
Notes

Present:

Chris Brown (Canary Wharf), Richard Dilks, Glyn Kyle, Stephen Locke, Abdikafi Rage, John Stewart, Ruth Thompson; Tim Bellenger, Janet Cooke, Richard Freeston-Clough, Sharon Malley, Robert Nicholls, Vincent Stops

1 Background

The date of this Policy committee meeting fell within the pre-election period for elections to the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. It was agreed that it would be difficult to hold meaningful public discussion of policy during the pre-election period. Therefore, the public meeting was cancelled and an all-member familiarisation event was held instead. This event was held in private to avoid the possibility of breaching rules relating to neutrality during the pre-election period.

2 Canary Wharf site visit

Members visited the Crossrail station at Canary Wharf. The station was still under construction although a significant proportion of the work was now complete.

Members noted opportunities for improving interchanges in the Canary Wharf area. They also noted that the Crossrail station, although accommodating long platforms, did not have the same height as the Canary Wharf underground station.

The visit was hosted by Transport for London, who accompanied members on the visit.

3 Abbey Wood visit

Members travelled to Abbey Wood station via the Jubilee line, DLR and Southeastern.

At Abbey Wood, members were met by Tiffany Lynch, Infrastructure & Planning Manager, Bexley Council, and Eddie Jackson, Transport Planner, Greenwich Council. Ms Lynch and Mr Jackson discussed with members issues relating to the Crossrail works at Abbey Wood station.

Members considered interchange issues at the station, including how passengers would move between bus and train. This was particularly important at Abbey Wood as many passengers accessed the station by bus from locations such as Thamesmead. Members observed bus stops near the station and expressed support for easy interchange in line with the recommendations of London

TravelWatch's Interchange Matters report. It was noted that earlier involvement of the operator and user representatives would potentially have helped.

4 Thamesmead visit

Members travelled to the Peabody Estate office in South Thamesmead by bus. Kate Greenaway, Head of Regeneration, Plumstead and West Thamesmead at the Peabody Trust, gave a presentation on development opportunities at Thamesmead and how they offered opportunities for improving transport accessibility in the area.

Cllr Daniel Francis, Head of the Bevedere Residents' Association and previous member of the London TravelWatch Board, was also in attendance for this part of the event.

Members thanked Ms Greenaway for her very interesting presentation. They noted that the current transport provision in the Thamesmead area was poor and meant that residents were not able to access work and leisure opportunities open to other Londoners. Members hoped this situation would be improved and were keen to see a review of bus routes around Thamesmead. They also welcomed the arrival of Crossrail at Abbey Wood as increasing transport options for Thamesmead residents.