

Meeting:	JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
Date:	10 th March 2023
From:	Joint Officer Steering Group

Transport Update

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the transport related issues across the Greater Nottingham conurbation. The report gives an update on bus service provision, e-bike hire scheme, the social prescribing for encouraging walking and cycling project, and the new funding package from Active Travel England.

2 BACKGROUND

Broad Marsh area schemes

- 2.1 Work is continuing on the regeneration of the surrounding areas, including the cycle lanes on Canal Street. Surveys took place to determine the level abuse of the cycle lane by taxis and private hire vehicles dropping off and picking up passengers close to the Courts complex. Subsequently a new Traffic Regulation Order has now come into force that will enable prosecutions to be brought for these offences.

Transforming Cities Fund – New E- Bike Hire Scheme

- 2.2 Tenders have been received and a contract awarded to Lime Bike to operate an e-bike hire scheme in Nottingham City Councils' area launching at the end of March 2023. Locations for parking locations are currently subject to agreement between the City Council and the operator.

Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilot Project

- 2.3 A successful bid has been made to become one of eleven national pilot areas for Active Travel Social Prescribing by the City Council in partnership with the Nottingham Place-based Partnership (formerly Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group). The programme will be delivered in three areas of the city benefiting from investment in walking and cycling infrastructure but with poor health outcomes and low levels of active travel. These are Aspley, Beechdale, Bilborough in the west of the City, St.Anns/Sneinton in the east and Bulwell in the north. The programme will run until March 2025 and involves an investment of £1.6m to provide a range of one to one, small group and community-based walking and cycling support services and activities, including the creation of a specialist bike hire library at the Harvey Hadden Centre and funding for a project delivery team embedded in the social prescribing link worker team and community volunteer sector. The aim of the project is to support people previously not engaged or unable to walk or cycle due to health, confidence, mental wellbeing, mobility, or other physical or financial barriers to increase the number of local journeys made by cycling or walking.

Active Travel Infrastructure Funding

- 2.4 Recently, Active Travel England has announced that a further a further £200million is being made available to local authorities to improve cycling and walking infrastructure¹. Officers from both City and County Councils are preparing bids for this funding, ready for the deadline of submissions on 24th February 2023. Detailed consultation and implementation of any works would take place in the 2023/24 financial year.

Future Transport Zone

- 2.5 The trial of wireless charging of electric taxis at Trent Street has now come to an end and the equipment is being removed. The installation was a successful proof of concept and useful discussions have been had with taxi operators to consider a switch to electric vehicles and to support the development of this technology.

Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA)

- 2.6 The City Council in partnership with Nottingham City Transport (NCT) was successful in the latest bidding round for this Department for Transport fund with arrangements to purchase 78 electric single and double decker buses, and associated depot and charging infrastructure to be operated by NCT. It is expected the new buses will come into service during 2023.

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

- 2.7 Work continues on the implementation of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County councils BSIP plans particularly for the implementation of bus priority measures on the radial routes in and out of Nottingham. Where feasible this is being integrated with other programmes such as the Transforming Cities Fund, Future Transport Zone and the Active Travel Programme, to ensure that schemes are well designed and benefit both bus users, cyclists and pedestrians. The Project Execution Plan for the Greater Nottingham Bus Priority Schemes has been agreed and that the first tranche of Bus Service support has been allocated to operators totalling £484,000 for the period Oct 22 to July 23.
- 2.8 Work on the Fares Support Package was paused at the request of DfT to take account of the National Fares initiative implemented from January 2023 which introduced a maximum £2 single fare for all local bus journeys. This has included all operators in the area and has been promoted by extensive advertising both on and off buses. The £2 national fare initiative doesn't have that much bearing on the fares support packages within the BSIP. However a Project Adjustment Request has been submitted to the DfT to replace the £75,000 jobseekers work package with a care leavers scheme - following further consultation with operators which identified that stakeholders within the Employment and Skills sector were already very active in this space.

¹ [£200 million to improve walking and cycling routes and boost local economies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/200-million-to-improve-walking-and-cycling-routes-and-boost-local-economies)

3 RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 It is recommended that the contents of this report be noted.

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None

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