

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PLACES** held on Wednesday, 26 July 2023 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor S Bull (in the Chair)

Councillors J Siddle, A Clarke, N Gourlay, D Greenhalgh, D Murphy, J Nelson and P Niblock.

45/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

46/23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

47/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (30 MINUTE MAXIMUM IN TOTAL)

There were no public questions.

48/23 PREPARATION OF A LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN COVERING THE COUNTY OF DERBYSHIRE

Alan Marsden, Head of Strategic Transport and Sustainable Travel attended the meeting to provide an overview of the process to develop a new joint Local Transport Plan covering the county of Derbyshire under the proposed East Midlands Combined Authority.

In March 2023, Full Council had resolved to approve the final proposal to create the Mayoral East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA). The proposal set out an expectation that on day one, the EMCCA would be established as the transport authority for the area, covering the four upper-tier authorities, and have the power to approve the single, joint Local Transport Plan (LTP).

The Transport Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008) had placed a duty on the Council to have a LTP in place, and therefore it remained a duty for the Council until the EMMCA creation was enacted. A new LTP would provide an opportunity to sharpen up and refresh the strategic case to support delivery of integrated transport programmes and deliver more ambitious outcomes; including those set out in sub-strategies,

including the Bus Service Improvement Plan, Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

The Department for Transport (DfT) had recognised that a combination of reduced Council resources and a lack of updated national guidance had led to many LTPs across the country nearing their expiry dates. The Council's was due to expire in 2026. In October 2022, Cabinet reported that the DfT had provided a grant of £178,571.43 to the Council to help support additional capacity to prepare a new LTP. The publication of DfT guidance to support LTP preparation had been delayed, but it was now expected in early 2023 at the latest. The delay in publication of the guidance was now expected to push completion of provisional and final LTPs into late 2024-25. This timescale aligned well with the creation of the EMCCA and to be able to consider any transport commitments made during the election of the mayor.

Following the approval of the proposal to create the EMCCA, the four constituent authorities had put in place a governance structure for the Transport Priority area to further develop the necessary transition arrangements. This structure included a LTP workstream, with officer representation from each authority, recognising that joint working was necessitated now to accommodate the long lead time required to develop a LTP strategy. The LTP workstream was currently engaged in the first stage of plan development in assembling a joint transport evidence base and reviewing alignment of existing local transport policies, including Council Plans and detailed local transport strategies. It was anticipated that the emerging priority transport themes for the new MCCA LTP would be agreed by the end of 2023. These priorities would then be subject to scrutiny through a stakeholder and public engagement exercise in early 2024.

It was therefore anticipated that nuanced transport priorities might be developed for more focused geographies, for example of the two city conurbations of Derby and Nottingham, the north Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire large urban market towns of Chesterfield and Mansfield, and the many market towns and surrounding rural communities across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

To reflect nuances in transport priorities for Derbyshire, the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment had requested that a set of Derbyshire transport priorities were agreed in the autumn to be embedded within the EMCCA LTP strategy. In October 2022, Cabinet had agreed a set of strategic level themes to guide the further development of Derbyshire transport priorities. These were:

- Sustainable environment;
- Integrated connectivity; and
- Prosperous place

It would be necessary to consider where the Plan could influence carbon emissions and to where change at a national level was required. The Council was currently awaiting a 'Carbon Emissions Tool' and a Carbon Reduction Policy 'Playbook' from Midlands Connect to guide the Quantifiable Carbon Reduction (QCR) work.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Marsden for his most informative and interesting presentation. Members of the Committee requested that he returned to a future meeting when the interim plan had been developed to enable scrutiny members' input prior to the Plan being released for public and stakeholder consultation.

RESOLVED that the Committee notes the process to develop a new joint Local Transport Plan covering the county of Derbyshire under the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority.

49/23 WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

The Committee's work programme for the remainder of 2023-24 was presented and Members were invited to suggest possible items for consideration.

As the Control Room located within the Place Department was now fully functional, Members of the Committee suggested that a visit to the facility would be very interesting. The clerk to the Committee would arrange for this visit to take place following the conclusion of the meeting on Wednesday 27 September 2023.