

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: 16 November 2020

Title: Draft Public Transport Infrastructure Strategy

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Background

At a meeting of this committee held on 20 January 2020, following a request for the installation of a new bus shelter, it was resolved that an audit of bus shelters be carried out and brought back to a future meeting to help direct future requests (minute no. SC26 refers).

Current Situation

A draft public transport infrastructure strategy is attached which draws together committed, deferred and potential improvements to bus stops and shelters across the town. It is a first draft which will need amending with the final version being brought back to a future meeting of the committee. An audit of all bus stops carried out by Witney's Independent Transport Representative in 2016 is included as Appendix A.

The information contained in the strategy is based on the Town Council's objectives concerning climate change and infrastructure improvements and considers proposed residential developments and existing bus provision (pre Covid-19 pandemic). Where possible, the strategy addresses previous resident requests and the thoughts of members and recommendations of Witney's Independent Transport Representative while attempting to compliment or enhance existing Town and District Council policies.

The four strategic planning development areas feature prominently in the strategy. It is expected that the Witney East development will be served by community transport while those at Witney North and Witney West may be suitable for commercial contracts.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make regarding its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should consider any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

As a strategy for facilitating improvement of Witney's public transport infrastructure over the next ten years, thought should be given to the attached developer funding held by Oxfordshire County Council.

There appears to be a considerable amount of money allocated to projects in certain areas which if not used for that purpose, will be returned to developers. However, if a case can be made to re-purpose infrastructure funds in one area to another, Oxfordshire County Council can forward on this request.

WI33 Request allocation of funds towards a bus shelter or a seat, real-time stats at Staple Hall bus stop

Request allocation of funds towards further cycle racks at Newland/Oxford Hill bus stops and shelters to create satellite active travel hubs

Request allocation of funds to enhancing the bus shelters in Newland/Oxford Hill to make them 'greener'

WI36 Request allocation of funds toward Community Transport infrastructure enhancements across Witney

WI50 Request allocation of funds towards a bus shelter and cycle racks for Burwell precinct

Request allocation of funds towards a bus shelter and cycle racks for Ducklington Lane (town-centre bound from Burwell Estate)

Request allocation of funds to enhancing the bus shelters in Newland/Oxford Hill to make them 'greener'

WI56 Request allocation of funds towards improved timetable signage at bus shelters across Witney

Request allocation of funds towards making the bus shelters in Witney South, Central and West 'greener'

WI73 Agreement already reached on providing improvements to the Tower Hill bus stops

WI74 Already listed to provide a bus shelter and 3 cycle racks at Curbridge Road

WI79 Already listed to provide real-time stats on Burwell Drive

Budgetary plans for Bus Shelters and Community Infrastructure can be seen in the separate reports to the committee for 2021-22.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and attached draft strategy; and,

1. Offer any amendments/additions or deletions before submission for adoption.
2. Consider the possible re-allocation of funds held by Oxfordshire County Council.