

MINUTES OF	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUP - SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT
MEETING DATE	Thursday, 17 September 2020
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Councillor Kim Snape (Chair) and Councillors Julia Berry, Val Counce, Mark Clifford, Gordon France, Tom Gray, Laura Lennox and June Molyneaux
OFFICERS:	Alison Marland (Principal Planning Officer) and Nina Neisser (Democratic and Member Services Officer)
APOLOGIES:	Councillor Yvonne Hargreaves

20.OS1 Declarations of Any Interests

No declarations of any interests were received.

20.OS2 Background Information - Sustainable September

The Overview and Scrutiny Task Group were provided with a presentation from James Hoskinson, Planning Assistant on the Sustainable September campaign which was undertaken by the Council last year. This explored the findings of how staff travelled to work and gathered views and opinions about transportation to work. The campaign would be undertaken again to explore the changes in 12 months and how the commute had been impacted with Covid-19. It was expected that the increase in home working would be a significant factor.

After the presentation, Members discussed the following;

- the potential for charging points in the Town Centre for electric bikes,
- recognised the decline in public transport during lockdown and discussed how increased use could now be encouraged
- addressed the issues surrounding fear of cycling due to insufficient infrastructure and understood the importance of improving infrastructure to increase bike use.
- Concerns over use of electric scooters being dangerous on the pavements due to being silent
- The need to make public transport attractive; Members felt the focus on service had disappeared and the priorities for bus and rail companies was now more about money. Need a service that links residents
- Issues surround social isolation, particularly for the elderly
- Need to reduced pollution and address the green agenda.
- Use of car pooling ('Shared Wheels')

Decision – That the presentation be noted.

20.OS3 Scoping of the Review

Members of the Task Group considered the scope of the inquiry and discussed objectives, outcomes, and who they wanted to interview as part of the review, including Lancashire County Council highway and transport officers and County Councillor Keith Iddon as Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Stagecoach, Northern Rail, Lindsay Hoyle MP, Councillors and Parish and Town Councils.

Members acknowledged how big the topic of public transport was and recognised that any recommendations would need to be relevant, realistic and achievable.

Members discussed the rail provision and bus services in the borough and the need for community transport options such as dial-a-ride. In order to address interconnectivity, it was suggested that the task group look into a pass that would provide a single way to pay to use different services of transport throughout the borough.

Members discussed the need to recognise the difficulties the council has in enforcing issues around public transport, the cost implications with public transport and what sustainable funding for buses is available. Work also proposed to tackle social isolation across the borough and environmental concerns such as air quality.

The scoping document would be formulated by officers in consultation with the Chair following Members discussion. This would then be shared amongst Members of the Task Group for comments. The scoping document would be a working document that would be brought back to each meeting.

Decision – That the scoping document be drawn up in consultation with the Chair to be sent to Members and brought back to the next meeting for approval by the Group.

20.OS4 Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday, 5 November 2020 at 6.00pm.

Chair

Date