

Integrated Sustainable Transport Taskforce**Date:** Monday 17th October 2022**Time:** 2.30pm to 4pm**Venue:** Teams

Attendees: Councillor Shore, Rose McArthur, Kristy Littler, Jack Mayhew, Steve Pemberton, Mike Garratt, Stephen Perry, Steve Densley, Vanessa Bond, Andy Farrell, Bernadette Bailey, David Beer, John Salt, Katherine Holcroft, Kenny Murray, Roy Newton, Tamara Hunt.

Apologies: Nicola Said, Mike Hogg

No	Item	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Introductions</u> Cllr Shore welcomed all to the meeting. Kristy introduced Jack Mayhew to the group who has joined the Transport and Highways team as the Principal Transport Planner.	
2.	<u>Minutes from the previous meeting</u> The minutes from the previous meeting were noted	
3.	<u>Update on ATfest Proposal</u> SP gave an update on ATfest, the date is confirmed as Sunday 18 th June, proposed start is 11am. Locations are UoC car park, Castle Drive and surrounding area, new Exchange Square plus Storyhouse, working in collaboration with the Green Expo Team and the Midsummer Watch Parade. SD updated that funding is still a major challenge, response from members budget was disappointing, receiving half the amount hoped for. They have applied to 5 funds, in the hope of seed funding, in advance of the SpaceHive application but no response yet. The Event Manager had to pull out, SD will finish the task of preparing the SpaceHive application and business sponsors will be approached in the next few weeks. Support is requested from CW&C/ISTT for initial funding ideas/potential sponsors. Cllr Shore advised she had missed the application and maybe other members may have also missed it, and will contact other members to remind them. They are in discussion with other possible event managers. Awaiting on confirmation of the event insurance details. VB shared the brand ID for social media, we are also working on the logo ready for the website which will go live once the SpaceHive funding launches hopefully by the end of October. There is a SurveyMonkey survey going out to understand the barriers to walking, cycling and wheeling and also to encourage people to register on the	Cllr Shore

	<p>VB added that CRAG has set up the Chester local group for living streets and they will be able to help us promote ATFest. Cllr Shore will also contact Vicky Chowdhury again re communications.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Chester TDM Group</u> RM updated a group has got together, two people from each CW&C, the University, the hospital and the Zoo, to spotlight on issues to increase patronage as well as looking at improvements for walking and cycling across the Chester area initially. We have met once already and are meeting again to have a spotlight session on the park and ride and work with all those agencies to increase patronage by making the service fit for purpose, so we are working on how to get people to travel differently in our own agencies and the DFT are keen to see exemplars on behaviour change. TB asked are there obvious why people have stopped using buses, RM advised some reasons are, during covid government put out official comms saying public transport is not safe and haven't yet retracted that, city centre car parking prices, we have been looking at ways to get concessionaires back e.g. allowing free travel pre 9.30 in the school holidays, we don't have integrated ticketing, we're going to look at park and ride hours of operation to accommodate workers shifts/outpatient visits. JB asked when will the LCWIP be revised, due to other plans being produced since. KL advised a revision has just been undertaken of the collaboratively developed plan to ensure LTN 1/20 compliance. We have just completed a scheme from the LCWIP with many more that are prioritised to short, medium and long term interventions set within the LCWIP.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Council Update</u> KL gave an update. Active Travel Social Prescribing, reached the final bidding round but were unsuccessful. The feedback said the thought and partnership working in relation to cycles as a mobility aid was particularly strong. We could have improved through clearer articulation of the proposal, role of infrastructure and governance within the bid document rather than through appendices. We've had a stakeholders meeting to discuss how we can progress and continue some of the threads we are able to, with the remaining 45k available funding. We will come back with a further update.</p> <p>Last time we met Active Travel England had just established we were in the process of wider consultation with them, they asked us to self-assess on three criteria, local leadership and support, maturity of our local cycling walking infrastructure plan and scheme delivery, so they could gauge what level we would reach between nought and four in terms of our capability and ambition. CW&C came out with a level one. Further feedback said we were a strong one and our submissions were moving in the right direction. The majority of LA's fell into Level one, with some in zero, and one failing to submit. No councils</p>	

