

# **Southwark Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Peak Time Travel** 

**March 2017** 

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## **Section 1: Introduction**

## **Background**

In April 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) agreed to carry out an investigation into the issue of peak time travel in our borough. Our objective was to produce a report which could highlight particular 'sticking points' in the experience of peak time travel for Southwark residents. In addition we wanted to look at how the council was engaging with various stakeholders in order to identify these issues and take action to address them.

It was acknowledged at the start of this scrutiny that many of these issues would only be fully addressed by working with external bodies, such as TfL. The scrutiny committee has therefore looked at the structures within the council for communicating and working with other bodies.

The committee has not sought to be prescriptive on the definition of 'peak time travel'. We have worked on the basis that this is generally understood to be times when there is particular pressure on transport, such as when people are getting to and from work or dropping children off at school.

#### Methodology

In order to investigate this issue the Overview and Scrutiny Committee did the following:

- The committee interviewed Val Shawcross, Deputy Mayor for Transport and Deputy Chair of Transport for London, in a public session.
- The committee interviewed Simon Bevan, Director of Planning at Southwark Council, whose responsibilities cover management of the Transport Policy Team.
- We gathered a series of key statistics regarding peak time travel in the borough.
- In a private session, the Chair interviewed Simon Bevan and Pip Howson, Team Leader Transport Policy.
- Received various briefing notes and information from the Southwark Transport Policy Team.
- Undertook a survey of Southwark Residents to gather information on peak time travel issues.
- Covered the issue of peak time travel in public interviews with Councillor Ian Wingfield (Cabinet Member for Environment and the Public Realm) and Councillor Mark Williams (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and New Homes).

## Section 2: Key Data on Peak Time Travel in Southwark

## Introduction

OSC has collected data from various sources to identify key issues which are having a negative impact on the peak-time commutes of Southwark residents. One of these sources is the survey which OSC carried out between June and December 2016 with the aim of identifying some of the more prominent issues. Clearly, the method of collection means that the information collected is qualitative, but the table below does provide some statistics on the kind of issues which were mentioned.

Table 1: Summary of issues mentioned in OSC Peak Time Travel Survey

Issue	Mentions	Further detail
Road Congestion	33	Jamaica Road mentioned x19
Overcrowded trains and/or stations	25	Denmark Hill, Peckham Rye and Canada Water
Overcrowded buses or irregular buses	16	C10 x 3
Cycle safety	10	Portland Street mentioned x3
Buses stopping early	7	63 route mentioned x3, C10 route x2
Traffic speeds too high	4	
63 Bus Extension	2	Proposal to extend route south to link with Honor Oak Park Station
Pedestrian Safety	2	
Parking	1	
Poor Road Surface	1	Croxted Road
Tower Bridge lifting	1	

More information from the survey will be used in the sections below.

#### **Buses**

#### **Bus speeds in Southwark**

TfL collates bus speed data on a 4 weekly basis across all routes and at an individual borough level. Over the past 2 reporting years (14/15 and 15/16) the overall all day average bus speed (mph) across London boroughs has dropped from 9.6mph in 2014/15 to 9.4mph in 2015/16. Figures for Southwark show a significantly worse reduction in speeds: an average of 8.5mph for 14/15 and 7.9mph for 15/16.

In the AM peak, the latest speed data for bus routes in Southwark covers the first 6 periods for 2016 (01/04/16-20/08/16). The following table shows the slowest fifty routes ordered by average speed in all the reference periods (AM peaks) from the worst to the best. From this is evident that routes RV1, 345, 35, 45, 40, 43, 100, 12, 344, 17, 78, 133, 225, 48, 68, 47, 21, 1, 141, 149 have an average speed less than 6.6 mph (which is the speed of an average person running.

The routes included in the table are all the routes that have a segment of the route within Southwark Boundary. These include routes such as 17, 43,48,141,149,521 etc which terminate at London Bridge but the only stop within the borough is London Bridge and then they serve only other boroughs.

