

WIRRAL COUNCIL

STREETSCENE & TRANSPORT SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 7 JUNE 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

WIRRAL HOSPITALS TRAVEL PLAN - ANNUAL REVIEW

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Mott MacDonald MIS have been commissioned by Wirral Hospital NHS Trust to review and update the Wirral Hospitals Travel Plan. The Travel Plan was submitted in December 2005 to support a planning application to increase the on-site car parking provision at Arrowe Park Hospital.
- 1.2. The Travel Plan was formally approved for implementation via a Section 106 agreement. An Annual Review document has been submitted to my Department and this report summarises the aims of the review and informs elected Members of the main actions for the coming year.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Travel Plan was developed following negotiation and coordination with the Hospital Trust, my department's Sustainable Transport Co-ordinator and Merseyside TravelWise.
- 2.2. The Travel Plan was submitted in December 2005 to support a planning application, APP/2005/7159, to increase the on-site car parking provision at Arrowe Park Hospital. The Travel Plan Strategy, covering both Arrowe Park Hospital and Clatterbridge Hospital aims to reduce the levels of travel generated by the hospitals and sets out the Trust's aspirations for reducing the use of the private car as the mode of choice when travelling to the hospitals.
- 2.3. In my department approving the Travel Plan, it was agreed that an Annual Review of the plan would be undertaken and the Trust were invited to submit a progress report to this Committee. This annual review report has been prepared by Mott MacDonald on behalf of the Trust and is attached as **Appendix 1** for information.

3.0 WIRRAL HOSPITAL TRUSTS ANNUAL TRAVEL PLAN REVIEW

- 3.1. The main aims of the review of the Travel Plan are:
 - To provide an update on the circumstances surrounding the Travel Plan implementation
 - To demonstrate what has been achieved over the past 12 months

- To review future actions and target dates

3.2. The review lists the achievements of the travel plan from August 2006 to January 2007 as;

- (i) Introduction of a charging scheme for car parking at both hospital sites, as well as the issue of staff permits on a needs basis.
- (ii) Continuation of the Park and Ride Scheme with a free service every 20 minutes. The report does recognise a decline in patronage and further discussions will be taking place regarding the scheme.
- (iii) The establishment of a cycle forum and modernisation of cycle facilities at Arrowe Park Hospital, which were undertaken with the assistance of a TravelWise grant.
- (iv) Two free staff mini buses serving the two hospitals at half hourly frequencies as an alternative to private staff vehicles.
- (v) Improved travel information at Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals.
- (vi) Participation in national promotional campaigns such as "Car Free Day".
- (vii) Alterations to the location of several bus stops and improvements in service provision - following discussion with Merseytravel.
- (viii) Improvements to footways connecting bus stops to the hospital main entrance.

3.3. The annual review of the Travel Plan aids those involved in monitoring the Plan to evaluate the progress that has been made and understand where future work should be focussed in the next year. As a result the Hospital Trust have set out key action points include undertaking a patient and visitor survey in September 2007, re-establishment of regular cycle forum meetings and the development of a car share initiative. The report makes clear that the Trust will allocate sufficient resources to enable targets within the original travel plan to be met.

4.0. FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. There are no financial or significant staffing implications arising directly from this report.
- 4.2. Staff from my Department, and Merseyside TravelWise, as part of the Local Transport Plan Strategy, will continue to provide support to Wirral Hospital Trust in the development of their Travel Plan.

5.0. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. There are no specific ethnic minority, elderly persons or equal opportunities implications arising directly from this report.

6.0. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no specific planning implications arising directly from this report.

7.0. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no specific community safety implications arising directly from this report. .

8.0. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. There are no specific human rights implications arising directly from this report.

9.0. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There are no specific Local Agenda 21 Implications arising directly from this report.

10.0. ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

- 10.1. No background papers have been used in the preparation of this report.

11.0. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Travel Plan covers both Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals, which are in the Pensby/Thingwall ward and Clatterbridge ward respectively. However, these hospitals are key destinations for healthcare and employment not only for all Wirral residents, but also for people from outside the Borough.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 12.1 That your Committee notes the submission of the Annual Review of Wirral Hospitals Travel Plan and refers the report to Cabinet for endorsement.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES