

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

DATE: 5 OCTOBER 2009

RE: PROGRESS REPORT OF THE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

Purpose

This briefing note sets out a summary of the first meeting of the Integrated Transport Working Group and informs the Panel of the planned future work of the group.

Summary of Progress to date

Membership

At the last meeting of the Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel (ESPP), Members resolved to appoint 3 Members of the ESPP to the working group, as well as to ask for nominations from the Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel (RSPP) for 3 Members to join the group. The final membership of the group is:

Councillor A Harris – ESPP (Lead Member

Councillor C Bott – ESPP

Councillor B Douglas-Maul – ESPP

Councillor D Anson – RSPP

Councillor D Pitt – RSPP

Councillor I Shires – RSPP

Summary of first meeting

At its meeting of 17 September 2009, the group met with both Council and Centro officers and received detailed presentations on the current state of integrated transport within the borough. The group were then taken on a tour of the Town Centre to look at real-life examples of integrated transport systems and how successful these were in their current states. This tour focussed on the following locations:

- Bradford Place Bus Terminal
- Town Centre Rail Station
- St Pauls Bus Station

Members feedback their thoughts on how these locations could be improved to ensure public transport systems were truly integrated as well as to encourage more people to use them. Key issues identified were as follows:

- Visitors to Walsall by rail would not easily be able to find the bus station as there was a distinct lack of signage (and vice versa)
- A covered walk way between the bus and rail stations would improve accessibility
- The need to improve lighting on the rail platforms and throughout the station to increase passengers feeling of safety

- Members noted the large number of bus services attempting to access St Pauls bus station and the congestion this caused
- The group agreed that it was important to provide a sensible, viable integrated transport system to get people out of their cars and onto public transport
- Routes to key services such as the Manor Hospital must be provided across the borough
- Ward Members must be consulted on bus routes as part of the impending Centro network review

To conclude the meeting, Members agreed the following:

- The next meeting of the group will take place at the end of October
- At the next meeting, officers will present a plan encompassing both “quick wins” such as improving signage and information to service users on transport systems and Manor Hospital routes, as well as longer term prospects
- The working group will use the plan as a basis for its future activity

Recommendations

That the Environment Scrutiny and Performance panel note the progress made by the Integrated Transport Working Group.

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