

**Integrated Sustainable Transport Taskforce****Date:** Wednesday 18 January 2023**Time:** 09.30am – 11am**Venue:** Teams

Attendees: Councillor Shore, Rose McArthur, Kristy Littler, Steve Densley, Vanessa Bond, Stephen Perry, Karen Stevens, Peter Grime, Mike Garratt, Katherine Holcroft, Bernadette Bailey, Chris Rowland, Tony Barcroft, Stephen Hughes, John Beckitt

Apologies: Andy Farrell, Tim Kenney, John Salt,

No	Item	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Introductions</u> Cllr Shore welcomed all to the meeting.	
2.	<u>Minutes from the previous meeting</u> The minutes from the previous meeting were noted. JV advised amendment needed on Item 7, Saughton Hall should read Tattenhall. VB asked for Active Travel England self-assessment to be circulated. KL advised this is live on the CW&C website and will circulate to the group.	complete
3.	<u>ATfest Update</u> The event is intended as a fun, informative event with the aim to promote Active Travel in all its forms to multi-generational participants, to encourage active travel more often, aiding the climate crisis and benefit businesses in the City. A steering group meets regularly, there is a live website atfest.uk, new branding and launched social media supported by seed funding through members. More money is needed from sponsorship as less than expected was received via Cheshire Crowd. University of Chester lower car park is confirmed as the primary location. The event has been named in the position statement provided to Active Travel England. Partners have given great support with the event supporting CW&Cs climate emergency work. Cheshire Cycling Campaign have offered to provide guided routes, CRAG helping with marketing, Active Cheshire headline the business for the crowd fund, Chester Sustainability Forum/ University of Chester are helping with data collection and analysis, collaborating with NHS – ICB to drive the use of Active Travel at GPs. The event benefits local residents to find new accessible affordable ways to get into the city, local businesses, the community coming together, CW&C with their climate emergency response plan, ATE with data gathering	

	<p>information, the NHS with healthier communities reducing the burden, and the climate, helping to reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>RM thanked SD and the team on behalf of CWaC for the outstanding effort put into the event and reiterated the practical working support with KS around cycle routes.</p> <p>Cllr Shore asked for a separate conversation around funding challenges to fully understand and try to help in that area.</p> <p>BB added the Integrated Care Board have a Cheshire West sustainability network that includes health partners, CW&C, Fire and Police, to link up groups with targets for Net Zero of which Active Travel is a key part, a national project has been secured called Step Up a Gear modal shift for active travel which links in with GP practices across Cheshire and then hopefully the cultural and behavioural shift will cascade into other services. The Countess of Chester now have extensive facilities on site for staff who cycle, ICB are also working with Cycling Without Age, volunteers provide Trishaws in Chester. ICB would like to see ATfest include those with disabilities.</p> <p>SD confirmed ATfest has to be inclusive, active travel is defined as cycling, wheeling and walking, and looking forward to working closely with ICB. RM added there is a monthly senior update with CW&C and the NHS who also work actively as partners with ICB.</p> <p>VB urged people to look at the space hive page, atfest.uk, and asked if the group would circulate to their networks, where donations can be made to help reach the target deadline of February 28th. Cllr Shore asked for clarification on the deadline shortfall SD clarified the shortfall is £12,500, if the target deadline is not met space hive refund all pledged money. SP added if there are local charities/partners etc that want to support on the day to please come forward, costs of equipment for the day could be put in as an early donation and would count against their costs later on. SP will engage with the new MP for Chester. VB added CRAG recently set up the local group for Living Streets and will be able to share the ATfest promotions to the Living Streets database.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Update Grosvenor Bridge</u></p> <p>Andy Raynor gave an update on Grosvenor Bridge. A meeting was held at the beginning of December to discuss various measures that can be put in place to bring down the average vehicle speeds. It was agreed to put a pedestrian refuge island in on the approach to the bridge from the Wrexham direction which will act as a gateway into the city and into the 20mph speed limit, this will be monitored before consideration of a zebra crossing. Works are forecast to start in March. Consultations are currently underway in relation to what signages to use. This will be agreed with the subgroup. Cycle lanes will remain in place over the bridge, signs that ask vehicles to</p>	