Table 2: The slowest 50 bus routes operating in Southwark (AM Peak)

Rank	Route	Destination	Periods 01-06 2016, Mean Observed Speed
1	RV1	Covent Garden / Catherine Street	5.2
2	345	Natural History Museum / Cromwell Road	5.7
3	35	Clapham Junction Station / Falcon Road	5.8
4	45	King's Cross Station / York Way	5.9
5	35	Shoreditch	5.9
6	35	Clapham Junction Station / Falcon Road	6
7	40	Rood Lane	6
8	35	Clapham Junction Station / Falcon Road	6
9	43	London Bridge Station	6
10	35	Shoreditch	6
11	100	Elephant & Castle / Newington Causeway	6.1
12	40	Duke's Place	6.1
13	100	St George's Town Hall / Shadwell Stn	6.1
14	35	Shoreditch	6.1
15	12	Margaret Street / Oxford Circus	6.1
16	344	Appold Street	6.1
17	17	Archway Station / Macdonald Road	6.1
18	344	Clapham Junction Station	6.1
19	40	Duke's Place	6.2
20	345	Natural History Museum / Cromwell Road	6.2
21	59	King's Cross Station / York Way	6.3
22	17	London Bridge	6.3
23	78	Curtain Road	6.3
24	133	Liverpool Street Station	6.3
25	225	Canada Water Bus Station	6.3

26	48	London Bridge	6.3
27	68	Euston Bus Station	6.3
28	45	Atkins Road / New Park Road	6.4
29	47	Shoreditch	6.4
30	21	Newington Green	6.4
31	40	Dulwich Library	6.4
32	1	Tottenham Court Road	6.4
33	141	London Bridge Station	6.4
34	149	London Bridge Station	6.5
35	176	Tottenham Crt Rd Stn /Gt Russell St	6.5
36	345	Natural History Museum / Cromwell Road	6.5
37	42	Appold Street	6.5
38	40	Dulwich Library	6.5
39	63	King's Cross Station / York Way	6.5
40	453	Great Central Street	6.5
41	436	Paddington Station	6.6
42	188	Russell Square	6.6
43	RV1	Tower Gateway Station	6.6
44	159	Marble Arch Station	6.6
45	172	King Edward Street	6.6
46			6.6
47	521	Waterloo Station / Mepham Street	6.7
48	345	Peckham Bus Station	6.7
49	196	Elephant & Castle / Newington Causeway	6.7
50	185	Victoria Station	6.7

OSC recognises that this data in particular is difficult to draw firm conclusions from because of the impact that temporary traffic congestion may have on some routes.

## **Bus overcrowding in Southwark**

Unlike the railway industry, which has its own measure of overcrowding (passengers in excess of overcrowding – PIXC), the bus industry does not have equivalent data readily available in the public domain. TfL does not have a mechanism for systematically measuring overcrowding on buses across the various bus routes.

There is also no specific data available in the public domain that highlights the number of buses which do not pick up passengers at stops because they are full.

The nearest comparable data relates to the waiting times experienced by passengers at stops. TfL publishes data on the scheduled waiting times and actual waiting times for individual bus routes. In addition it measures the ratio between the scheduled and average wait times as a % for each route. This provides an indication of the percentage extra time you might have to wait for a bus on a particular route. In addition more detailed statistics

as to the probability of having to wait a specific amount of time is available. This is available for high frequency services across the borough. The reasons for the wait time excesses will be a combination of factors relating to congestion and possibly being unable to board due to overcrowding.

This data shows that the routes which have the greatest likelihood of users having to wait longer than the scheduled wait time are routes 63 (47%), 345 (37%), 12, 21 and 133 (36%). In contrast, the routes least likely to attract an excess wait are routes 360 (11%), 45 (12%) and 322 (13%). The average across the borough is 25%.

