevant TDC reports related to road traffic congestion reduction eg reports related to Key Route Network improvements

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| <p>12. Potential technical visits to inform this strand are:</p> <p>i. A potential visit to Bristol, to see its Urban Traffic Control Centre and other initiatives, eg Metrobus Bus Rapid Transit network</p> |
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- 2.5 In it's meetings held to date, the Group has agreed its terms of reference and work plan. It received a presentation from Jake Murgatroyd on the work of the Network Resilience Team, including the Congestion Management Plan, development of Key Route Network Action Plans and the production of a related one year progress report.
- 2.5 The Group has also considered mode share comparisons of the West Midlands with other large urban areas in Europe, North America and the UK and key lessons from academic research on achieving increased use of sustainable transport.
- 2.6 The group has received regular updates on climate change and air quality issues which are related to transport at a national, regional and local level. This has included updates on progress with reducing NO2 levels in the West Midlands. Progress with improvements to the West Midlands bus fleet have also been agenda items. Consideration of these updates has led to discussions on climate change targets within some West Midlands local authorities.
- 2.7 A meeting of the Group on February 17, open to all members of TDC, will consider the WMCA WM2041 Zero Carbon Green Paper.
- 2.8 A technical visit to Vivarail at Long Marston was held on 17 October. This also included councillors from the wider TDC and considered developments of rolling stock and national strategy for a carbon-free UK rail network.
- 2.9 There will be a technical visit to University of Birmingham on 30 January. This will cover the WM-Air project led by the University and research and development on hydrogen rail. All TDC members were invited to attend.
- 2.10 A technical visit to Leicester is currently being arranged. This will be open to all TDC members and will gain an understanding of city centre and main road improvements promoting sustainable travel and improved air quality.

3. Legal Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

4. Equalities Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

5. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 5.1 Promoting congestion reduction and improved air quality supports inclusive growth by supporting the following themes:
- Affordable, safe, and connected places
 - Sustainability

- Health and Wellbeing
- Economy

6. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

- 6.1 The Group's remit covers the Combined Authority constituent authorities. Improvements to the West Midlands transport system and environmental performance will provide wider benefits for sustainable connectivity with the wider Combined Authority area.

7. Other Implications

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8. Schedule of Background Papers

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