



Board Meeting

Date	Friday 10 June 2016
Report title	Strategic Transport Plan Approval
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Report to be/has been considered by	None

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

1. Approve the “Movement for Growth” Strategic Transport Plan documents (full and summary), to provide the framework for transport development in the West Midlands.

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1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval of the “Movement for Growth” West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan documents. The Summary document is appended to this report and the full document is available on line at: <http://www.wmita.org.uk/strategy-and-publications.aspx>

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Movement for Growth (MfG) Strategy has been previously considered following public consultation and adopted on 17 December 2015 by the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (WMITA).
- 2.2 The MfG sets out an ambitious plan to greatly improve the transport system in order to support economic growth and regeneration, underpin new development and housing and improve air quality, the environment and social inclusion. It is based on improvements, year in year out, over the long term to an integrated transport system made up of 4 tiers of provision:
- National and Regional;
 - Metropolitan (Metropolitan Rail and Rapid Transit Network, Key Route Network, Strategic Cycle Network);
 - Local; and
 - Smart Mobility.
- 2.3 The MfG provides a robust position for transport over the West Midlands geography. This is also consistent with the overall transport needs of the Midlands, as captured with by Midlands Connect - an ambitious initiative to identify and then realise the transport connectivity improvements that the Midlands as a whole (east and west) need in order to maximise long-term regional economic growth.
- 2.4 Midlands Connect has taken an evidenced based approach through a number of technical studies which, in parallel to those of Network Rail and Highways England, will focus on building the strongest economic case possible for strategic transport investment across the region. Midlands Connect forms the transport ambitions of the Midlands Engine initiative, which is working across the same geography to develop strategies and measures which will drive forward significant additional economic growth and job creation.
- 2.5 The MfG strategy is also referenced and supported in the West Midlands Combined Authority Strategic Economic Plan, providing a framework to bring forward the connectivity that our economy and spatial growth (as set out in current and emerging Local Plans) needs.
- 2.6 In order to maintain continuity of overarching transport policies and strategy the West Midlands Combined Authority are requested to re-affirm the adoption of the “Movement for Growth” strategy and note the current work being undertaken to develop further specific policy and strategy initiatives.
- 2.7 Following its adoption, MfG has been recognised as international best practice in regards to Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMPs) and nominated for a European SUMP Awards in April 2016.

3.0 Current Work and Next Steps

- 3.1 Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) is now working on a 10 year transport delivery and implementation plan, which will set out priority projects for delivery and development. This work will include plans and measures to ensure the resilience and operational stability of the transport network during a period of previously unprecedented infrastructure investment, by the Combined Authority and partners, as well as by Network Rail, Highways England and HS2 Ltd.
- 3.2 TfWM is developing a series of more detailed policies and strategies, for example a draft freight strategy is being finalised and a Logistics Forum being established; as well as detailed development of a Mobility as a Service strategy. Both of these were recently considered by West Midlands ITA and further reports will be brought back to Combined Authority during 2016. A review of rail and highways strategy is also underway in order to inform what is being targeted for the Combined Authority area from the on-going Midlands Connect work. Other key areas for policy and strategy development include air quality and work to identify measures to support the young, socially excluded and troubled individuals. Other immediate and active priorities for TfWM include:
- 3.3 HS2 Growth Strategy Local Connectivity Package: - The Combined Authority Devolution Deal contains a £4.4bn HS2 Growth Strategy which aims to make the most of HS2 arriving in the West Midlands. As part of this Growth Strategy there is a local connectivity package of 20 transport schemes to effectively “plug-in” the 2 new HS2 stations to local transport networks. These schemes include the East-West Metro with Metro light rail extensions to Dudley - Brierley Hill and lines through East Birmingham to North Solihull and HS2 Interchange station.
- 3.4 Better Use of the M6Toll and Network Resilience: - “Movement for Growth” states that:

“Wider use of the M6Toll is very important for the West Midlands and possible means to deliver this need exploring, to ensure better use and integration with the wider highway network”.

Work is currently progressing with the Department for Transport, through the Devolution Deal to consider ways of achieving better use of M6Toll, particularly when incidents cause severe congestion on the network. Related to this is a significant piece of work to identify how the impact of major road works over the next 10 years due to HS2, Highways England, Network Rail and ‘local’ schemes can be minimised during in a period of extensive construction across the whole transport system.
- 3.5 Key Route Network: - This is a fresh look at what the West Midlands main road network is and what role it should have. A newly defined “Key Route Network” of main roads has been identified. The network serves the main strategic highway flows of people and freight across the metropolitan area and provides connections to the national strategic road network. The performance standards for this new network are currently being developed and will seek to use the latest technology solutions to monitor and manage it. The work will be supported by a dedicated team and the local Highway Authorities.
- 3.6 West Midlands Rail: - West Midlands Rail (WMR) Ltd is a new company governed by a board drawn from 14 councils and which has been set up to secure devolution of a

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greater level of local control of rail services in the West Midlands. This includes the 7 Combined Authority constituent authorities, who currently form a coordinated joint position on the WMR Ltd board. WMR Ltd is working with the Department for Transport to draw up the specification for a new rail franchise for the West Midlands (to replace the local elements of the current London Midland franchise). This will start in 2017 and will involve in greater influence and control of local rail services, potentially leading to a fully devolved contract in the future.