OSC recognises the limitations of this data because it does not tell us where bus scheduling is inadequate for the demand on those buses. For example, overcrowding on the C10 bus route was mentioned several times in the OSC peak time travel survey and yet this is not reflected in the data above.

#### **Buses serving Southwark terminating early**

There were strong opinions expressed in the OSC peak time travel survey regarding the early termination of buses before they reach their originally scheduled destination. One respondent stated:

"[The problem is] buses that do not actually travel as far as the destinations they are supposed to, according to the signs on the front; this is very unfair to all bus users who may have no other way of reaching their destination. It happens on routes 63, 12, 177 to my certain knowledge and I suspect on many other routes too, and it happens throughout the day."

Records of bus routes passing through Southwark which are terminated early is undertaken on a route specific basis. Data is kept by TfL and made available in the public domain on an ad hoc basis. Currently it has not been possible to obtain latest data.

An alternative source of data is the % of miles operated by route against the minimum required standard. The following table provides an indication of this for the period 27/06/15-24/06/16. The worst performing routes for percentage of miles operated were routes 100 (90.4%). 42 (92.7%), 21 (93%), RV1 (93.2%) and 63 (93.4%). The best performing routes were Night Bus routes N344 (99.6%), N37 (99.4%), N36 (99.2%) and N381 (99.0%). For the majority of routes the minimum required standard was 98% and for a few routes 99.0%. Across the borough only 11 of the 63 routes met or exceeded the 98.0% minimum standard. Similar figures for routes with a 99% minimum standard revealed only 5 routes out of the 25 routes met or exceeded the standard. Therefore, in 2015/16 across the borough only 16 routes of the 88 routes operated to or in excess of the minimum required route mileage. The borough average of percentage mileage operated was 96.9%.

Route	Average % mileage operated (27/06/15- 24/06/16)	% minimum standard
100	90.4	98
42	92.7	98
21	93	98
RV1	93.2	98
63	93.4	98
1	93.5	98
381	93.5	98
453	94.4	98

