

SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL UPDATE FOR SUSCOM – 21 JULY 2016

BIDS

Sustainable Travel Transition Year (the follow-up to Local Sustainable Transport Fund)

The 4 West of England Authorities submitted a bid for £2.2M of revenue funding to support sustainable transport initiatives in 2016/17. This pot of funding is considered by the Department for Transport as a 'transition' between LSTF and a potentially significant pot of funding available in April 2017.

It was announced in late May 2016 that the WoE has been successful in the competition and will receive the full £2.2M of funding requested.

The funding will cover the following initiatives/schemes:

Sub-regional:

- Travel West website and journey planner
- Business Travel Awards
- Business Travel Challenge
- Travel to Work Survey

South Gloucestershire Council area:

- Match-funded SusCom membership
- Expanding SusCom activities into new areas
- Match-funded employer grants
- Business cycle-champions funding
- Personalised Travel Planning for moving and expanding businesses
- Provision of travel information and maps
- Cycle maintenance training
- Dr Bike sessions
- JoinMyJourney journey-sharing promotion/expansion
- Travel Roadshow events
- Walking promotion
- Wheels to Work (cycling) schemes
- Travel planning at new residential development
- A package of measures to promote walking and cycling (including road safety) in schools.

A big **thank you** to SusCom (via Ann O'Driscoll) for providing input to the schemes and to SusCom members for providing letters of support which were submitted to DfT as part of the bid document. We believe these letters were very important in securing the funding.

Richard Drew (South Glos Council, Business Engagement Manager) will inform SusCom members as to how employers in our area can benefit from STTY funding.

Access Fund

Hot on the heels of our success with the Sustainable Travel Transition Year bid – the Department for Transport has recently opened the ‘Access Fund’ competition. The Access Fund is the follow-up to the Sustainable Travel Transition Year and will provide revenue funding for sustainable travel initiatives for 3 years (April 2017 – March 2020).

The 4 WoE authorities will submit a joint bid for funding before the 9 September 2016 deadline. SusCom has been invited as a key stakeholder to input into our list of schemes for inclusion into the bid.

It is anticipated that many (if not all) of the schemes listed above in the STTY programme will be included in the Access Fund bid, including (but not limited to):

- Match-funded SusCom membership
- Match-funded employer grants
- Business cycle-champions
- Personalised Travel Planning for moving and expanding businesses

South Glos Council would welcome letters of support for our bid and attached to this note is a template letter for organisations to complete and return. Letters of support from organisations external to the Local Authority have been key to securing LSTF and STTY funding in the past, so we would really appreciate your continued support to help access this key stream of revenue funding in the future.

CRIBBS PATCHWAY METROBUS EXTENSION

Councillors on South Glos’ ECS Committee approved the progression of the CPME scheme at their meeting on 6 July. The scheme was previously considered in May when the item was deferred for further work to be carried out to help inform the committee’s decision. The agreed route will run between Bristol Parkway Station and The Mall bus station, via Hatchet Road, Gipsy Patch Lane, through the former Rolls Royce East Works site, along North Way, and through the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood.

We are now entering the detailed design phase and we are also reviewing the scheme’s programme. If the programme needs to be amended then we will publish it on the CPME webpage at www.travelwest.info/metrobus/extension as soon as it is confirmed.

AZTEC WEST SCHEME

The initial construction phases (footway / crossing improvements) are underway. Utility diversions will take place in the back end of the year facilitated by narrower carriageway lanes. The main carriageway works are planned to complete next financial year after the metrobus works are completed.

A4174 CHALLENGE FUND

We are currently resurfacing between the Dramway and Siston roundabouts with the work scheduled for completion on 17th August. A programme is being developed for this financial year that will include resurfacing at the Hambrook Lights, Wick Wick to Lyde Green roundabouts and Hicks Gate to the Longwell Green roundabouts. We continue to work closely with the Metrobus project to coordinate programmes.

RAIL

MetroWest phase 2 Work continues with GRIP3 with 3 stations in scope Ashley Down, North Filton and Henbury. Network Rail and their consultants will continue to consider 2 site options for Henbury (the public consultation showed an even split between the old station site and a new site) and North Filton where the new owners (YTL) of the airfield site has suggested a new location just west of the old station site.

Work continues with Gloucestershire CC to consider an extension of the increased service frequencies to Gloucester.

Bristol City Council has let a consultancy contract to look at access to Ashley Down station.

MetroWest phase 1 managed by North Somerset Council - GRIP3 work has identified a number of issues along the route which are putting pressure on the timetable for development. Network Rail are working with the North Somerset to address these issues and this is producing a number of innovative solutions (which are being worked through at the moment). North Somerset hope to be able to present a clearer picture to the Joint Transport Board in the autumn (9 September 2016) this will include a revised programme for the Development Consent Order.

General rail- Electrification works is continuing through South Glos Council area. The next major piece of work will be the track lowering of Patchway tunnel and the installation of OHLE in the Severn Tunnel - this will necessitate the closure of this route for 6 weeks. There will also be closures of SGC stations over the August bank holiday weekend for re-signalling works. The advice is to check the rail operator's website when planning a journey and before buying a ticket.

Network Rail have determined that they will remove the foot bridge from Pilning station and arrangements will be made by GWR to provide additional stopping trains and ticket derogations to allow a similar level of service from the station (currently one return journey a week). The footbridge has to be removed to make way for the electrification of the route and the cost does not meet business case levels due to the very low number of passengers. NR do not have to consult widely on this they have carried out a very limited consultation within the rail industry.

Parkway station will be the focus for a lot of activity up to Dec 2018 while NR / GWR and SGC work to introduce MetroBus, build a new platform, lengthen existing platform, complete electrification and gain access to the track for electrification works. At the end of this works, the service from the station will be considerably enhanced.

In the autumn the conversations will begin with the DfT re the next franchise for the Western Route.

BUSES

For full details of changes to public transport provision, visit <http://ow.ly/Xy6XC>

SGC has published a new bus route map for South Gloucestershire. Copies can be ordered by e-mailing. The map can also be viewed on the SGC website – www.southglos.gov.uk

Regards,

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