

Western Gateway Rail Strategy

Statement for ESC March 2020

Consultants WSP are contracted on behalf of the Western Gateway Transport Steering Group to develop a Rail Strategy outlining how rail will contribute to the vision and objectives for transport in the Gateway region.

To date, WSP have consulted with officers of local authorities and other stakeholders to define a set of objectives based on five themes. These themes are:

Choice – Decarbonisation – Social Mobility – Productivity – Growth

The study has also made extensive reference to context, including current policy and prospects for change, particularly related to technological innovation and climate.

The study has progressed to a set of generic “conditional outputs”, specifying up to six targets for improvement attached to each of the five objectives, related to things such as journey times, connections, station accessibility and ticketing.

Current stage of the study is due to be completed in advance of the WG board meeting on 4th March. Identification of specific locations and schemes would come in the next stage of the study, details of which, at 24th February, had not been finalised. The work is expected to be substantially complete by September 2020.

A report to ESC is scheduled for 6th May.