521       94.6       98         78       94.7       98         172       95.1       98         C10       95.1       98         345       95.2       98         P12       95.2       98         188       95.4       98         133       95.5       98         59       95.6       98         171       95.7       98         47       96       98         176       96.1       98         12       96.2       98         45       96.2       98         343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         149       96.3       98         177       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98         199       96.6       98	225	94.6	98
78       94.7       98         172       95.1       98         C10       95.1       98         345       95.2       98         P12       95.2       98         188       95.4       98         133       95.5       98         59       95.6       98         171       95.7       98         47       96       98         176       96.1       98         12       96.2       98         45       96.2       98         343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         44       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98	521		
172       95.1       98         C10       95.1       98         345       95.2       98         P12       95.2       98         188       95.4       98         133       95.5       98         59       95.6       98         171       95.7       98         47       96       98         176       96.1       98         12       96.2       98         45       96.2       98         343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         44       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98			
C10         95.1         98           345         95.2         98           P12         95.2         98           188         95.4         98           133         95.5         98           59         95.6         98           171         95.7         98           47         96         98           176         96.1         98           12         96.2         98           45         96.2         98           343         96.2         98           43         96.3         98           149         96.3         98           4         96.4         98           177         96.4         98           68         96.5         98           N12         96.5         99           N89         96.5         99           P5         96.5         98			1
345       95.2       98         P12       95.2       98         188       95.4       98         133       95.5       98         59       95.6       98         171       95.7       98         47       96       98         176       96.1       98         12       96.2       98         45       96.2       98         343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         149       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98			
P12       95.2       98         188       95.4       98         133       95.5       98         59       95.6       98         171       95.7       98         47       96       98         176       96.1       98         12       96.2       98         45       96.2       98         343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         149       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98			-
188       95.4       98         133       95.5       98         59       95.6       98         171       95.7       98         47       96       98         176       96.1       98         12       96.2       98         45       96.2       98         343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         149       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98			+
133       95.5       98         59       95.6       98         171       95.7       98         47       96       98         176       96.1       98         12       96.2       98         45       96.2       98         343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         149       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98			+
59       95.6       98         171       95.7       98         47       96       98         176       96.1       98         12       96.2       98         45       96.2       98         343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         149       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98			+
47       96       98         176       96.1       98         12       96.2       98         45       96.2       98         343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         149       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98	59	95.6	98
47       96       98         176       96.1       98         12       96.2       98         45       96.2       98         343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         149       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98	171	95.7	98
12     96.2     98       45     96.2     98       343     96.2     98       43     96.3     98       149     96.3     98       4     96.4     98       177     96.4     98       68     96.5     98       N12     96.5     99       N89     96.5     99       P5     96.5     98		96	98
45 96.2 98  343 96.2 98  43 96.3 98  149 96.3 98  4 96.4 98  177 96.4 98  68 96.5 98  N12 96.5 99  N89 96.5 99  P5 96.5 98	176	96.1	98
343       96.2       98         43       96.3       98         149       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98	12	96.2	98
43       96.3       98         149       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98	45	96.2	98
149       96.3       98         4       96.4       98         177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98	343	96.2	98
4 96.4 98 177 96.4 98 68 96.5 98 N12 96.5 99 N89 96.5 99 P5 96.5 98	43	96.3	98
177       96.4       98         68       96.5       98         N12       96.5       99         N89       96.5       99         P5       96.5       98	149	96.3	98
68     96.5     98       N12     96.5     99       N89     96.5     99       P5     96.5     98	4	96.4	98
N12     96.5     99       N89     96.5     99       P5     96.5     98	177	96.4	98
N89     96.5     99       P5     96.5     98	68	96.5	98
P5 96.5 98	N12	96.5	99
	N89	96.5	99
199 96.6 98	P5	96.5	98
	199	96.6	98
468 96.6 98	468	96.6	98
N155 96.6 99	N155	96.6	99
N35 96.6 99	N35	96.6	99
N345 96.7 99	N345	96.7	99
N453 96.7 99	N453	96.7	99
35 96.8 98	35	96.8	98
159 96.8 98	159	96.8	98
141 96.9 98	141	96.9	98
17 97.1 98	17	97.1	98
36 97.1 98	36	97.1	98
37 97.1 98	37	97.1	98
333 97.1 98	333	97.1	98
360 97.1 98	360	97.1	98
P4 97.1 98	P4	97.1	98
P13 97.2 98	P13	97.2	98
322 97.3 98	322	97.3	98
168 97.4 98	168	97.4	98

Data from the OSC peak time travel survey backs up the suggestion in this table that there are particular problems with the number 63 bus route in terms of early terminations.

In addition, five respondents to the survey specifically mentioned the possibility of extending the Southbound 63 bus route to Honor Oak Park Station to enable commuters to link up with rail services from that station.

#### **Trains**

#### **Station overcrowding**

Overcrowding at stations appears to be a significant issue according to the OSC peak time travel survey. Overcrowded trains or stations accounted for roughly a quarter of all the responses received. One respondent said this about the overcrowding at Canada Water Station:

"Northbound trains arriving full at Surrey Quays station and then overcrowding at Canada Water, Surrey Quays station no longer fit for purpose for peak times - it needs a major rebuild with lifts and more barriers. Where's the aspiration?"

League tables of most overcrowded stations are not specifically recorded. The Network Rail report on stations (2011) did not conclude any stations within Southwark to be classified as 'overcrowded'. However, the 'Fruin level' of pedestrian density can be applied to stations. Fruin Level A is free circulation. Fruin Level F represents a complete breakdown in circulation with frequent stoppages.

The nearest statistical indication of station usage/overcrowding is the Office of Rail Regulation annual passenger flows data. The latest available data (2014/15) is shown below for stations within Southwark.

