

Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

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Report title: Bicester Sustainable Transport Action Plan 2016	
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report updates the Board on the progress to deliver the Bicester Sustainable Transport Strategy (October 2015), reviewing the current position and setting out an Action Plan for focus scheme delivery.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Bicester Sustainable Transport Strategy (STS) was approved in October 2015. It sets out the framework for sustainable travel in the town and includes a delivery plan to achieve the objective of a phased approach to implementation.
- 2.2 Government statistics published earlier this month show that the percentage people in England who walk regularly is increasing. At the same time, levels of cycling are stable.
- 2.3 The STS is part of the evidence base to Part 2 of the Local Plan. Consultants have also been appointed to prepare a masterplan for Bicester which will be informed by the STS and look at the opportunity to prioritise key radial routes for sustainable modes of transport, for example buses and cycles.
- 2.4 Following an initial meeting in November 2015 to work up an action plan, officers have formed an Action Plan Steering Group to deliver the priorities and key deliverables for 2016/17. These are discussed in more detail below.
- 2.5 Oxfordshire County Council has also set up an Active and Healthy Travel Steering Group with the first meeting in early July. The aim of the group is to develop an Active and Healthy Travel Strategy as part of the updated Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) promoting three themes (cycling, walking and door to door sustainable travel).

3. Sustainable Transport Action Plan 2016/17

- 3.1 Several schemes have feasibility studies prepared and these schemes will be the priority for the action plan. They include:
 - 3.1.1 Buckingham Road;
 - 3.1.2 Churchill Road and

3.1.3 Queens Avenue

3.2 Other schemes being progressed include:

- 3.2.1 Improvements to the north of Oxford Road to provide a shared cycle and footway north of Pingle Drive.
- 3.2.2 Provision of a footway on the southern side of Chiltern approach providing improved access to Bicester North Railway Station.
- 3.2.3 Middleton Stoney Road further improvements linked to developer contributions from North West Bicester which are currently in negotiation
- 3.2.4 Sheep Street – proposal to derestrict the Traffic Regulation Order for cyclists to allow use as a cycle route at certain times of day.
- 3.2.5 The provision of further cycle stands in the town centre continues to be progressed with the Manager of the Sainsbury supermarket agreeing with the Bicester Delivery Team Sustainability Project Officer to install six more stands in Pioneer Square.

Delivery Update

3.3 A summary of the delivery is provided below:

- 3.3.1 The new train service to London from the Bicester Village Station began in late 2015.
- 3.3.2 The new E1 Elmsbrook bus service to the North West Bicester development began operation in early summer 2015.
- 3.3.3 Various other initiatives including an electric car club and bike scheme were launched recently as part of the Elmsbrook development.
- 3.3.4 The Bicester bike loan scheme continues to operate.
- 3.3.5 Although the action plan focusses on the current financial year, given that it is now well into 2016, officers have agreed to look at projects beyond 2016/17 and focus on the short to medium term priorities.
- 3.3.6 Several funding bids have been submitted to Government and the Local Enterprise Partnerships. We have so far been unsuccessful and have also been unsuccessful in securing funding from the Sustainable Transport Transition Year joint bid with Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire County Councils.
- 3.3.7 The wayfinding project brief has been prepared and is progressing towards delivery.
- 3.3.8 The Bicester Park and Ride is now open and the potential for improved links to the town together with electric vehicle charging infrastructure opportunities are being investigated by officers.

Next steps

- 3.4 The Action Plan Steering Group is scheduled to meet quarterly with the next meeting in September 2016. Further design work is required to work up the business case for the priority projects including consultation on the proposed schemes. The masterplanning of the town provides the opportunity for engagement on transport and movement in the town with the potential to integrate and progress the sustainable transport action plan.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Board is recommended to:
- 1) Note the report and the work to deliver the STS;
 - 2) Support the delivery of the Sustainable Transport Action Plan and
 - 3) Continue to monitor the delivery of sustainable transport schemes in the town.