

SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL UPDATE FOR SUSCOM –July 2017

ACCESS FUND BID TO DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT

The four West of England authorities have been successful in their bid to obtain further funding for sustainable travel related projects. Access West comprises £6.9m of DfT funding, of which South Glos has approximately £1.65m to spend on businesses and community related projects.

The project formally started on 1st April and the support on offer is as follows:

- Match-funded SusCom membership and support to enable SusCom to deliver further booster activities
- Match-funded employer grants
- Business cycle-champions
- Travel challenge(s)
- Annual travel to work survey

We are in the final stages of recruiting an additional project support officer to help to develop and run the project, they will be in post in time for the next meeting and will be introduced then.

The annual travel challenge is currently being finalised and will be launched shortly, it will run for 6 weeks during June and July for the next 3 years.

We are also tasked with re-launching our wheels to work project which we are in the process of doing, this will include the following support offers:

- Bus tickets/vouchers – primarily utilising First Bus m-tickets as these will not be declined by drivers (an issue with paper vouchers) and can be audited much more effectively
- Travel training – care leavers have been highlighted as a key demographic requiring support in accessing work and skills so we will be trialling some one-to-one travel training for those that have limited family or peer support to enable them to use public transport for travel to training or employment
- We will be also be looking to provide loan bikes for people looking to access work and skills, subject to finding a suitable service provider
- We also aim to provide specific support to apprentices, more detail on this aspect of the project will be available in due course

We will be working closely with the DWP and other partners/service providers to deliver the Wheels to Work element of the project

JOINT TRANSPORT PLAN / JOINT SPATIAL STRATEGY

[JULY 2017 – NO FURTHER UPDATE]

The four West of England councils – Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire – are working towards preparing a Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and Joint Transport Study (JTS), which sets out a prospectus for sustainable growth that will help the area meet its housing and transport needs for the next 20 years.

The results of the winter consultation were reported to council members at a Joint West of England Planning, Housing and Communities Board and Joint Transport Executive Committee on 17th March. The full report and updated information can be found at: www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk

The consultation results will then be taken into account in the final JTS report, due in early summer 2017 and fed into the next stage of the JSP.

LOCAL GROWTH FUND

The Local Enterprise Partnership has confirmed £3.3m of funding for 12 infrastructure schemes supporting sustainable travel across the 4 West of England authorities through their 'Local Growth Fund – Sustainable Transport Package'.

In the South Glos Local Authority area, the following 4 schemes were approved for funding:

- 1) Access to Emerson's Green Enterprise area – comprising:
 - a. Continued construction of sections of the Yate Spur shared use path
 - b. Negotiation to secure the final section of the Pucklechurch link shared use path
- 2) Access to Avonmouth/Sevenside Enterprise Area – upgrade/new shared use paths in the A403/Ableton Lane area
- 3) Access to Bristol North Fringe (including the Filton Enterprise Area) - following on from the feasibility study undertaken as part of the Travel West 16/17 bid, funding will deliver the first section of cycle route upgrades in the Filton/Patchway area.
- 4) Bus Network Enforcement – to ensure bus services are operating without disruption/delay caused by encroachment of private vehicles in bus lanes – improving both journey times and journey time reliability of public transport services in the authority area.

Work on the above schemes has already been progressed, with all schemes expected to be complete by September 2018.

CYCLING UPDATE

Yate Spur

On site construction work for the Kidney Hill link into Westerleigh Village will begin at the end of July and is expected to take up to 4 months. Funding for the construction of further sections later this year was recently confirmed by the Local enterprise partnership. (this may be covered in Kevins update)

Holiday inn access road A4174

No funding has been set aside for this scheme at present, but designs that provide cycle priority over a raised table have been agreed, and are ready to take forward when a funding opportunity arises.

LCWIP Bid

An expression of interest was submitted to the DfT for 80 hours of consultancy support for the creation of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan covering the 4 West of England authorities. This bid was submitted by WECA on our behalf, and we expect to hear whether we were successful in September.

Cycle Forum

We are looking for local organisations to host cycle forum meetings. The 7th September meeting is being hosted by SusCom and Bristol and Bath Science Park, we looking for hosts for our November 2017 and March 2018 meetings. Please email cycleforum@southglos.gov.uk if you can help out.

M4 JUNCTION 18A STUDY

Draft versions of early plans have been circulated publicly by some of the parish councils in the vicinity of the proposed site(s), however agreed versions of plans and further engagement events will be planned during the initial consultation phase.

Further details on the scheme are available here: <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/transport/planning-transport-policy/m4-junction-18a-link-road-study/>

CRIBBS PATCHWAY METROBUS EXTENSION (CPME)

The agreed CPME route will operate 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.

Officers are continuing to progress detailed design work for the CPME, including further survey work and investigating the potential for some minor changes to some parts of the route to address concerns raised by local people during the previous public consultation. A revised programme for the scheme has been published at www.travelwest.info/metrobus/extension - which is the link to follow for all ongoing updates.

A4174 CHALLENGE FUND – Bromley Heath viaduct

Bromley Heath works are confirmed to start on 24th July with traffic management in place of the weekend of 22nd/23rd July. Additional funding has now been secured to enable the works to complete in 33 weeks.

RAIL

There will be significant engineering work taking place around Parkway Station between 19th August and 15th September, including a 2 week full closure of Parkway Station, more details are here: <https://www.gwr.com/travel-updates/planned-engineering/autumn-upgrade-2017>. The usual rail replacement service will be offered, however GWR are also planning to offer a dedicated bike bus to assist the many commuters who travel from Gloucester and Cam and Dursely with bike who will have to terminate at Yate during the Parkway closure. The dedicated bus will have secure storage for around 9 bikes and seating for the same number of riders, it will go on to form the standard fleet for rail replacement services in the area going forward.