Station	2014/15 entries and exits	% Change over 2013/14
Canada Water	10,330,664	66.30%
Queen's Road Peckham	1,790,786	13.00%
Surrey Quays	2,653,852	11.60%
Elephant & Castle	3,256,608	10.30%
Denmark Hill	5,631,008	9.00%
Peckham Rye	5,074,080	8.80%
Sydenham Hill	700,334	8.80%
Rotherhithe	1,199,310	8.30%
West Dulwich	1,104,914	7.80%
Blackfriars	15,149,024	5.10%
Nunhead	1,286,764	4.20%
South Bermondsey	806,052	1.20%
North Dulwich	830,808	-4.60%
East Dulwich	1,993,304	-5.90%
London Bridge	49,517,854	-14.00%

Significant issues at Canada Water and Surrey Quays raised in the survey are confirmed by this data, but there is clearly growing pressure at Queen's Road Peckham, Denmark Hill and Peckham Rye.

#### Peak time train overcrowding for Southwark residents

Clearly, the issues of over-crowded stations and overcrowded trains are related, but it was useful for OSC to consider the different sets of data.

To give a flavour of the kind of frustration caused by late and cancelled trains, this is a response from the OSC Peak Time Travel Survey:

"I travel from Peckham Rye to Euston station every day, using the South Eastern service via Victoria station. This service is frequently late; on some occasions, it is cancelled without notice. GTL have suspended this service on Sundays now. As a student, this makes travel very difficult. What I would like is for train companies and rail stations to offer better advice and support as to how to get to your destination when ordinary services are disrupted."

Train travel is key challenge for those travelling in the peak hours. Two of the most severely overcrowded rail services in the UK serve Southwark<sup>1</sup>, the most overcrowded service in the UK was the 07:00 Brighton-Bedford service. The number of passengers in excess of capacity (PIXC) is 513 which represents a standard class load factor of 222%. In 8<sup>th</sup> place was the 08:08 Sutton-St Albans City service. The number of passengers in excess of capacity is 489. This represents a standard class load factor of 166%.

The morning peak route into Blackfriars via Elephant & Castle experienced the highest number of passengers in excess of capacity (PIXC) <sup>2</sup>) across London. In the evening peak the routes out of Blackfriars via Elephant & Castle was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest across London.

Similar figures for routes into London Bridge reveal that levels are the lowest of all routes into London. However, this still retains a PIXC figure of 5.8%. For routes out of London Bridge the PIXC was 0.7% which was the lowest across London. The average evening peak PIXC was 2.8%.

## **Train delays for Southwark residents**

Train service performance data is not officially reported on in the public domain by individual service. It is reported by individual franchise and within that it is possible that each service group (group of lines) is reported on for each reporting period (4 weeks) as a % of trains running/operated arriving at their end destination within 5 minutes of the scheduled arrival time. This is known as the Public Performance Measure. Other indices of performance include:

- Right-time performance (RT) the percentage of trains arriving at their terminating station early or within 59 seconds of schedule.
- Cancellation and significant lateness (CaSL) the percentage of trains which are cancelled at origin/en route, the originating station is changed, the train fails to make a scheduled stop at a station or is significantly late (i.e. arrives at its terminating station 30 minutes or more late).
- The Moving Annual Average (MAA) for PPM and RTT is calculated over 365 days to the end of Period 7 (15/10/16).

Results for the latest period (Period 7 - 18/09 - 15/10) for each of the operators serving Southwark (London Overground, Southern, Southeastern and Thameslink) can be found below.

Operator	Route	PPM %	PPM MAA	RT %	RT MAA %	CaSL %	CaSL
			%				MAA %
London	London Overground	94.3%	94.6%	73.9%	76.7%	2.4%	2.2%
Overground	East London Railways (including	92.4%	93.5%	65.1%	70.7%	3.5%	2.6%
	West Croydon services						
Govia Thameslink	Govia Thameslink Railway	75.4%	76.0%	45.5%	46.7%	7.9%	7.9%
Railway	Southern Mainline and Coast	74.0%	72.8%	41.3%	41.5%	8.2%	9.4%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Department for Transport, July 2016

<sup>2</sup> Passengers in Excess of Capacity (PIXC) - This is the number of standard class passengers on a service that are in excess of the standard class capacity at the critical load point.