<p>achieved Level 4. With level one comes a capability ambition Revenue funding award, we have to submit for that, so we've been indicatively allocated £128,148.</p> <p>RM added, real frustration was felt initially at that one score and we contacted three senior people at Active Travel England about our submission, asking what do we need to do to get out of that loop of low funding. They know we are ambitious, and we do have vision, it was a positive meeting in the end. We procured consultancy support to undertake the self-assessment for us - which they thought was a really good move.</p> <p>MP asked what can we learn from authorities rated at level three and are similar to Chester. KL advised we haven't as yet, but we are going to speak to the likes of York and Cambridge.</p> <p>AF asked if there are plans to produce an action plan for this score. KL advised our action plan focuses on making sure that our LCWIP is doing what we say we want it to, we're investing in network design as part of the LCWIP, scheme planning and design, public engagement consultation, data and evidence collection, analysis and reporting, bespoke training for LA Officers and members, that's where we have to focus our potential allocation..</p> <p>This feeds into how we have submitted our funding ask to Active Travel England, trying to make sure that we build up the capability so that we have the staff and the resources and the skills to make sure that that action plan is not only written but robust as well.</p> <p>RM added the high scoring authorities for example have cycle friendly ring roads, so it's not just what can we do more as officers, it's what full infrastructure changes can be made. LTP is going to be our go-to document.</p> <p>SP asked if we've had feedback on the LCWIP review that CW&C asked WSP to commission. KL updated they were looking largely at the guidelines in terms of LTN120 and gear change and whether those schemes were still deliverable to the new standards, we've got some draft information from them so will see how we can share that.</p> <p>MG asked if it would be useful the Mott Survey to demonstrate how many short trips there are which are short and therefore attractive to active travel. KL replied in the submission to Active Travel England we are asking for some funding for micro simulation, evidence gathering so that we can understand the impact on the city through both a car lens and an active travel lens.</p> <p>Helsby Scheme, bulb planting with Parishes and schools is taking place this week, if anyone wanted to help that would be good. We have procured an officer to work with Helsby High School on active travel, they will also help with the official launch of the infrastructure scheme, dates to be confirmed.</p> <p>BSIP, we were asked to refresh our BSIP and submit to DfT. Through our enhanced partnership we offered free pre 9.30am travel for concessionaires, we had Armed Forces day, giving free transport to</p>	
---	--

	<p>armed forces and their families, our Enhanced partnership offered free travel to Afghan and Ukrainian guests for their first two months residing in the borough. DfT feedback is positive saying our enhanced partnership is very strong, we have really good strength of structure. We have funding for an Enhanced Partner Office post for three years, a bus user group will be set up, if anyone is interested please let KL know.</p> <p>Rural Mobility, two parts to the project, the bus service procurement and the back-office system. We have procured the bus service commission through the OJ process, we will be operating three vehicles with low floor wheelchair and cycle accessible minibuses, and the back-office system. Timetables are semi-flexible but they do need to depart from Frodsham at set times to connect with trains and serve rural hinterlands. The back-office support process has closed but the information technology team have some clarification questions.</p> <p>E-Scooter trial, we have made an internal decision to continue the trial to the 31st of May 2024, if anyone has any locations where they want to see e-scooters available for hire please let us know and we can work with ginger to try and put those in place. We are introducing more E Scooters incrementally so we can monitor any issues, and how effective they are.</p> <p>VB asked if the self-assessment document could be shared. KL replied, we are working on redactions that are needed, we need to take officers names out etc. or anything commercially sensitive, then it will be available.</p> <p>Cllr Shore mentioned ginger scooters, officers are working closely with police colleagues, she had meet John Dwyer and went through details of the scooter trial so that they could better understand it and we could make sure that we were targeting any misuse and any issues, Ginger are very good at tracking and monitoring data.</p> <p>KL added we need to speak to our colleagues about e-bikes and cycle hire, look at what the procurement routes are for that, there's interest from a number of different departments within the organisation that are keen to get this off the ground funding opportunities need to be explored.</p> <p>SP asked if Ginger scooters could be made aware that we're very keen to demonstrate E bikes, E scooters at ATfest next year and it would be useful to have them involved. Cllr Shore agreed, we can make that request with Ginger.</p>	<p>Kristy Littler</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Response to the proposed list of possible ISTT Working Groups/One City Plan connectivity group</u> RM updated on the one City Plan. There are five groups in total, with 45 actions by 2045. We met last week, RM led the connectivity and</p>	