3.7 Bus Alliance: - TfWM is leading on an innovative strengthened partnership approach with bus operators to deliver practical improvements to the bus system over the next five years up to 2021. The commitments are:

- To increase bus patronage by 5%.
- Improvement in peak time journey speeds.
- More intuitively understandable core turn-up-and-go routes.
- Fare rises of no more than RPI +1% per annum.
- Zero or ultra-low emissions with every other bus at least Euro 6.
- Customer satisfaction levels remain over 85%.
- Discounted young person's travel for everyone under 19 years old.
- Integrated ticketless travel in line with intelligent mobility policy.
- Network Development Plans to support the economic objectives of the next decade.
- Increased investment in highways infrastructure to aid journey times, reliability and road safety.
- The financial benefits of increased patronage contribute towards infrastructure and buses.
- Improvement on board through improved seating, next stop announcements and WiFi.

3.8 Metro Delivery: - A number of Metro schemes are now in development to follow the extension to New Street station:

- Metro to HS2 Curzon Street and Eastside
- Metro to Centenary Square
- Metro to Wolverhampton Interchange/ rail station
- Metro from Wednesbury – Brierley Hill and Eastside – East Birmingham/North Solihull – HS2 Interchange ("East-West Metro")

Projects beyond this are based on tram-train lines to link up the Black Country centres more effectively, in line with the Black Country's overall development strategy

3.9 Mobility as a Service (MaaS) and Intelligent Mobility: - The West Midlands is well placed to be a world-leader in transport innovation and new technology. TfWM is co-ordinating the public sector's role in how new technology is used. The work sits under the broad banner of 'intelligent mobility', which can be thought of as a technology enabled system of mobility solutions supporting full end-to-end journeys which enables the traveller to easily balance cost, comfort, speed, and convenience against need. An Intelligent Mobility Strategy has been produced and previously adopted by West Midlands ITA (July 2015) and a number of areas of detailed development work are now being carried out, including to improve payment systems (contactless payment); support 'open data'; support connected and autonomous vehicles (with a first on road trial in early 2017); and making the transport infrastructure (signals etc.) better utilise the latest available technology in order to improve

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performance. Following adoption by West Midlands ITA of a MaaS strategy in March 2016, a proposal for a MaaS pilot scheme is currently being developed, with a view to delivering this within 12 months.

- 3.10 Air Quality Strategy: - TfWM is currently working to help coordinate air quality strategy across the West Midlands. Transport is a main source of the pollution of Nitrogen Dioxide and particulates, which have been shown to have significant health impacts and are linked to premature deaths. In Birmingham, unless mitigation measures are implemented, air quality levels are predicted to exceed the levels set by a 2008 European Directive on ambient air quality (2008/50/EC).
- 3.11 This directive was made law in England through the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. There are also air quality concerns in other areas of the Combined Authority. The currently different approaches of the Black Country, Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry to assessing these are being reviewed with the relevant District teams, with a view to finding a more effective combined approach to assessment and mitigation. A key issue to tackle going forward will be linking the cost of implementing measures which beneficially impact air quality to the savings that can be realised from reduced premature deaths and a lower healthcare bill.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 A 2016 / 2017 budget of £40,000 was made available to progress the plan and all activities to date have all been contained within this allocation. It is expected that the budget allocation will also cover the next phase of policy and strategy work, which features the production of a ten year delivery and implementation plan”.

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications flowing directly from the contents of this report. Consultation has been previously undertaken by West Midlands ITA.
- 5.2 Any associated procurement activity will need to comply with applicable procurement legislation.

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 The strategy highlights the importance of meeting the needs of people with disabilities, older age groups and socially excluded groups, with an emphasis on social inclusion and accessible transport provision improvements. Equality and accessibility considerations will need to form part of future policy development in relation to all individual tiers

7.0 Other implications

- 7.1 A strategic environmental assessment has informed the development of the final document.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

- 8.1 The West Midlands ITA considered the Movement for Growth Strategy on the following occasions:

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- ITA 19 November 2014: "Outcomes of the ITA Workshop, 30th September, 2014"
- ITA 19 November 2014: "Approach to adopt a new Strategic Transport Plan for the West Midlands"
- ITA 28 January 2015
- ITA 18 March 2015
- ITA 29 April 2015
- ITA 24 June 2015
- ITA 16 July 2015
- ITA 18 November 2015 and 17 December 2015 [Adoption of the MfG]

APPENDIX 1: Movement for Growth Summary Document

(For full document see: <http://www.wmita.org.uk/strategy-and-publications.aspx>)