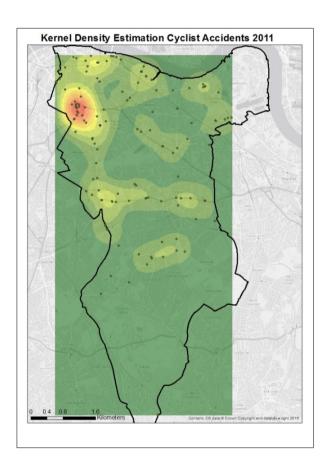
	Southern Metro	74.0%	78.0%	42.6%	46.6%	9.9%	7.6%
	Thameslink	78.9%	76.5%	55.5%	54.2%	6.4%	7.5%
Southeastern	Southeastern	90.9%	86.2%	65.9%	57.5%	2.3%	3.8%
	Mainline and high speed	88.7%	84.5%	62.7%	56.2%	1.9%	3.8%
	Metro (including other rural)	92.0%	87.1%	67.6%	58.2%	2.5%	3.8%

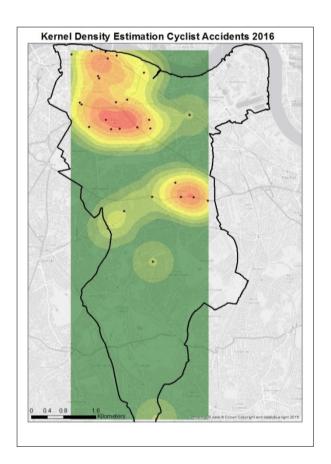
Source: Network Rail (2016)

## Hotspots for accidents involving a cyclist in Southwark during peak-times.

Data about cyclist accidents in Southwark were extracted from the STAT19 database from 2010 to the first 6 months of 2016 between 7:30 am and 10 am and between 4 pm to 7pm.

Following maps show how the hotspot of the accident locations changed from 2011 to 2016. It is observable that the trend moved from a concentration (Elephant & Castle) to multipolar hotspots changing over the years but still on main corridors, including Peckham, Tooley Street and Old Kent Road.





## Section 3: How the council processes this and achieves improvements

The council has two areas that manage the transport environment, the transport policy team focus on strategic planning for the transport environment and in general the physical changes to public realm are designed and delivered by the Environment & Leisure Public Realm team. There are also key strategic projects where transport is only part of the elements and are managed by the Regeneration division.

Clearly, a crucial element of the council's work on addressing peak time travel issues is engaging with TfL. As one officer put it, "90% of our strategy is asking TfL to do things."

In respect to the rail/underground network there are two other key bodies in addition to TfL. Network rail who are responsible for the infrastructure and mainline stations (London Bridge) and Thameslink/ Southern Railways who are responsible for services and the management of stations

## Overview of the work of the Transport Policy team

The transport policy team aims to ensure that the council's policy is robust and up to date. They seek to maximise funding opportunities and monitor the delivery of the policy to meet national, regional and local performance indicators.

The team research and develop transport policy and plans for the Council. For example, they are currently focussing on Kerbside strategy and the delivery of the cycling strategy. Their lobbying for strategic transport improvements is currently focussing on the Bakerloo Line extension and a new station at Camberwell.

#### The Transport Plan

The council's transport related objectives and policies are set out in the adopted Southwark Transport Plan 2011 (also known as LIP2 – Local Implementation Plan). There is a statutory requirement for the Transport Plan / LIP to respond to the objectives of the Mayor's Transport Strategy and related Mayoral initiatives such as the Vision for Cycling. The plan also reflects the council's own objectives. As well as the Mayor's Transport Strategy, the plan responds to broad pan-London objectives and initiatives such as the work of the Roads Task Force, Safe Streets for London, air quality initiatives and others.

