

Terms of Reference

1.0 Title: Sustainable Transport Task Force

2.0 Background: The Task Force has been established to consider what the opportunities and barriers may be to deliver ambitious inclusive walking, cycling, public transport and integrated transport projects and what can be done to secure positive outcomes. This is within the context of the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, and a target that was unanimously adopted at Council for the borough to be carbon neutral by 2045. The establishment of the Task Force follows significant levels of opposition received to several sustainable transport schemes during the Summer of 2020.

It is important that the Task Force has the strategic support required to be as wide ranging in its evidence gathering as possible, and this is reflected in the composition of the Task Force.

It shall consider the potential for sustainable transport projects to make a positive contribution to; public health, tackling the climate emergency, improving air quality, improving accessibility, delivering high quality, vibrant and liveable communities, reducing congestion, achieving value for money, helping economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, tackling transport poverty and inequality of access.

3.0 Remit: To identify and make recommendations to the Council on ways to create high quality, vibrant and liveable communities that support town centre economies together with general health and wellbeing through the improved delivery of ambitious inclusive walking, cycling, public transport and integrated transport projects in Cheshire West and Chester.

4.0 Outline for the Group: The Taskforce will meet virtually at a 4-weekly frequency, commencing in Autumn 2020.

These meetings will be structured around themes and issues, with evidence and information being provided by officers, partner organisations and experts to support discussion and planning. Context information and background reading will be provided by the Secretariat in advance as appropriate.

The Transport Strategy Team of Cheshire West and Chester Council will act as Secretariat for the duration of the Task Force. The Secretariat will produce regular progress / next steps updates, which will be made available on the Cheshire West and Chester website.

The Secretariat will invite stakeholder representatives to provide their views and expertise regarding the themes of the Taskforce.

The Task Force will also hold a call for evidence in which wider representatives will be invited to submit their evidence for consideration. This shall include community groups and professional bodies that are both for and against the current proposed implementations of sustainable transport projects.

The Task Force will seek to achieve a consensus response to the existential issues and make recommendations to the Council on ways to improve delivery of ambitious inclusive walking, cycling and public transport projects in Cheshire West and Chester.

5.0 Membership: The Task Force will be composed as follows:

- Chester University
- Marketing Cheshire
- Sustrans
- Chamber of Commerce
- Chester Residents' Association Group
- Huntington Parish Council
- British Cycling
- Sustainability Forum
- Youth Senate
- Cheshire & Warrington LEP
- Active Travel Forum
- NHS Cheshire CCG
- Transport Focus
- Poverty Truth Commission
- Chester BID
- Road Freight Representative
- Sustainable Travel for Tourism
- Great Boughton Parish Council
- Chester Business Club

It is acknowledged that this Task Force will be undertaking an intensive work programme. Whilst this Task Force will require a time commitment from its Members, it is advised that the Task Force has a consistent membership across all meetings as far as possible to support better understanding of interdependencies across themes, and place recommendations into a broader context.

6.0 Timescales: The first meeting of the Taskforce shall consider a work programme to ensure:

- that its investigations are conducted within an appropriate timescale, which shall help inform the 2-monthly reviews for the Cheshire West and Chester Emergency Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 experimental schemes at the A51 and A5116 corridors in Chester; and
- reporting of its findings / recommendations

7.0 Engagement: The meetings of the Task Force shall be public sessions with an agenda item for public questions or counsel. The Task Force will also hold a call for evidence, in which wider representatives will be invited to submit their evidence for consideration - this shall include community groups and professional bodies that are both for and against the current proposed implementation of sustainable transport projects.

8.0 Potential Themes: Themes for the Task Force's consideration will be developed following the investigation of the main existential issues, with

thematic subgroups developed to consider and investigate the issues identified. Areas of exploration may likely include:

- Inclusive economic growth
- Health and wellbeing
- Climate change
- Air quality
- Traffic congestion and traffic volumes
- Infrastructure
- Policies, processes and resources
- Community engagement
- Behaviour change and culture
- Transport poverty and inequality of access
- Technology and innovation