

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Planning and Development	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Thursday, 17 March 2022

Sustainable Public Transport Second Monitoring Report

Is this report confidential?	No
------------------------------	-----------

Is this decision key?	No
-----------------------	-----------

Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
---	---

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the first update of the work undertaken to deliver the recommendations of the Sustainable Public Transport Task Group.

Recommendations to Scrutiny Committee (change committee name if not applicable)

2. That the report is noted in particular the updates to recommendations
3. The Committee endorse the proposed Cycling Project (paragraph 10) as an appropriate way to develop the cycling offer in the borough which supersedes the original recommendation to develop a cycling task group.

Other options considered and rejected

4. Not applicable.

Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	A strong local economy
Clean, safe, and healthy communities	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area

Background to the report

5. The final report of the Task Group for Sustainable Public Transport was presented to Executive Cabinet in March 2021 and it was agreed that these recommendations be accepted.

Recommendations and Progress to Date

6. The recommendations focussed on the objectives the task group were asked to investigate which comprised of:
 - The difficulty the council has enforcing on public transport particularly bus and train
 - To examine all public transport routes and any changes required due to demographic needs
 - To tackle social isolation (public transport) in all areas of the borough
 - The opportunities for sustainable funding for buses
 - To engage with different stakeholders to understand what steps they are taking to provide sustainable public transport and understand how the council can help them.
7. The 21 recommendations made by the task group were presented to Executive Cabinet on 17th June 2021 and these were endorsed for action.
8. The table 1 below sets out the 21 recommendations, with the second column providing a little more detail as to the actions required to deliver the recommendation and the third column providing the latest update on progress.
9. There is a brief update on progress of all actions below however there are a couple which are more advanced and worthy of more detailed update.

Cycling

10. The task group made a recommendation to 'establish a cycle task group' to look at cycle opportunities, and cycle routes in the borough. It is proposed that this is action replaced with a 'cycling project' which comprises of measures intended to achieve a number of key objectives;
 - a) Engage with our communities to develop a wider understanding of cycling needs in the borough
 - b) Use social media promote and raise awareness about cycling and the available resources in the Borough
 - c) Engage with Lancashire County Council to better understand the plans for future provision of cycling related infrastructure in the Borough
 - d) Engage our partners to develop an understanding of existing provision for cyclists for bike training, maintenance, and access to free equipment/security marking.
 - e) Develop policies in the new Local Plan to promote and enable cycling

11. The specific actions proposed for the Cycling Project are listed in the table below and if agreed, progress will be reported back to members in the future monitoring report and also to the Climate Change Working Group.

	Action	Lead	Outcome
1	Use of comms and social media platforms such as Facebook, twitter etc to promote cycling in the borough including raising awareness of changes to the Highway Code and also promotion of cycling as part of the refreshed Check out Chorley tourism campaign	Comms/Spatial planning	A number of social media posts
2	Online consultation of cycle users in the Borough	Spatial planning/Comms	Citizenspace survey undertaken late Spring and survey findings to be reported back to members inform future cycle priorities and actions
3	Explore provision for cycle parking in the Borough focussing on the Town Centre and service centres across the borough	Spatial Planning	Report with recommendations including locations, costs, and next steps to be presented to members
4	Engage with Lancashire County Council to investigate plans for cycle infrastructure in Chorley	Spatial Planning	Present findings to members as to plans /costs and any opportunities for the Council to enable scheme delivery.
5.	Engage partners (statutory/voluntary sector) to find out what the offer is for Chorley residents/cyclists for cycle training, bike maintenance courses (particularly targeted at vulnerable cyclists, excluded or minority groups) and any free or low cost equipment opportunities (for example bike lights, helmets etc)	Spatial Planning	Identify what provision exists and ways to promote these and /or gaps or opportunities which would encourage higher volumes of cycling in the borough.

12. The table below includes the update for all 23 recommendations. 5 are completed, 10 are started and in progress, 3 have changed or are no longer appropriate to take forward.

Table of Recommendations and Actions

No	Recommendation	Action	Lead	Latest Update /Notes
1	Chorley Council to proactively lobby and engage with Lancashire County Council to encourage a greater role on bus route tendering, service enhancement and communication between all parties.	Engagement with LCC on behalf of the Chair requesting engagement	Service Lead Spatial Planning	In progress Andrew Varley, Public Transport Manager has provided details of the Bus improvement plan on LCC website are proposing an Enhancement partnership to start 1 st April 2022 which will deliver transparency in performance of bus services.
2	Chorley Council to lobby Ministers and the government in cooperation with our Member of Parliament to raise regulation of the buses to obtain local delegated powers.	Letter to be sent to Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP Secretary of State for Transport on behalf of the Chair cooperation with RT Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP Speaker of the House of Commons	Service Lead Spatial Planning	Action no longer appropriate Response from LCC advising given the implementation of the Bus Enhancement Partnership franchising/deregulation not appropriate /applicable to Lancashire.
3	Spatial Planning to invite Lancashire County Council to participate in a Member Learning session on the Central Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan draft proposals	Email to LCC transport planning team inviting participation in a Member Learning Session	Service Lead Spatial Planning	In progress Marcus Hudson, Transport Planning Manager confirmed 2/3/2022 willing to participate
4	Routine consultation with Northern Rail and Lancashire County Council be requested with Chorley Council over changes or reductions in rail service.	Email to be sent to Owain Roberts, Regional Stakeholder Manager, Northern Trains requesting engagement with Chorley Council (i.e. districts) and not just upper tier in consultations	Service Lead Spatial Planning	Complete. Chorley Council now added to Northern Rail Consultation database. Recent response submitted regarding timetable proposals