See the next section on key interventions for further reference to the Southwark Transport Plan.

The Southwark Transport Plan has a number of objectives, policies and related targets for the borough. The table below provides an overview of our key targets.

Cycling Increase the proportion of those cycling in Southwark from 4.6% in 2013/14 to 10% by 2025/26

Walking Increase the walking mode share in Southwark to 33% by 2016/17

Road Safety Reduce the number of all total casualties by 33% by 2020

Reduce the number of killed and seriously injured by 33% to 2020 Reduce the total number of slight casualties by 33% by 2020

Reduce all cyclist casualties by 44% by 2020

Buses Excess wait times for high frequency bus services from 1.0 minute to 0.9 of a minute in 2017/18

Assets Maintain the proportion of principal road length in poor condition at 11.1% by 2017/18

Air Quality Reduce CO2 emissions from road based transport from 227kt CO2 in 2008 to 174 k tonnes by

2016

Traffic Reduce traffic levels in Southwark by 6% by 2016

The council collects a wide range of transport related data so that we can track our progress against our targets and policies, but also so that we can investigate concerns and issues and identify future schemes and priorities. Our progress is monitored annually and past results can be viewed on the link below

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/2873/annual monitoring prospectus.

## **Southwark Council direct funding of schemes**

In addition to funding from TfL and CIL, the council invests a significant amount in highways and transport schemes through its revenue budget. This includes the borough's parking, maintenance and highway asset programmes. The council's highways and transport services budget is determined annually and we endeavour to align the maintenance programmes alongside that of the transport investment programme. Council capital is also a source of significant investment and is expected to fund in large the delivery of the Southwark cycling spine route.

- The council funds schemes such as:
- Council Cycle Fund
- Legible London
- Street trees
- Lighting improvements
- Permit schemes for road works
- Fleet improvements

#### **Southwark Council direct funding of schemes**

During the interview with officers from Transport Policy with the Chair of OSC, the question was asked: Where do officers collect information from in order to prioritise their work? The sources given were:

- Community Council meetings
- Cabinet members
- Direct communications with residents
- Direct communications from other councillors
- Accident statistics

#### **Cycle Hire Schemes**

During the interview with officers, the Chair of OSC asked about the possibility of directly funded cycle hire schemes to supplement. Officers stated that this was a possibility and members of the Transport Policy Team were already investigating this. Part of the reason for this is that TfL's expansion of the cycle hire program has already taken place in West and East London. In those places boroughs were not asked to pay. However, in Southwark, we are currently being asked to pay.

When the committee interviewed Val Shawcross, a councillor used the example of St Thomas Street which had just been reopened with no cycle facilities. She said that the refreshed cycling and walking policy would ensure that cyclists and pedestrians are the top of the road use hierarchy. "Acts of travel, healthy streets - we are interested in all of that, we don't see them as contradictory rather we see them as complimentary, mutually supportive, and we might find it easier to negotiate some schemes with residents if they're aware of the fact that we're not just talking about our cyclists, who are important, but residents and pedestrians as well.

In the recommendations at the end of this report OSC addresses this issue directly.

## Section 4: Key opportunities to intervene

As has already been noted, engaging with TfL is central to addressing peak time travel problems for residents of Southwark.

During their interview, officers explained to the Chair of OSC that this engagement happens in two primary ways. Firstly, there are the larger scale reviews which TfL carries out and which London Boroughs are asked to contribute to.

Secondly, there are more regular meetings with TfL's 'Borough Partnerships Team'. It is standard for Southwark officers from Highways to attend these meetings, but when there are issues of strategic, senior officers from Transport Policy will attend and/or, when large strategic projects are being discussed, the Chief Executive.

