

Cabinet Member response to the recommendations of the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee on Preparation of the Local Transport Plan 4

I welcome the recommendations from the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee on this important matter.

I have considered each of the recommendations agreed by the committee on 12 September 2024 and my responses are as follows:

Recommendation 1

That the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth be asked to consider reviewing and clarifying the definition of key centres.

Cabinet Member Response

I am pleased to accept the recommendation and will invite the Officer/Member working group to review and consider clarifying this term.

This recommendation arose from discussion of one of the draft Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) objectives as presented in the meeting:

'Better public transport connections between key centres.'

The aim of this draft objective is to present, succinctly, the ambition to make public transport an efficient, viable and sustainable option for a greater proportion of trips, widening travel choices to a greater proportion of the plan area's population.

The term 'key centres' can be applied at a strategic level to suggest town or city centres, and at a more local level to other significant 'origins' and 'destinations', such as employment sites, education establishments, and services such as hospitals, retail, leisure etc.

The current Local Transport Plan qualifies the term 'key centres' by reference to economic centres (such as Preston and Lancaster) or areas of employment or services.

The wording will be subject to ongoing drafting as part of collaborative working between the three upper tier local authorities (in their capacity as local transport authorities), informed by an evidence base and engagement with key stakeholders and the public. The final wording is anticipated to be a decision for the County Combined Authority.

Recommendation 2

That the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth be asked to consider the inclusion of connectivity issues beyond the administrative boundaries of the three upper tier authorities of Lancashire within the Local Transport Plan 4.

Cabinet Member Response

I am pleased to accept the recommendation and will invite the Officer/Member working group to consider connectivity beyond the administrative boundaries of this Local Transport Plan.

Cross-border connectivity helps to support flows of goods and people into and out of Lancashire. Our ambitions towards establishing safe, inclusive, affordable and low carbon travel choices should sensibly include those whose journeys go beyond our administrative boundaries and consider the extent of transport routes connecting economic, service or other centres. As part of the stakeholder engagement process for the Plan's preparation, an extensive list of organisations to contact has been drawn together to include neighbouring authorities, including Transport for Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, North Yorkshire Combined Authority and Westmorland & Furness Council. Furthermore, we are working closely with Transport for the North to provide a regional context to the Plan.