

RAIL ENHANCEMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 23RD APRIL, 2014

Present – Councillors Chadwick (Chairman), G. Harkin (Vice-Chairman), Critchley (as deputy for Councillor Wild), Haslam, Jones and Mistry (as deputy for Councillor Pickup)

Officers

Mr. S. Young	-	Assistant Director Environmental Services
Mr. G. Langley	-	Principal Engineer (Network Planning, Safety and Manager
Mr. I.D Mulholland	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Pickup and Wild.

Councillor Chadwick in the Chair

5. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and explained that the purpose of this meeting was for members to consider the progress so far and come to a decision on the next steps.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April, 2014 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

7. RAIL ASPIRATIONS – FEEDBACK FROM RAIL INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS

Mr Graham Langley, Principal Engineer (Network Planning, Safety Manager) provided the meeting with a general update on the progress on the issue of the rail aspirations and discussions with the rail industry since the last meeting.

Members were informed that it was planned that the Westhoughton line would be electrified and also platform five at Bolton Station would be developed for use towards the end of 2015.

Mr Langley upated the meeting on the main asperations of the Council some of which were clearly more deliverable than others.

Members in their discussions referred to -

- the possibility of there being two trains an hour through Bromley Cross to Blackburn and also the promotion of having a double track at Bromley Cross;
- the prospect of double track from Bolton to Blackburn and the continued use of diesel units;
- matters around the Cross Country business case;
- the possibility of having Scottish and London services;
- preparation of the general business case;
- car parking by Bromley Cross Station;
- the possibility of a second platform at Lostock;
- potential revenue issues;
- the potential for a light rail system between Bolton and Wigan using an underground electric supply;
- then location of car parks;
- the prosperity that the railway could bring to Bolton;
- the business case for the aspirations and its evaluation; and
- use of the Oyster card type system.

It was agreed that the updated information be noted.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

The Meeting discussed matters around the use of socio-economic information and the generally around the development of prime office space around the Station.

Members in their discussions referred to possible matters for inclusion in the discussion document including –

- income in the north compared with south Manchester;
- the regeneration impact;
- benefits analysis;
- talking to the business community; and
- competitors.

It was agreed that the Director of Environmental Services be asked to explore the issue of the development of a discussion document and that scoping issues be explored with the University.

9. NEXT STEPS

It was agreed that, in due course, the meeting would be apprised of an indicative timescale.

(The meeting started at 5.30 p.m. and finished at 6.15 p.m.)