	<p>remain behind cyclists will be held as a contingency plan. Monitoring checks on mean speeds will then be carried out.</p> <p>MG raised the usage of signs to ask drivers not to overtake cyclists and is there a case for a sign warning drivers exiting the city to slow down. AR agreed it is good suggestion but there is an awareness of not having too many signs to distract drivers, and reiterated the signs are there as a contingency plan, putting a sign on the Wrexham side of the bridge has been discussed and it will be raised with the group before any decision is made.</p> <p>PG asked for clarification on whether the refuge island is a controlled or uncontrolled crossing AR confirmed it is an uncontrolled crossing but will be kept under review.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Update Freight</u></p> <p>Chris Rowland gave a presentation. MDS Transmodal are a freight transport economics consultancy based in Chester providing advisory services based on developing databases and modelling tools, owning and operating a freight transport model called the Great Britain Freight Model to produce and model future scenarios.</p> <p>Statistics from the GBFM 2018 show a large volume of HGV journeys to and from CW&C but also lots of traffic transiting the area on the Strategic Road Network. CW&C has 16 large scale warehouses, key ports for CW&C are Dover, Felixstowe and Liverpool.</p> <p>Three areas agreed with CW&C to look at are Freight transport data, Modal shift from road and for Chester city centre, minimising impact of freight deliveries, while supporting the economy.</p> <p>An online survey of City Centre BID members was undertaken in October to early December 2022, survey objectives were to understand the nature of businesses in relation to freight, deliveries and collections, understand freight related issues and any issues related to waste collections. Response rate was around 7% which suggests a low number of businesses that are unhappy with the current situation. The profile of respondents showed the number of people working in the business, the role in relation to freight, respondents by type and location in relation to pedestrianised zones. Summary of results showed frequency of deliveries, generally one a day, type of parcel, mostly parcels/boxes, delivery times, 61% between 9am and 10.30am, and deliveries made typically by parcel operators using LGVs. The main issues reported were late deliveries, unreliable deliveries, and inconvenience of delivery times.</p> <p>Next steps are follow up interviews with businesses, carry out a survey of residents on freight deliveries, observational survey of freight movements between 8am and 10.30am, then considering further options including cycle logistics service when the city centre is closed to freight vehicles.</p> <p>SP asked if a certain type of business was more likely to respond, is it possible to drill down into detail of particular street/area to anticipate</p>	

	<p>response to possible road closures. CR replied they do have the business names and addresses and has requested BID for a breakdown of business by type.</p> <p>VB added CRAG would hopefully be able to assist with the residents' survey, and also asked if Chris had any news on the pilot scheme York had to use a lesser used P&R site as a distribution site for e cargo bikes .</p> <p>CR welcomed CRAGs offer of help with the residents' survey and added MDST are looking at a concept where vans can come closer to the city than a P&R to then transfer cargo to e bikes.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Council Update</u></p> <p>Kristy introduced Karen Stevens as the new Decarbonising Transport Officer within Transport and Infrastructure who introduced herself to the team, and interviews are currently taking place for the Head of Transport.</p> <p>In terms of revenue funding for active travel CW&C were awarded Level 1 and were awarded £128,148 for capability and revenue funding, ATE advised LAs in Level 1 to pitch funding at capability and capacity activities. There has been a refresh of the BSIP submitted to DfT and available on the CW&C website.</p> <p>£2 fare cap has been released by DfT from January 1st under help for households to encourage bus usage post Covid.</p> <p>Bus recovery Grant/Local Transport Fund will end on March 31 2023, we are awaiting further guidance from DfT as to whether these funding streams will continue.</p> <p>There have been a number of people register an interest in the Bus User Group, we need a broad cross section of geographic and demographic, please email EnhancedPartnership@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk if you are interested.</p> <p>An extensive survey of bus passengers is taking place across the borough at key locations starting end Jan/Feb. Promotion of park and ride in the run up to Christmas and New Chester Market opening yielded an uplift in patronage. The Rural mobility service is due to launch end of March.</p> <p>The Council's Climate Emergency Response Plan sets out the pathway needed to reach the Net Zero Transport target by 2045, the Council has a role in providing EV charging infrastructure, also influencing private sector roll out and promoting EV uptake. The Council has developed a draft EV Strategy ready to put out for consultation in early February and will update the group when it is live.</p> <p>Local Transport Plans are back on the Government's agenda, 2009 guidance has been revised, Jack Mayhew, the Principal Transport Planner will be embarking on the new LTP refresh which needs writing and developing by the end of current parliament.</p> <p>The LTP will be the council's shop window on transport, including a number of strongly aligned daughter documents, a bidding document where our ambition will be gauged and funding allocated on the strength of it.</p>	

	<p>LTP4, as it will be known, is a statutory document setting out the council's overarching approach to transport over the next 10 years. It is envisaged to be developed in parallel with the new local plan, likely to focus on themes of decarbonisation, inclusive economic growth and sustainable transport. We are at the early stages, the timeline is setting our visions and objectives in Spring, preparing a draft LTP for winter 2023-24, formal consultation spring summer 2024, there is an awful lot of work to be done in between those timelines so there will be feedback at this group as we move forward.</p> <p>Chester City Gateway Draft Strategic Regeneration Framework Consultation - the public consultation will run until February 3 2023, If you wish to share your thoughts comments, contact srfconsultation@chestercitygateway.co.uk or comment online at www.chestercitygateway.co.uk.</p> <p>Cllr Shore asked about timeframe for the EV strategy and asked that we ensure we circulate the consultation information to this group KL advised consultation will be in February and information will be circulated with the group for their involvement.</p> <p>SD offered his availability for at least the next month to support the Council with active travel, which was very much appreciated.</p> <p>JV asked if the cycling strategy will form part of the Local Transport Plan KL confirmed that it would.</p> <p>JB added that an air quality component needs to be in the LTP, the report of the national consultation on air quality is to drop NO₂ targets, routes that are considered to be safe now may not be in the future. KL informed conversations are being held with air quality officers, the A51 is being monitored.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Questions/Any Other Business</u></p> <p>HW asked if there should be more input around active travel into planning. Cllr Shore informed that within the national planning and policy framework, LAs can bring in local Supplementary Planning Documents and will form part of the new LTP. KS added this is something she will be working on, also part of the capability funding is to provide training for upskilling and increasing the knowledge of Council staff.</p>	

Date of the next meeting – TBC