

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20TH June 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Environment

SUBJECT: Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel and
Transport / Accessibility Best Value Improvement
Plan Update

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Urban Renewal PPB, of the agreed membership arrangements for the forthcoming municipal year of the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel, and provide an update on progress being made to implement recommendations as set out in the recently completed Transport and Accessibility Best Value Improvement Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: - That Members note:-

- **During the municipal year 2007/8, the Halton Public Transport Liaison Panel will comprise of the following Members: Cllrs Hignett (Chair), Morley, Polhill and Sly.**
- **Progress being made to implement the recommendations as set out in the Transport and Accessibility Improvement Plan.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel

- 3.1 Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board resolved when they met on the 21st June 2006 (Minute URB12), that the Chair of Urban Renewal PPB, in consultation with the Executive Board Holder should nominate at the start of each municipal year the Chair and three Members to attend the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel.
- 3.2 The nominations for the forthcoming municipal year are as follows: -
 - Chair – Cllr Hignett
 - Other Members: - Cllr's Morley, Polhill and Sly.
- 3.3 The purpose of the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel is to: -

- Monitor the performance of the public transport network within the Borough to ensure it meets the mobility needs of local people and the principles of Best Value;
- To make recommendations to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board for amendments and improvements to the public transport network; and
- To review and comment on the effectiveness of the Council's public transport policies.

Transport and Accessibility Best Value Improvement Plan.

3.4 Urban Renewal PPB also considered a report when they met on the 15th November 2006, detailing the outcome of the recently completed Transport and Accessibility Best Value Review and requested (through Minute URB33) regular updates on progress with the various initiatives outlined in the accompanying Best Value Improvement Plan.

3.5 The Best Value Improvement Plan included a number of recommendations based on the following themes: -

- Improving the quality and accessibility of public transport services within Halton, by the introduction of a single integrated booking system;
- Developing the local bus network within the Borough;
- Improving the quality of passenger information, including the further development of real time passenger information;
- Improving further the provision of good quality and accessible transport for post sixteen learners;
- Reducing the environmental impact of passenger transport within Halton;
- Internal service improvements

3.6 Progress being made against a number of these improvement themes is detailed in Appendix One.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 As can be seen in Appendix One a number of key improvements are being made to improve public transport services and accessibility within the Borough in support of the Halton Local Transport Plan 2006/7 – 2010/11.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Progress is being made to improve access to Warrington General Hospital following the reorganisation of health care facilities between Halton and Warrington General Hospital sites during 2006.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 Many of the transport improvements set out in the Best Value Improvement Plan, are subject to the Authority securing external funding or the delivery of effective partnership agreements with key partners.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The service improvements will ensure that all sections of the community benefit from good quality public transport choices, with a special emphasis to ensure that access to key facilities is improved especially for socially excluded people.

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Final Report of the Best Value Review of Transportation and Access	Best Value and Performance Management Division, Municipal Buildings, Widnes.	Les Unsworth Best Value Advisor Ext. 1162

Appendix One –

**Transport and Accessibility Best Value Improvement Plan – Update
(June 2007)**

Improvement Theme	Initiative	Progress/Timescale	Cost (£) / Funding Source
Improving the quality and accessibility of public transport services within Halton, by the introduction of a single integrated booking system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New integrated passenger booking / scheduling system. • Launch of new “Door to Door” bookable transport service for residents. • Purchase of additional fully accessible buses for Halton Community Transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software purchased – March 07 Installation and testing (June / July 2007) • Anticipated launch of new service - October 2007. All bookings to be routed through Halton Direct Link contact centre (open 24 hrs per day) • Delivered in January 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £125,535 (Local Transport Plan) • Existing Resources • £85,000 (Local Transport Plan)
Developing the local bus network within the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of new pre –paid multi operator travel tickets (including “Halton Hopper”); • New service 700 linking Widnes to Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Manchester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced May 2006 • Introduced 3rd June 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing resources in partnership with bus operators • £87,000 over 3 years. Halton BC “pump priming” service through a 3 year funding agreement with Arriva (North

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New service linking the Borough to Warrington General Hospital • Improvements to Halton lea North Bus Station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned for September 2007 • To be completed mid August 2007. 	<p>West and Wales)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jointly funded by Halton BC and North Cheshire NHS Hospitals Trust. • £350,000 (Local Transport Plan)
<p>Improving the quality of passenger information, including the further development of real time passenger information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New computerised bus timetable information system for use at bus stops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced in December 2006 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £12,000 (Local Transport Plan)
<p>Reducing the environmental impact of passenger transport within Halton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of biofuels in the Council Fleet Vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Resources