

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Planning and Development	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Please list any other meetings this report is going to i.e. Leader Brief, Cabinet with the date in the next column)	Thursday, 30 September 2021

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
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Sustainable Public Transport Monitoring Report

Purpose of the Report

- 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)

- That the report is noted.

Reasons for recommendations

- No further actions are required at this stage.

Other options considered and rejected

- Not applicable.

Corporate priorities

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

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

Background to the report

6. 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

7. 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.
8. The 21 recommendations made by the task group were presented to Executive Cabinet on 17th June 2021 and these were endorsed for action.
9. 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.
10. The original lead officer for the Sustainable Public Transport Task Group retired in June 2021 and therefore there has been some staffing changes in the team. The Service Lead for Spatial Planning will now lead on this work going forward.
11. 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.

Canal and Rivers Trust

12. A series of meetings have taken place with colleagues from the Canal and Rivers Trust to discuss opportunities to improve the towpaths in Chorley. An initial programme of proposals has been provided by the trust. These comprise of 4 schemes along the section of towpath between Bridge 84 and Bridge 75A Cowling which is in a poor condition, vulnerable to becoming muddy and pooling, particularly in the winter.
13. The schemes total just under £1M and therefore will need to be funded for a mix of sources. The next steps will be to explore these in more detail, develop a plan for how

they may be funded and identify what match funding is sought from the Council, with a report to SMT and the Executive Member with further details and options.

Chorley Highways and Transport Strategy

14. Linked to this work programme (recommendations 10, 11 and 12) although not a recommendation in itself, is the emerging Chorley Highways and Transport Strategy. This is a piece of work which external consultants Tetra Tek are producing which will provide a thorough assessment of the transport issues in Chorley, based both on 'as is' scenario and also assessing future growth options, not only ours but also those of neighbouring authorities. For example, the consultation, Places for Everyone, sets out the plans for growth in Greater Manchester (excluding Rochdale) and some of which may impact on areas of Chorley around the M61 and M6 junctions. The consultants will assess the impacts of these, and those findings will be fed into our consultation response as well as informing our options going forward.

15. Crucially, this work will set out the mitigation required to enable future growth, identifying necessary infrastructure as well as informing our local plan policies for future development on issues around cycling, walking, parking, and public transport.

Table 1 Recommendations and Updates

No	Recommendation	Action	Latest Update
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.	Letter to be sent to LCC on behalf of the Chair requesting engagement	Started. Letter sent to LCC on 9 th August 2021, receipt confirmed, await further engagement from Andrew Varley, Public Transport Manager.
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 copied to the Rt. Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP Speaker of the House of Commons	Started Draft letter- awaiting update from LCC Public Transport Manager as to latest proposals to inform drafting.
3	Spatial Planning to invite Lancashire County Council to participate in a Member Learning session on the Central Lancashire Highways and Transport	Email to LCC transport planning team inviting participation in a Member Learning Session	Started. Initial request for engagement to LCC and initial meeting complete to discuss next steps on 6.9.21. New Central Lancashire Highways and

	Masterplan draft proposals.		Transport Masterplan expected Spring 2022.
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 regarding train service changes. Comms to publicise consultations and changes on social media to encourage public engagement and ensure local users aware of changes	Complete. Chorley Council now added to Northern Rail Consultation database.
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.	In progress (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	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 scoping is now underway to take place later in the year, relevant climate change questions will be considered/developed for inclusion

7	The Council engage with Greater Manchester Combined Authority /Lancashire County Council on cross boundary routes should the Greater Manchester Combined 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.	Letter to be sent to addressed both Public Transport Manager at LCC and TFGM requesting engagement	In Progress. Issue raised under Duty to Cooperate in a meeting with Transport for Greater Manchester on 29/7/21 and detailed in response. It will also be incorporated into the Councils' response to 'Places for Everyone' – Greater Manchester Proposed Development plan. Letter summarising the Councils' response and requesting ongoing engagement to be sent following submission of Places for Everyone consultation response. Links to emerging Chorley Transport and Highways Strategy.
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	Not started due to impact on Covid on bus travel and ability to meet in person.
9	The Council continues to progress discussions with Lancashire County Council to take over the Chorley Interchange.	Progress Commercial negotiations	In progress, some issues identified around 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.	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 partners to bring this forward.	Initial scoping meeting to be arranged to identify necessary feasibility and business case work required.	In progress. Discussions with LCC and Transport Consultants. Will be linked to emerging Local Plan and location of growth.
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.	Chorley Council now on the Consultation database (Commercial Directorate) and representations to be made in future consultations
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.	Chorley Council now on the Consultation database (Commercial Directorate) 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	Not started due to Covid and regulations around social distancing etc. Will start during next quarter.
14 b)	Dial-a-Ride be invited to attend a Chorley Liaison meeting to raise awareness of the service for both	DAR to attend future Parish Liaison Meeting	In progress. Dial a Ride have been invited to attend but have not yet taken up

	users and volunteers.		the offer.
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.	DAR to attend future Parish Liaison Meeting Regular articles for IntheBoro and IntheKnow to Democratic Services	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.	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.	Letter sent seeking engagement.
16	The Council should explore the feasibility of attracting a community car share club to the borough.	Initial engagement to be undertaken with providers.	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, IntheBoro, and Lancashire	To be raised at Staff Matters and the Loop to explore appetite and rolled out if feasible.	To be considered as part of the sustainable transport element of the HR policy review

	Shared Wheels		
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.	Letter sent seeking engagement
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	In progress. Series of meetings have taken place. Canal and Rivers trust have provided a list of schemes for consideration.
20	Establish a Cycle Task Group to look at cycle opportunities, and cycle routes in the borough	Request for a Scrutiny Task Group.	The next task group is cycling and should be ongoing by September.
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	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 councils 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 for release on the staff intranet.

Climate change and air quality

16. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

17. Not applicable.

Risk

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

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

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

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

20. 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)

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