		regarding train service changes. Comms to publicise consultations and changes on social media to encourage public engagement and ensure local users aware of changes	Shared Service Lead Communications and Visitor Economy	
5	To publicise all the railway stations through communications including “Check out Chorley” and its immediate area to get more people into the borough for social and economic activities and to use the train service	Use of social media and other channels to promote rail use.	Shared Service Lead Communications and Visitor Economy	Complete (business as usual) The Council have been publicising the public transport options as part of our event publicity – examples include the flower show and picnic in the park
6	Undertake regular communications activity to educate residents about the bus services, bus routes and ticketing options in the borough to encourage increased bus usage when it is safe to do so. The Council undertakes a borough wide public transport survey using social media & other technology to engage with residents, businesses and employers about bus services and public transport.	Use of communications channels to promote bus use Incorporate into next Resident Survey	Shared Service Lead Communications and Visitor Economy Shared Service Lead Policy and Transformation	Not started due to Covid pandemic and restrictions. Will be progressed once restrictions on busy indoor spaces eases. This will include contact with the dial-a-ride team. Residents survey complete and findings being analysed.
7	The Council engage with Greater Manchester Combined Authority /Lancashire County Council on cross boundary routes should the Greater Manchester Combined	Letter to be sent to addressed both Public Transport Manager at LCC and TFGM requesting	Service Lead Spatial Planning	Complete. Issues raised under Duty to Cooperate in a meeting with Transport for Greater Manchester on 29/7/21 and detailed in response. Incorporated into the Councils’ response to ‘Places for

	Authorities instigate franchising and request to be consulted on how bus services are run across cross boundary routes and be included in their integrated ticketing scheme.	engagement		Everyone' –Greater Manchester Proposed Development Plan.
8	Chorley Council will engage with all bus operators to determine and recommend which bus routes are viably operable.	Workshop to be arranged as part of emerging Local plan and transport infrastructure planning	Service Lead Spatial Planning	In progress. Delayed due to impact on Covid on bus travel and ability to meet in person. Developed list of bus providers. LCC expressed preference for Chorley not to seek this data. Plan is to engage providers – letter prepared
9	The Council continues to progress discussions with Lancashire County Council to take over the Chorley Interchange.	Progress Commercial negotiations	Service Lead Commercial and Assets	Not progressed/not appropriate due to viability.
10	The Climate Change Working Group to further investigate bus routes for new developments in conjunction with the preparation of the Central Lancashire Local Plan.	Workshop to be arranged as part of emerging Local plan and transport infrastructure planning and reported back to the CCWG.	Service Lead - Spatial Planning/Climate Change Officer/Central Lancashire Local Plan Co-Ordinator	In progress – Transport consultants have undertaken initial assessed impact of proposed sites. Workshop not started as proposed sites still being assessed/finalised as part of local plan process. Once agreed in principle, work can begin to map infrastructure needs
11	The Council (Spatial planning) will use reasonable endeavours to safeguard a site for the reopening of the Coppull rail station in the Central Lancashire Local Plan, include the project in the Central Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan and engage with Lancashire County Council and relevant	Initial scoping meeting to be arranged to identify necessary feasibility and business case work required.	Service Lead Spatial Planning/Service Lead Commercial and Assets/Director Planning and Development/Director Commercial /Central Lancashire Local Plan Co-Ordinator	In Progress. Bid for Restoring Your Railways for viability funding was unsuccessful. Will be considered as part of local plan subject to locations for growth and supporting sustainable transport required.

