

	<p style="text-align: center;">Highways Committee 18th October 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Head of Transportation</p>
<p>For information</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Wards Affected: All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report on meeting with the Transport Commissioner for London.</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Transport Commissioner for London is the officer responsible for managing London's transport infrastructure and implementing the (London) Mayor's transport strategy.
- 1.2 The Commissioner generally meets with the Leader, Chief Executive, Lead Members and relevant officers of each London Council once a year. This provides individual Councils with an additional opportunity to appraise the Commissioner of current strategic priorities, areas of concern and areas where joint working between TfL and the Council would be mutually beneficial.
- 1.3 The meeting with Brent took place on 16th September this year. This report provides a summary of the discussions that took place.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Committee notes the contents of the report

3.0 Details

- 3.1 The Transport Commissioner for London is the officer responsible for managing London's transport infrastructure and implementing the (London) Mayor's transport strategy.

- 3.2 The Commissioner generally meets with the Leader, Chief Executive, Lead Members and relevant officers of each London Council once a year. This provides Councils with an informal opportunity to appraise the Commissioner of current strategic priorities, areas of concern and areas where joint working between TfL and the Council would be mutually beneficial than is available through the normal communications arrangements.
- 3.3 The meeting with Brent took place at Brent Town Hall on 16th September this year. In advance of the meeting an agenda was agreed. The agenda and attendance list is shown at Appendix "A".
- 3.4 This year's meeting was different from earlier years in that the Commissioner and his supporting team used the opportunity, with the agreement of the Brent participants, to provide an extensive verbal briefing on arrangements being undertaken in preparation for the 2012 London Olympics.
- 3.5 Regrettably, and at the last moment, the Commissioner (Peter Hendy) was unable to attend the meeting and TfL's Managing Director for surface transport (Leon Daniels) had to deputise for him. Notwithstanding the absence of the Commissioner at the meeting, support arrangements are such that the Commissioner will be made fully aware of the content of discussions held.
- 3.6 The following is a summary of the discussion and outcomes:

The briefing on London 2012 Olympic preparations was not specific to Brent and has not been covered here – although it was noted that the TfL, ODA and LOCOG representatives are pleased with the working relationship that has developed between Brent and their organisations and are confident that preparations for Olympic events at the Wembley venues (and associated events such as the Torch Relay) will ensure a successful Games in Brent.

3.7 Agenda item – HS2 & Old Oak Common hub station

The Head of Transportation summarised the content of Brent's recent response to the Governments consultation on HS2 proposals, emphasising that, in the main, they were aligned with TfL's response. He explained that there were local concerns over the impact of tunnelling beneath Brent and that the Council had suggested that consideration should be given to adjusting the route and/or that more work should be done to address those concerns. He reiterated the importance of providing suitable surface and rail connectivity to the proposed Old Oak Common hub station so as to maximise opportunities for regeneration in that part of Brent closest to the hub station and explained that the Council would not be supportive of any proposals to reduce the role of Willesden Junction as a local interchange.

The TfL contingent noted the Council's views and agreed to work with the Council to influence HS2 and explore opportunities to provide appropriate surface and rail connectivity to the hub station.

3.8 Agenda item – Key rail station issues (Wembley Central & Willesden Junction stations).

The Head of Transportation noted and welcomed the improvement works taking place at Wembley Central Station which had been, in part, initiated following the Commissioners visit to Brent on a previous occasion. However he expressed concern that, in the event that the development over the station were not to be progressed in tandem with the station works, Network Rail need to construct an interim arrangement at ground level that is attractive and fit for purpose in advance of the 2012 Olympic events taking place at Wembley.

The Head of Transportation also advised the TfL contingent that the Council was concerned about the appalling state and appearance of Station Approach to Willesden Station. He explained that the Approach is used by many Brent residents. He was disappointed that, despite lobbying by the Council and residents, Network Rail had given no indication that they had definitive plans to improve the situation. He explained that future investment planned for Harlesden and for Station Road would only serve to emphasise the poor state of Station Approach.

The TfL noted the Council's concerns in relation to Wembley Central station and agreed that an attractive, fit for purpose, concourse is necessary (in advance of the Olympic events) in the event that the over station development is not progressed in tandem with Network Rail's project. They agreed to work with the Council to ensure that Network Rail understood the Council's concerns and were making appropriate contingency/interim plans to address those concerns.

TfL noted the Council's concerns over the state of Station Approach and advised that they understood the need to make improvements there. They intimated that they had been advised that Network Rail had investment plans for the Approach and undertook to work with the Council to determine the extent and timing of those plans. They undertook to arrange a meeting of the 3 parties (the Council, TfL and Network Rail) to discuss the situation.

