

Crawley Borough Council

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Commission 9 March 2020

Report to Cabinet 11 March 2020

New Directions for Crawley (issues and options for Crawley Transport Strategy)

Report of the Head of Economy and Planning, *PES/341*

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report requests Cabinet approval for “New Directions for Crawley”, a Crawley Transport Strategy issues and options document (Appendix A), which sets out a vision for future transport infrastructure and services in Crawley whilst also presenting an outline of proposals for the first phase of delivery towards that vision.
- 1.2 Cabinet is requested to review the Crawley Transport Strategy issues and options document and consider the amendments made following a public consultation exercise which concluded on 17th February 2020.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:

That the Commission considers the report and decides what comments, if any, it wishes to submit to the Cabinet.

- 2.2 To the Cabinet:

The Cabinet is recommended to approve “New Directions for Crawley” - the Crawley Transport Strategy issues and options document (Appendix A).

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 The previously approved draft Crawley Transport Strategy issues and options document has been amended following consultation. The feedback has been largely very positive with suggestions that have informed proposed relatively minor additions and changes to the document. Approval of this draft as the final document is sought.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 ‘New Directions for Crawley’ issues and option document went to public consultation from 20th January to 17th February 2020.

- 4.2 An invitation and link to the designed document was provided from the Crawley Borough Council consultation web page and it was flagged on the website homepage, Facebook and on Twitter. A media statement highlighting the public consultation was also released by the Council at the start of the consultation period and information about the consultation exercise subsequently featured in an article by an on-line local media outlet. Personal invitations to comment were made to Metrobus, Network Rail, Manor Royal BID and West Sussex County Council (WSCC).

- 4.3 There were thirteen responses to the consultation submitted: ten individual residents; one campaign group (CAGNE) and two business representatives. One resident is a committee member of the Crawley Cycle and Walking Forum who had previously commented on the document and offered minor corrections and points of clarification only. The following provides a summary of the responses:
- 4.4 Crawley residents' feedback, included concern that public transport did not meet parents' needs, but mostly reflected existing need for better walking and cycling infrastructure and queried the lack of reference to Gatwick Airport.
- 4.5 WSCC senior Transport Planning and Policy staff have had early and ongoing input to the draft strategy. Other WSCC representatives provided comments in response to the consultation which have been accommodated, particularly relating to statutory responsibilities in policy development and scheme delivery along with minor technical issues.
- 4.6 Manor Royal Business District made clear their interest in collaborating in developing strategy outcomes and responded positively to the draft as well as expanding the document's vision.
- 4.7 Metrobus have actively provided early input in response to the document.
- 4.8 These contributions have informed amendments to the strategy. Some are simple corrections or points of clarification. The more substantive amendments cover the following:
- Greater clarification on encouraging partnership working beyond statutory bodies and the importance of cross-boundary cooperation to enable improvements to transport and access infrastructure and behaviour. This point is being addressed formally through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The LCWIP is outlined in the document;
 - Expanding the vision and context for transport and access, particularly in regard to place making and local community values;
 - Acknowledgement of emerging technological developments such as Connected and Autonomous Vehicles;
 - Recognition of WSCC's Local Transport Authority role;
 - Recognition of surface transport impacts of Gatwick Airport and the focus on addressing local transport connectivity.

5. Description of Issue to be resolved

- 5.1 The Sustainability Team coordinates the Borough's responses to transport and access issues and plans. The Team is taking a lead in developing a Crawley Borough Council action plan to tackle the climate emergency in which sustainable transport solutions will play a major role. The strategy issues and options document strongly reflects this role, the importance of how people move around and of healthy living for all generations.
- 5.2 The Crawley Transport Strategy issues and options document will also support the emerging Local Plan which is prioritising sustainable access and qualities of a sense of place, including a focus on healthy, attractive and thriving neighbourhoods. These aspects are also strongly highlighted in the strategy document as transport impacts significantly on the quality of place.

5.3 The Crawley Transport Strategy issue and options document is intended to highlight the Council's vision, principles and ideas for the future of transport and access in Crawley in the light of the climate emergency.

5.4 Crawley Borough Council will make use of this document to:

- Work closely with West Sussex County Council and inform the future direction of the County's Local Transport Plan from a Crawley perspective;
- Progress work on a Crawley Transport Strategy ultimately to adopt as Council policy.
- Inform the development of the Council's Climate Change Emergency Action Plan.
- Engage with national government, the Local Enterprise Partnership, the County Council and other agencies to unlock resources to develop and deliver further transport infrastructure improvement schemes in the Borough.

6. Co-operation with Local Partners

6.1 Local transport policy and planning is the statutory responsibility of West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) as the Local Transport Authority. Crawley Borough Council will need to take many elements of this Crawley Transport Strategy issues and options document forward with their agreement and cooperation.

6.2 The Council will continue to reach out to other stakeholders, partners and agencies and, particularly Neighbourhood communities, to progress development of the Crawley Transport Strategy.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no direct financial implications.

8. Equality Implications

8.1 The Council must have regard to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The public sector equality duty requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:

- a) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under that Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it; and,
- c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it, which involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:-
 - (i) tackle prejudice; and,
 - (ii) promote understanding.

8.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out and does not identify any action that needs to be taken as a result of the strategy. Any changes to service delivery that result from implementing the strategy may themselves need to be assessed separately for their impact on people with protected characteristics, and at this stage a separate EIA may be required.

8.3 The EIA is attached as Appendix B.

9. Background Papers

None

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