The major forthcoming opportunity to make the case for addressing these issues is our contribution to the Mayor of London's review of Transport Strategy. Southwark will soon be formally asked to update our local implementation plan (The Southwark Transport Plan) This is when the council puts Southwark's transport needs to TfL. The council will be given guidance from TfL on this document in Easter 2017 and then have one year to complete and submit the plan. Officers are currently intending to update the existing plan rather than do a complete revision.

Officers have stated that the Southwark Transport Plan used to be a longer list of smaller projects, but they have found that it is now more effective to group them into larger projects.

In his interview with OSC, the Head of Planning, Simon Bevan was asked: "What work is currently ongoing at the council, which the scrutiny committee can feed into, with regard to Peak Time Travel?"

He answered: "Delivering on transport is primarily the responsibility of TfL. So we are charged with, and there are a number of items in the council plan, to lobby for certain things. So, we're lobbying for the Bakerloo line extension and the cycle hire scheme. We have an ongoing responsibility to look at bus services and how they are being run. Now and again, when the franchises come up for renewal, we can make comment on and influence these things. And with road traffic we have an ongoing responsibility to looks at what the borough's population needs. But it's mainly lobbying, because TfL have the money and they have the power."

In her interview with OSC, Deputy Mayor Val Shawcross stated: "So there will be a limit to how much really big new stuff can be done, but the Mayor's Transport Strategy is thinking thirteen years ahead and we need to kick off in January. But the thinking now is about getting ahead of the game, is working out your plan. We need your insight and so it is worth reviewing your aspirations."

#### **Conclusions**

Identifying issues which cause misery for Southwark residents has not been difficult. The data gathered in this report has confirmed some well known problems, but also uncovered others which have not received so much attention before. Southwark Transport Policy Team do an excellent and professional job of identifying transport problems and developing programmes and lobbying strategies to address them. The Committee was impressed with the information provided during the scrutiny process and with the range of work the team carries out. The Committee feels that work on the new Southwark transport Plan could help to drill down to more specific "problem-solving".

More engagement with ward councillors and more regular reviews of the transport plan may help in doing this. Transport problems can be uniquely frustrating for residents and it is important that they feel their council knows about these more discrete problems and is doing all it can to get them addressed. The recommendations below are therefore aimed at encouraging the council to operate at the limits of its powers and push TfL on the issues which can cause so much anger and frustration.

## Recommendations

- There is significant appetite in the borough for increased access to cycle hire facilities. Both
  officers and the Deputy Mayor stated that Southwark council is able to make capital
  investments into directly funded schemes. Given the current difficulties with getting fairly
  funded schemes provided by TfL, Southwark Council should move ahead with directly
  funding schemes in the borough.
- 2. Southwark's revised Transport Plan should include measures to address the following issues which are clearly of great importance to the people of the borough:
- Congestion on Jamaica Road
- Overcrowding, early cancellations and delays on the 63 bus route
- Overcrowded trains on the Sutton-St Albans City service and peak-time routes into and from Blackfriars via Elephant & Castle.
- Overcrowding, early cancellations and delays on the C10 bus route
- Cycle accident hotspots which are now concentrated on the main corridors to and from Peckham, Tooley Street and Old Kent Road.
- The extension of the 63 bus route, Southbound to link up with Honor Oak Park Station.
- Overcrowding on the 345, 12, 21 and 133 bus routes
- 3. Key targets in the new Southwark Transport Plan should include performance indicators focussed on improving the peak time travel experience of Southwark residents, including the reduction in delays and overcrowding of public transport.
- 4. The last Southwark Transport Plan was updated in 2011 and is being reviewed now. To ensure the plan and its objectives is more directly aligned to the needs to Southwark residents, in future the plan should be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

- 5. The review of the Southwark Transport Plan should include an analysis of transport related member enquiries.
- 6. The review of the transport plan should include consultation with all Councillors in their roles as ward representatives on smaller (non-strategic) issues which might otherwise be lost.