	partners to bring this forward			
12	The Council to lobby for improved railway services across the borough at stations such as Adlington.	Email to be sent to Owain Roberts, Regional Stakeholder Manager, Northern Trains requesting engagement with Chorley Council (i.e. districts) and not just upper tier in consultations regarding train service changes.	Service Lead Spatial Planning	Complete Chorley Council now on the Consultation database and are regularly responding to consultations regarding services in Chorley.
13	The Council to lobby to improve our rail connections to the airport at stations in addition to Chorley	Email to be sent to Owain Roberts, Regional Stakeholder Manager, Northern Trains requesting engagement with Chorley Council (i.e. districts) and not just upper tier in consultations regarding train service changes.	Service Lead Spatial Planning	Complete. Chorley Council now on the Consultation database and representations to be made in future consultations
14 a)	Undertake communications activity to highlight the work of Dial-a-Ride including the community car scheme, how it can assist the community and dispel the myth the service is just for the elderly and publicise their need for volunteers.	Engage with Manager, Central Lancs Dial-a-Ride to develop marketing strategy	Shared Service Lead Communications and Visitor Economy	Not started due to Covid and regulations around social distancing etc. Will start during next quarter. Details of a survey by LCC to explore rural car clubs was shared with ward and parish councillors on IKN in January 2022.
14 b)	Dial-a-Ride be invited to attend a Chorley Liaison meeting to raise awareness	DAR to attend future Parish Liaison Meeting	Democratic Services Team Leader	In progress. Dial a Ride have been invited to attend the next

	of the service for both users and volunteers.			meeting on 16 March 2022.
14 c)	Dial-a-Ride be invited to contact the Parish Council clerks as there was significant interest from Members to have a Dial-a-Ride service in their Wards and Parishes. This should include regular articles IntheBoro and InTheKnow and notice board communications.	Regular articles for IntheBoro and IntheKnow to Democratic Services	Shared Service Lead Communications and Visitor Economy	Not started due to Covid, now regulations eased will be progressed.
14 d)	In addition to funding, the Council explores how it can work with Dial-a- Ride to develop its offer to residents by working with local VCFS partners and the health community e.g. hospital appointments, vaccination appointments etc.	Regular engagement to take place with DAR manager to identify ways to increase uptake.	Transformation & Change Team Leader Service Lead Communities	In Progress. Central Lancashire DAR provide regular updates to the Council on key outcomes as a result of funding that is provided to them. The annual review of their progress is currently under way with outcomes to be agreed on developing its offer
15	Chorley Council to lobby Lancashire County Council to create a Public Transport Task Group to scrutinise transport routes and opportunities across Lancashire	Letter to be sent on behalf of the Chair to Head of Planning at LCC to request establishment of a task group.	Service Lead Spatial Planning	In progress. LCC willing to engage including a member Learning Session for public transport planning. No appetite for a task group.
16	The Council should explore the feasibility of attracting a community car share club to the borough.	Initial engagement to be undertaken with providers.	Shared Service Lead Transformation and Partnership	Not Started To be considered as part of the sustainable transport element of the HR policy review
17	When appropriate, the Council to actively promote car sharing for staff at both Town Hall and Union Street, using methods including but not limited to IntheKnow,	To be raised at Staff Matters and the Loop to explore appetite and rolled out if	Shared Service Lead Transformation and Partnership	Not Started due to Covid. To be considered as part of the sustainable transport element of the HR policy Review

	IntheBoro, and Lancashire Shared Wheels	feasible.		
18	The Council will work with all transport partners to improve accessibility, timetable and facility provision across the borough including an Oyster card for all journeys.	Initial invitation for expressions of interest in developing a scheme, in partnership with LCC.	Service Lead Spatial Planning	Changed – see above, LCC proposing the Bus Enhancement Partnership will deliver improvements.
19	Chorley Council to work with Lancashire County Council, the Canal and River Trust and other organizations to identify cycle opportunities, and plan for the implementation of cycle routes and cycle hubs	Engagement to be undertaken and schemes and opportunities to be progressed	Service Lead Spatial Planning	In progress. Series of meetings have taken place. Canal and Rivers trust have provided a list of schemes for consideration and this is being developed into feasibility /costs.
20	Establish a Cycle Task Group to look at cycle opportunities, and cycle routes in the borough	Request for a Scrutiny Task Group.	Democratic Services Team Leader to flag with Overview and Scrutiny Chair	No longer appropriate – changed to the Cycle Project with 5 key actions.
21	The Council should explore the possibility of electric charging points on council buildings to allow people to charge their electric bikes.	Feasibility and demand study to be undertaken	Climate Change Officer/Asset Manager (Property and Facilities)	In progress. Focus has been ensuring that the council has secure bike shelters for council employees. Charging ports for electric bikes will become more feasible and at a lower cost as the council's electric vehicle charging infrastructure is expanded. The demand for bike shelters and electric bike charging points will be determined during an internal commuter survey of staff which is currently being drafted

Climate change and air quality

- The work noted in this report impacts positively on the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

14. Not applicable.

Risk

15. There are no risks associated with this work at present.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

16. The report is for noting and therefore there is no comments from the Chief Finance Officer.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

17. The report is for noting and therefore there is no comments from the Monitoring Officer.

Background documents

Final Report of Overview and Scrutiny Task Group Sustainable Public Transport

[http://mod/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=123236&ISATT=1&\\$LO\\$=1#search=%22sustainable%20transport%20%22](http://mod/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=123236&ISATT=1&LO=1#search=%22sustainable%20transport%20%22)

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Zoe Whiteside	zoe.whiteside@chorley.gov.uk	5711	02/03/2022