

Greater Manchester Transport Committee

Date: 13 September 2019

Subject: Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) Briefing

Report of: Kate Brown, Director of Corporate Affairs, TfGM

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an overview of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) and asks members to recommend a policy/research proposal that CLES could undertake to support the policy development work of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are asked to:

- Review the key policy areas and previous commission for TfGM;
- Discuss areas of interest for the Committee under its remit for policy development; and
- Recommend a specific proposal that the Committee could commission CLES to undertake under TfGM's membership subscription.

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Risk Management – n/a

Legal Considerations – n/a

Financial Consequences – n/a

Financial Consequences – n/a

Number of attachments included in the report: Nil

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Nil

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		None
GMTC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
n/a	n/a	

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) is a Manchester-based independent think tank who develop economic and social research and policy focused on people and place.
- 1.2 TfGM have been longstanding members of CLES, providing a seat at on the Board for a nominated member of GM Transport Committee (currently Cllr Mark Aldred) and access to GMTCC Committee members and officers of standard CLES services. A specific research and/or policy commission is included as part of this membership subscription.
- 1.3 The Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR) sets out that the Committee's work should ensure the integration of local transport policy (i.e. Transport Strategy 2040). The ToR also set out that the Committee also has an important role in helping to shape the development of transport strategy and policies, and in advising the GMCA and the Mayor on specific transport issues. One of the key facets of the Committee's work is to undertake policy development on specific issues.
- 1.4 This brief sets out the key policy areas CLES' work focuses on to inform discussion and enable members to recommend a specific policy and/or research proposal that CLES could be commissioned to produce to support the Committee's remit of undertaking policy development work.

2 KEY AREAS OF CLES WORK

- 2.1 CLES' work has focused on the following areas:
 - Community wealth building - to develop local ownership, and local supply chains and working with key public, commercial and social institutions to facilitate this, including ensuring social value and well-being is embedded into the behaviour of all partners.
 - Making public services excellent – working with local government and public services to ensure they are innovative, effective and efficient in fulfilling their role to serve communities and enhance places.
 - Creating resilient places - offering strategic support and policy advice to local government as to how they can build resilience into public policy and public service delivery.

- Addressing poverty and disadvantage – developing and implementing policies which build up public, social and commercial ability to address poverty and need.
- Identifying and measuring what works - measuring the impact of policy and practice, identifying what works in creating and enhancing effective economic and social growth, and public services. This work also seeks to influence the behaviour of key decision-makers.

3 PREVIOUS TFGM COMMISSIONS

3.1 CLES has provided a range of services to TfGM and other Greater Manchester family partners, as well as previous transport committees to develop research and policy understanding in different areas. Previous commissions for TfGM include:

- Producing a report on active travel which outlined the policy context, the overlap between transport and health, and explored the clinically robust evidence for the health impact of active travel.
- CLES also convened a workshop to discuss joint working on the issue of active travel in GM to help forge greater links between TfGM and the GM Health and Social Care Partnership.

3.2 The types of work CLES could undertake include:

- The role of public transport in reducing public health inequalities - access to and availability of public transport can be both a barrier to and enabler of improved public health, a research proposal could identify key barriers and make recommendations for GMTCC, TfGM and health partners for further work in this area.
- The role of public transport in tackling economic disadvantage – how public transport can reduce barriers to education and employment and make recommendations for further policy work in this area.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Recommendations are set out at the front of this report.

Andy Sweeting

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