

Board meeting

15 June 2021

LONDON
TRAVELWATCH

Climate Change and the role of London TravelWatch

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LTW651
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1. Purpose of the Report

With the UK hosting the Global Climate Conference in Glasgow (COP 26) this winter, 2021 is arguably the 'year of the climate'. COP 26 is being billed as the last chance for countries to commit to carbon reduction targets that could keep future temperature rises below a level that could be catastrophic for all of us. And the fact that the conference is being held in the UK gives people living here a unique chance to exert pressure on the Westminster Government, as the conference host, to set a good example when it comes to decarbonisation.

Voluntary organisations are being encouraged by their membership bodies to play their part in making their voices heard in the run-up to COP 26, and to put their own houses in order when it comes to contributing to decarbonisation. This paper seeks to: set out what we are doing already; and put forward a suggestion that we'd like the Board to approve. At the meeting, we'd also like to gather ideas from the Board about what additional actions LTW might take.

2. What London TravelWatch are doing already

As an organisation whose purpose is to improve the experience of people as they move around London, arguably, most of our work makes a contribution to decarbonising transport. Although we do represent the users of some of London's roads, most of our work is about improving public transport and making it easier to get around on foot.

In terms of our operations, we've started a conversation about how to minimise our carbon footprint:

- We've contacted the landlord of our building to ask if they will move to a renewable energy provider for our electricity, and they are looking into it
- Richard will be initiating and overseeing a lightweight 'sustainability audit' to see if there are other areas where we can make changes e.g making sure that all our printer paper is recycled; reviewing the printing of Board papers and printed reports; looking into the carbon intensity of our website and data storage; looking at whether we should have only vegetarian/sustainably sourced food and our events; and looking into food waste collection in our area of London
- I contacted our pensions provider to find out if our pensions are invested in fossil fuels, and I'm satisfied that they are not
- We already take part in the Government's cycle to work scheme

We are also starting to talk more about the climate-friendly dimension of our work in our communications.

3. Taking our actions to the next level

Although by default, our work contributes to the decarbonisation of transport, at a recent staff meeting, the suggestion was made that LTW adds a new criterion to the current list of prioritisation criteria, that allows us the option to more actively choose to work on projects which help to solve climate change. The current set of criteria are:

Relevance of the issue for London TravelWatch

We will define the relevance of the issue to London TravelWatch according to the following criteria:-

- Confirm that it is in the scope of London TravelWatch's remit and the extent to which we have discretion over becoming involved.
- Does London TravelWatch have a distinct contribution to make?
- Why is it important?
- Is this a problem now or is it likely to be one in future?
- What is the cost of inaction?
- How strong is the evidence?
- What opportunities will there be for London TravelWatch to influence the situation?

Impact on transport users in the London TravelWatch area

To identify the impact of the issue on transport users in the London TravelWatch area we will look at what the evidence shows about the impact of the problem.

We will consider whether there is a detriment or benefit to transport users. To do this we will define the impact taking into account the following criteria:-

- Numbers of transport users affected
- Whether it has implications for more than one mode of transport
- Distribution of impact on transport users in Greater London and the wider London Railway area
- Impact on transport users in vulnerable situations, especially the elderly and those with mobility impairments or those that London TravelWatch has judged should be given greater priority
- Impact on future transport users
- Impact on or links to of other London TravelWatch policies or previous research
- Whether there is a strong, very strong or escalating effect on users.

The tests above will be applied to establish whether or not London TravelWatch should become involved in new activities as well as the extent and timescales of involvement.

The proposal is that under 'impact of transport users in the LTW area', we include a new criterion:

- *"Whether working on this issue will help to contribute to the decarbonisation of transport in London"*

4. Recommendations for the Board

The Board are recommended to accept the recommendation in section 2.

Emma Gibson
Director