

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PLACES** held on Wednesday, 22 November 2023 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Matlock,.

**PRESENT**

Councillor S Bull (in the Chair)

Councillors J Siddle, A Clarke, N Gourlay, D Greenhalgh, D Murphy, J Nelson, P Niblock and R George (substitute member).

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor A Haynes.

**57/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**58/23 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

**59/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (30 MINUTE MAXIMUM IN TOTAL)**

There were no public questions.

**60/23 BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Chris Henning, Executive Director – Place, introduced the report which provided an update on the implementation work that had been undertaken on the various elements in the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) over the last 12 months.

Chris Hegarty from the Public Transport Unit provided the committee with details of this work along with the plans for future works in the next phase of the programme. The Committee was also updated on how the programme would be managed when the East Midlands Combined County Authority had been created.

In April 2022, the Department for Transport (DfT) made an announcement setting out the funding that would be available nationally to Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) for BSIPs for the next three financial years, up until March 2025 (this was a shortening of the original timescales from five years). Of the 70 LTAs that had submitted BSIPs, only 31 had received indicative allocations with neighbouring authorities' areas such as Cheshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire and South Yorkshire receiving

nothing. Derbyshire was given an initial allocation of £47m which was the second largest amount awarded to a non-urban LTA.

Since November 2022, work to implement the various measures within the BSIP, which the DfT had agreed to fund, had been gathering pace. These included:

### Bus Priority Measures

- Traffic Management System (TMS), which monitored the highway conditions from various sources and when required, could make requests to the Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system for interventions to take place. The UTC was a cloud-based operating system that enabled monitoring or control of multiple traffic signal-controlled sites within Derbyshire.
- Split Cycle and Offset Optimisation Technique (SCOOT) enabled the regional control and optimisation of traffic signals in urban locations by continuously assessing traffic flows in the area and adjusting traffic signal timings as required to better suit the changing conditions.

Mr Hegarty expanded further on all the systems, which were being developed and implemented in parallel. The initial 120 sites that required a mixture of these systems and control requirements had been assessed, with 24 traffic signal controllers built ready for software configurations to be tested and installed into them.

### Transport Communications and Roadworks

Utilising the Pre-Emptive Traffic Management System (PTMS) and the Traffic Management System (TMS), the Council was developing an automatic alert system which would send information regarding roadworks or congestion to the affected bus operators to notify them of where delays might occur.

### Better Value Ticketing

A variety of ticketing schemes had been introduced which included: improvements to the Wayfarer Day rover ticket product; improvements to the B\_line young persons' concessionary scheme; and free Sunday morning travel during the school holidays.

### Better Bus Services

A large number of improvements had been made including:

- Enhancements to 21 existing commercial bus services with a mixture of improved frequencies, longer operating hours and extended routes.
- The introduction of an open top bus service in Ashford/Bakewell/Chatsworth aimed at reducing tourist car traffic in the area.

- Improvements to the Derbyshire Connect Shopping bus service.
- 72 additional electronic Real Time Information (RTI) screens had been installed at stops, taking the total to 302 across the County.
- Transport hub infrastructure with the first new shelters being installed in the Long Eaton area.

A variety of other work had also been undertaken to support these changes, which included: a series of targeted marketing campaigns; the development of a 'Travel Derbyshire' brand; and the introduction of Bus Champions to promote bus travel at events and to key groups, such as businesses and students.

Projects that required physical works to be undertaken had a longer lead time than the service improvements and ticketing initiatives. As a result, the implementation of the bus priority measures would continue into 2024. Much of the work linked to the transport hubs scheme was also only now beginning to be delivered. A total of 18 hub sites were being delivered across the County from Hayfield in the north to Swadlincote in the south. Many of these were linked to other improvement schemes already underway, such as the Heanor Market Place Future High Street project and the Staveley and Clay Cross Town Deals. By combining BSIP money with these other sources of funding, it was anticipated that the hub programme would be able to deliver a more rounded and integrated solution at a number of locations.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Hegarty and Mr Henning for their in-depth report and presentation and looked forward to receiving a progress report next year.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee:

- a) Notes the work undertaken to implement the various elements in the Bus Service Improvement Plan over the last 12 months; and
- b) Notes the work proposed for the coming year.

#### 61/23 **WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

The Committee's work programme for the remainder of 2023-24 was presented and it was noted that currently there were a number of agenda items for both of the remaining meetings. Work was commencing to plan for 2024-25 and Members were invited to suggest possible items for consideration for the 2024-25 work programme.

The Chairman also informed the Committee that an additional meeting was to be arranged to discuss issues relating to the recent floods that the County had suffered as a result of Storm Babet. Members of the Committee

would be informed of the date of this meeting in due course.

Meeting finished: 11:48