



**WEST
LONDON
BUSINESS**
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West London Transport and Infrastructure Commission

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of this commission is to develop ideas and provide expertise and advice on how to ensure that West London sustains the appropriate levels of investment in the right transport and infrastructure projects to remain one of the best locations in the world to do business.

Context

The population in West London is forecast to grow by around 5% by 2031, and employment is also forecast to increase by 13%.¹ This will have a significant impact on the transport demand.

This is why ensuring that we have a transport infrastructure that provides high quality mobility for our workforce and growing population is critical to maintaining our position as the UK's second largest economic powerhouse. It is a vital driver for both inward and sustained local investment – and a key factor in why businesses locate and then choose to stay in our sub-region.

High quality infrastructure is equally important to sustaining west London's economic vitality – particularly infrastructure such as broadband, power and water.

Core issues

The Commission will focus the following key areas of investigation:

- Reducing road congestion
 - o What are the causes of road congestion in West London?
 - Freight
 - Internet shopping
 - Taxis and private hire vehicles
 - Drivers not yet prepared (or able?) to shift to alternative modes of transport
 - o What are the solutions in the short/long term?

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- How to encourage rail freight for good with no origin or destination in London, or making more use of the waterways for freight transport?
 - Will new delivery services such as Parcelly, drones buzzing overhead and consolidation hubs enable more efficient movement of goods and less white vans in the last few miles to people's homes? What changes are needed to accelerate this transition?
 - How to ensure better traffic control systems and better road management?
 - Implementing existing infrastructure proposals, such as the Hammersmith flyunder or Cross city corridor tunnels? What are the relative cost-benefits of these proposals?
 - What would be the impact of driverless cars in West London in terms of congestion and road safety? Is there a potential for trials in West London?
 - How could we encourage people to leave their cars at home?
 - What innovative cycling initiatives could be actively supported by the West London business community?
- Improving public transport
 - To what extent is there a need for an improved north-south connectivity in the sub-region?
 - What are the proposed schemes and how to implement them? (e.g. Brentford-Southall Passenger Service or West London Orbital)
 - What are the relative cost-benefits of these proposals? What could be the role of private sector investment?
 - What will the impact be of potential funding cuts to north-south bus services in the coming years?
 - Enhancing west-east capacity
 - What are the merits for the sub-region's economy of extending tube and overground lines and their passenger capacity?
- Heathrow's third runway
 - What are the national/ international connectivity benefits for the sub-region?
 - What would the impacts be of a decision to proceed with a third runway on sub-regional transport and infrastructure strategies?
- Digital connectivity
 - What is the current access and affordability of high speed internet in the sub-region?
 - How can we quickly fill remaining gaps in high speed internet in the sub-region and ensure a competitive marketplace?
- Water
 - How can we improve the water efficiency and management of businesses in West London?
 - How can we ensure security of supply to businesses?
 - How can businesses contribute to improving water quality?

Membership

We envisage about 10 panel members with a chair (or co-chairs). Members will be a mix of WLB members supported by external subject experts.

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Meetings

The commission will meet at least once every three months.

- Step 1: Gathering of evidence
- Step 2: Examination of evidence
- Step 3: Identifying options available and recommendations
- Step 4: Conclusions

Steps 1 to 3 will be supported by WLB's wider events programme, as well as group email lists for the panel members and secretariat.

Reporting

The commission will keep the WLB board updated on the progress of their investigations at quarterly intervals. These will also be available on the internet.

The commission's final report will be presented first to the board of WLB for endorsement in Q1/Q2 2017. It will provide critical input to shaping WLB's future public policy voice. The report will then be presented to the West London Alliance (WLA), local MPs, the Mayor of London and other key decision-makers.

Resources and budget

The commissions will be supported by the WLB staff team who will provide the secretariat. Meetings will be hosted by member companies. Additional expenses from hosting meetings to travel and design/print of publications will be underpinned by sponsorship.

Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the WLB and wider stakeholder community during February 2016. They will be approved and finalised by the end of March 2016 at the first meeting of the commission panel.

ⁱ TfL, Mayor of London: *West London Sub-regional Transport Plan (2014 update)* - <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/west-srtp-plan-update-2014.pdf> [Accessed 4 Feb 2016]