3.9 Agenda item – UEFA Champions League Final 2013

The Head of Transportation explained that, although the 2011 UEFA Final at the Wembley National Stadium had been an overwhelming success and resulted in the FA being invited to host the 2013 event, accommodating the high number of coaches that were used to transport spectators had caused inconvenience on the local transport network.

He advised that there was an opportunity to develop arrangements in time for the 2013 final that could possibly see supporters transfer from airports using the rail and underground network (and hence avoid the need for heavy use of coaches). He explained that in early meetings with the FA they had been willing to explore those opportunities.

The TfL contingent acknowledged that the environment in which the planning for the 2011 event had taken place had changed from that that currently existed and there was an opportunity to consider a different approach for 2013.

3.10 Agenda item – Harlesden Town Centre scheme

The Head of Transportation used the opportunity to remind the TfL representatives of this scheme which would result in a step change in the quality of the environment in Harlesden. He explained that TfL had been supportive of development work to date. He sought TfL's assurance that financial and other support would continue to be provided.

The TfL representatives acknowledged the good progress made developing the scheme so far and stated that they were particularly impressed by the way the Council had engaged the local community. They confirmed support for the scheme.

3.11 Agenda item – Transport infra-structure in growth areas.

The Assistant Director for Major Projects & the Civic Centre summarised the situation in relation to development activity in Growth areas in Brent with a particular focus on developments anticipated within Wembley and progress on the Civic Centre.

He outlined the key transport interventions that would be needed to support the level of development planned and explained that the Council would need to work closely with TfL to ensure those interventions were successfully implemented. He reinforced the need for pro-active planning to support appropriate public transport links to the Civic Centre when it opened.

The TfL representatives acknowledged the scale of development envisaged within Brent and the need for close working to ensure that the transport infrastructure and services would support that development.

They were concerned to hear that Council officers were of the view that TfL bus planners took a less than pro-active approach. Council officers were invited to write to the Commissioner with details of the Council's key priorities/concerns in relation to bus operations so that a meeting could take place to consider how those concerns could be best addressed.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications flowing from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 There are no diversity implications arising from this report.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

There are no staffing or accommodation implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix "A" – Meeting agenda

Contact Officers

Tim Jackson, Head of Transportation – Tel 020 8937 5151 email tim.jackson@brent.gov.uk.

Appendix “A”

COMMISSIONER’S MEETING WITH LB BRENT

Date: Friday 16th September 2011
Time: 14.00 – 17.00
Venue: Committee Rooms 2&3, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, HA9 9HD

ATTENDEES

Transport for London

Peter Hendy	Commissioner
Alex Williams	Director, Borough Partnerships
Andrée Blake	Borough Liaison Manager

Additional Attendees for the Olympics items

Leon Daniels	TfL, Managing Director of Surface Transport
Richard Parry	TfL, Strategy & Commercial Director - LU
Graham Jones	TfL, Games Programme Director, Surface Transport
Vince Fihosy	GLA, City Operations Programme Director
Doug Arnot	LOCOG, Director of Games Operations
Simon Hall Manager	LOCOG, West London Venue Cluster
Charles Rudgard	LOCOG, Head of City Operations
Nicky Hughes	LOCOG, Head of Government Relations
Hugh Sumner	ODA, Director of Transport
Superintendent Brian Pearce	Metropolitan Police
Commander Mick Johnson Games)	Metropolitan Police (Silver Commander for

LB Brent

Cllr Ann John	Leader of the Council
Cllr Muhammed Butt	Deputy Leader of the Council
Cllr Jim Moher Transportation	Lead Member for Highways and
Cllr George Crane Projects	Lead Member for Regeneration and Major
Cllr James Powney Neighbourhoods	Lead Member for Environment &
Gareth Daniel	Chief Executive
Sue Harper Services	Director of Environment & Neighbourhood
Tim Jackson	Head of Transportation
Zerritha Brown	2012 Manager

AGENDA

Olympic Items

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| 1. Introduction | Peter Hendy |
| 2. Command , Communication & Control | Vince Fihosy |
| 3. London Events Co-ordination Calendar | Vince Fihosy |
| 4. ORN/PRN | Graham Jones |
| 5. Road Events | Graham Jones |
| 6. Venue Transport & Local Area Traffic Management & Parking Plans
Doug Arnot | |
| 7. Security | Brian Pearce |
| 8. Travel Advice & Support | Peter Hendy |
| 9. Freight | Peter Hendy |

General TfL / Brent Liaison Meeting

(Items 10 & 11 are jointly raised by TfL and Brent. Items 12- 14 are raised by Brent)

- 10. Old Oak Common / HS2
- 11. Key Rail Station Issues
- 12. UEFA 2013 Champions League – transport planning
- 13. Harlesden Town Centre Major Scheme
- 14. Transport Infrastructure in Growth Areas