	<p>accessibility, Thriving people and communities and Business friendly, economy and skills, and Governance ownership and delivery. The tasks were to look at what was missing, what we want to add and our top three priorities. There is a really good cross-section of people, from the University, the zoo, accessibility, safety, highways engineering officers. The group prioritised the 20 mile an hour city as something to deliver by 2045, behind that was improving and promoting park and ride and the third was better wayfinding, Journey planning, digital information provision, parking was also part of the main conversation. One city plan is moving forward at pace, the number one was creating and enabling green sustainable transport looking at the Ring Road, below ground Crossings to bring them above grounds creating a much safer pedestrian and cycling environment, all things that ATfest are pushing to do at the moment, wayfinding, route planning using the station as a gateway, local, international, national connectivity, very much centred around safe equitable sustainable movement around the city. SP asked if we could use the communication process that's going on around the one city plan to promote ATfest.</p> <p>KL updated that Andy Raynor has set a meeting date for November 15th, so those who expressed an interest in Grosvenor bridge should have received an email.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Questions – John Violet</u> Questions relate to the end of the active travel forum, the first question relates to an old disused Railway line from Tattenhall to Whitchurch along that line there are some old Railway Bridges, highways England made a list of all the bridges they wanted to demolish and it included two Bridges along that route, at the active travel Forum I objected to the demolition of those bridges looking ahead to a possible cycleway, has an objection to the demolition of those bridges been made. RM responded we're currently in discussions about the local plan, so this is a good time to have this conversation and we will take that away.</p> <p>The second question is about road surfaces affecting cycling. Cllr Shore advised there's a planned review of the asset maintenance strategy to coincide with the TMC so we can look at that.</p> <p>JV asked about the A51 project the introduction of islands to aid crossing. One island went in near Cotton Edmonds, but the other island at Wicker Lane leading to Guildon Sutton would be done later by the term maintenance contractor. There has been a serious accident while waiting for this so an ask for that to be looked at.</p> <p>At the AT forum, The Canal and River Trust were keen to be notified of problems on their canal network and towpaths. Surfacing is starting to degrade, the sub base is punching through the wearing course, it's deteriorating at a bad rate, there is some money coming from a</p>	<p>Rose McArthur</p>

	<p>development in Christleton, £10,000 allocated for them to improve the canal tow path but that's not an awful lot of money for what's needed.</p> <p>RM advised that all these specific issues would be best raised in a smaller forum, RM and KL will find time for you to talk to us, we'll get someone to have a look at the issues without going over old ground.</p> <p>JB supported JV comments re the tow path, the Christleton piece is important , it enables us to move children off the shared user path on the A41.</p>	<p>Rose McArthur/Kristy Littler</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <p>MG reported as a group we're proceeding with the freight study, the one city plan doesn't seem to include the word Freight, we got a little bit of funding that we were able to organise internally from a pot that we had access to. The work is up and running, this could be a model for how working groups run. During the Emergency active travel period we were very clear that we needed officers to relate to, we have to be organised and working groups seem to be the way of doing it because then you can do things between meetings.RM advised freight is definitely now in that document.</p> <p>RM raised the NTAC visit, National Transport Acceleration Council, ten of the most senior people across DFT, coming to Chester., The acceleration unit from the DFT, including buses, active travel, Union connectivity, we've got the director of the acceleration unit, Danny Williams (CEO Active Travel England), Jessica Matthews the director of local transport, Gavin James who's a DG of levelling up in the union, Sharon Maddix, Deputy director, Deputy directors for local and Regional transport analysis, programme leads from the acceleration unit, and Jamal Siddique who's our Deputy head of Northern engagement. I've spent a long time positioning for it, trying to get them here, behind the scenes we're trying to get us to the place we need to be nationally, strategically with the DFT, as 90% of our funding comes from there so that's where a lot of focus and attention goes.</p> <p>SP suggested maybe in the New Year, those that are keen to do so have a meeting where we review what we're doing, how we do it, how it delivers and what we originally intended. We could be more efficient with our time, we're all very busy and perhaps we could simplify some of the interfaces.</p> <p>Cllr Shore agreed that is a good idea.</p>	