



West London Economic Prosperity Board

21 September 2016

Title	Sub-Regional Transport Infrastructure Priorities
Report of	Paul Najsarek, Chief Executive LB Ealing
Wards	All West London Boroughs
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1: Sub-Regional Scale Infrastructure Long List of Options Appendix 2: Borough-Scale Infrastructure Priorities Appendix 3: West London Vision Map (Infrastructure)
Officer Contact Details	Luke Ward (WLA Interim Head of Growth, Employment and Skills) 07738 802929 WardLu@ealing.gov.uk

Summary

On 8 June 2016 the West London Economic Prosperity Board agreed the Vision for Growth Action Plan, which included a focus on identifying a small number of shared priorities relating to transport infrastructure. Accordingly, officer groups have been working to develop a “*long list*” of *potential transport infrastructure priorities* that will allow leaders and senior officers across West London to have a discussion about which ones might be identified as shared priorities, subject to further detailed transport modelling and cost-benefit analysis, and incorporated into Local Plans to form the basis of Lobbying Activity with the GLA, TfL and government. The full long list of transport infrastructure options can be found in Appendix One of this report. A shorter set of proposed priorities (para 1.6) has been extracted from this long list following individual discussions with growth directors.

Recommendations

The Board is requested to:

1. Review the infrastructure “Short List” of recommended schemes set out in para 1.6 of this report as well as the longer list set out in Appendix 1.
2. Suggest which schemes should be either added or removed (up to a maximum of five) to the recommended schemes in 1.6. Agree which schemes reflect shared priorities to be taken forward.
3. Agree the next steps set out in section 4 of this report, which state that following the identification of shared priorities by the West London Economic Prosperity Board (WLEPB) further analysis will be commissioned by Growth Directors to refine proposals, a more detailed programme will be developed by West London planning officers, and the prioritised schemes will be incorporated into the refresh process for WLEPB member Local Plans.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 At its meeting on 7 June 2015 the West London Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) agreed the Vision for Growth Action Plan, which contained a focus on agreeing and delivering a shared West London agenda relating to infrastructure planning and prioritisation.
- 1.2 Specifically, the EPB agreed that it would identify a small number of shared priorities relating to **transport infrastructure**.
- 1.3 Accordingly, a number of officer groups¹ have been working to develop a “long list” of options for sub-regional transport infrastructure priorities that will allow the EPB to have a discussion about which of these represent truly shared sub-regional priorities that all boroughs can agree will be embedded across all planning activity, for instance through refreshed local plans, a refreshed London Plan, and London Transport Strategy. Recommendations for what will be on the “Short List” of transport priorities are set out in paragraph 1.6 below.
- 1.4 The intention is that by coordinating sub-regional lobbying activity (both political and officer-level) around a smaller number of shared priorities that have a basis in both policy and evidence, there is a higher likelihood that these will secure funding and proceed to delivery phase within a reasonable time frame.
- 1.5 The full list developed by officers can be found in appendix two of this report along with an infrastructure “Vision Map” that was created earlier in the year.

¹ WestTrans, West London Planning Officers Group

- 1.6 The “Short List” of recommended transport schemes that has been distilled from the full list of sub-regional-level options in Appendix One is set out in the table below:

Scheme	Description	Time period	Priority
Airport Expansion at Heathrow	Agree to adopt a shared position on a third runway	Long	High
Orbital passenger rail connecting regeneration schemes	Connecting OPDC, Wembley, Brent Cross and Brentford via Wembley along the current “Dudding Hill” freight line, which would be activated as a passenger line.	Long	High
Hangar Lane Junction	Increase capacity of the Hangar Lane junction to improve journey times and reduce orbital congestion	Med	High

- 1.7 It should be noted that this work on transport infrastructure priorities will sit alongside future West London activity relating to digital infrastructure and the “Smart Cities” agenda, specifically in relation to reducing overall demand for transport capacity using technology e.g. encouraging more flexible ways of working (e.g. at home), driverless cars, drone delivery, and “Road Trains” for freight.
- 1.8 Clearly some of the schemes are contentious (particularly Heathrow) and due consideration needs to be given to the approach and timing of any further discussion about prioritisation to avoid creating political challenges locally, whilst recognising the significant benefits these would bring to West London’s economy.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To develop and articulate a shared West London view and approach to transport infrastructure needs and priorities, in line with the agreed West London vision for growth action plan.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 An alternative would be to have no agreed shared transport infrastructural needs or priorities underpinning the West London vision for growth. This would mean the Board’s expressed aim of developing the sub-regional scope and ambition for collaborative work on sustained economic development and growth in West London.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION (APPROACH AND NEXT STEPS)

- 4.1 This item represents the first opportunity that the board has had to discuss shared transport infrastructure priorities. This, combined with the current review of the London Plan and the expected “Fiscal Reset” that was announced by the Chancellor on 1 July 2016, means that there is a window to influence national and London-wide thinking relating to infrastructure investment.
- 4.2 Alongside the identification of actual schemes or projects West London boroughs will need to work to identify the most appropriate pathway that will result in the infrastructure priorities it identifies from the long list to be lobbied for effectively and incorporated into the London plan and the London Transport Strategy.
- 4.3 Fundamentally, the agreement of transport infrastructure priorities requires broad political agreement combined with a consistent approach to lobbying and influencing key stakeholders, including the GLA, TfL, and HM Treasury and Government Departments.
- 4.4 Following agreement of priorities by the EPB the immediate next steps are:
1. September 2016: WLEPB member boroughs **to incorporate prioritised transport schemes into the refresh process for their Local Plans**.
 2. October 2016: West London Transport Officers Group (West Trans) will develop a **detailed programme plan** for delivery of the schemes identified by the WLEPB, including timescales, communications and lobbying, planning, and financing arrangements. To be completed by March 2017.
 3. October 2016: Growth Directors to commission **more detailed economic appraisals of the recommended schemes** (particularly the orbital rail and Hangar Lane proposals) to better understand the economic benefits and viability of each, and to validate their inclusion in local and London-wide planning frameworks
 4. April 2017: Prioritised schemes embedded in to engagement and lobbying activity by members of the WLEPB in order to secure agreement by the GLA, TfL and government.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Agreed priorities will underpin the boroughs’ shared West London vision for growth and action plan; and will inform borough spatial local development frameworks and local plans and associated service business plans towards delivery e.g. economic development strategies and service plans.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 Any future resource implications will be fully developed and appraised as part of the work being overseen by the growth directors and reported at a future meeting. The Programme Plan development referred to in section 4 above (post-decision implementation) will be undertaken within the existing resources and remit of the planning officers group.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 There are no legal powers necessary for this work to continue.

5.3.2 West London Economic Prosperity Board Functions and Procedure Rules section 3.1.8 states that the a function of the Board is: "Seeking to influence and align government investment in West London in order to boost economic growth within the local government areas of the participating authorities

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 Risk assessment and management will be conducted as part of the work by directors to develop priorities.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 Equalities and diversity assessment and management will be conducted as part of the work by directors to develop priorities, and embedded into any specific transport infrastructure schemes prioritised to be taken forward.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 The West London planning policy officers' group and the West Trans group of transport planners have been consulted on this work, under the auspices of the West London growth directors' board and West London chief executives.

5.7 Insight

5.7.1 Through the involvement of the West London planning policy officers' group and the West Trans group of transport planners this work has drawn on officer expertise and borough planning priorities within existing spatial plans e.g. public local plans.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None