

Agenda item 6

For information, discussion and decision: Resilience Work Plan 2016/17 on Transport

Author: Cara Naden, Resilience Officer (Maternity Cover)

Summary

The post of Resilience Officer was established to support the community, community groups and businesses in the town to be more resilient in the face of climate change challenges, changes to public transport provision and the need to reduce waste.

This report brings Cllrs up to date on progress on transport measures in the first half of this financial year and proposes a discussion on future priorities. It also recommends that FTC does not subsidise the FirstBus 267 evening bus services. At the meeting, Cara Naden, FTC's Resilience Officer (Maternity Cover) will summarise progress, take questions and introduce the debate.

Introduction

Cara Naden, FTC's Resilience Officer (Maternity Cover) will make a presentation at the meeting on her work plan as it relates to transport, outlining key impacts and projects. The objective in FTC's current work programme states "Improve transport services." The table below summarises the key activities and provides a progress update and some future proposals.

What	How		
		Progress	Future
FirstBus 267 evening bus services – there is a proposal to reduce these services	FAVBUG group considering how to save the 267 evening services to Bath	FAVBUG are meeting with FirstBus on 5 December to discuss the cost of keeping this service running.	<p>It is likely that FTC will be asked to subsidise these services. This evening service carries very few people in a (generally) very large bus. Those that do use it are likely to be travelling to Bath for evening entertainment purposes thus boosting the Bath local economy rather than Frome's.</p> <p>Recommendation: Do not subsidise this service but promote alternative transport options which are considered to be better value as described below.</p>

<p>Number 30 service (Mendip Community Bus)</p>	<p>New stop/route proposal: Currently the number 30 service runs along Berkley Road in both directions in its circular route, with passengers having a 6-8 minute walk to the surgeries/hospital from the nearest stops on this service.</p>	<p>Frome Minibuses (Andrew Young), is happy to apply to the Transport Commissioners to change the route so that buses heading north from the town centre continue along Fromefield.</p>	<p>Support the installation of bus shelters at the bus stop at health centre in partnership with the Hospital and the Medical Practice</p>
<p>Improving other transport services</p>	<p>Work with partners to secure improvements in public transport services, look for real alternatives to public transport, promote Car Club and workable schemes for lift and car share</p>	<p>Car Club Launched the car club in February 2015 with £16,000 secured from funding from the Department for Transport (via Carplus). It now has over 90 members and has displaced 30 privately owned vehicles.</p>	<p>Further promotion of the Co-Wheels car share club to increase numbers and look to expand the service with more available vehicles in the town.</p>
<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Rail Increased access to rail use by providing 7 new signs, delivery of 24,000 leaflets and engage with 5,000 low income households to offer discounts for rail tickets - funded by £15,000 grant from GWR.</p>	<p>Planning for the launch of 'Fair Travel' to provide discounted rail tickets, free/discounted car club membership and increased signage working with Fair Frome. Meeting with local JSA advisor in December to discuss how to support JSA and low earners access public transport including bus, train and car club through vouchers.</p>

As above	As above	Volunteer driver scheme £10,000 has been secured to support the volunteer driver scheme called Frome Community Cars and £5,000 to be donated from Frome Medical Practice.	Launched volunteer driver scheme in November/Dec. This scheme is designed to complement and not compete with other volunteer driver and community bus schemes. Currently, we have six trained up volunteer drivers and we aim to have eight in total by the end of November. Further recruits for drivers and users will be sought during December.
As above	As above	Bus Trial of village bus service to Frome working with Mendip Community Transport. Trial concludes in December. This is a partnership between Frome, Wanstrow, etc. parishes with the aim of making the service self-sustaining.	If the village bus service is successful and quickly becomes self-sustaining, it is planned to replicate the methodology with other similar services at risk of being cut.
Reducing Air Pollution from Transport in Frome	Promoting electric car use	New charge points are being installed at the Football club and Frome Town Hall. (Frome will then have five public charging points)	Looking to secure additional 2 -3 locations in Frome to install an electric car Charging Station. The completion of this project (with a total of 8 installed) would likely make Frome the EV driver destination of the county – a rural market Town with the most public accessible and free to use EV charging stations.
As above	As above	Improved info sheet in Nissan LEAF on how to start and drive the car.	We are considering setting up a buddy scheme so that new EV drivers can speak to and ask help/advice from another EV user

As above	Car share scheme and bike to work scheme promotion		Promote to businesses more sustainable transport solutions including: public transport, car share networks, bike to work schemes and promote Co-Wheels for transport to business meetings.
As above	Reducing air pollution from existing transport in the town	Switch Off campaign	Contact bus providers to see if they can have a policy of switching off engines while waiting/ idling at bus stops and at traffic lights. Look at opportunities to engage and encourage car drivers to also switch engines off while stationary.

Items for discussion

1. Are the future work actions as outlined in the table above, the right priorities?
2. Are there other projects we could do or explore?

Recommendation

Do not subsidise the FirstBus 267 evening bus services to Bath but promote alternative transport options which are considered to be better value

Further information

For more information, contact: Cara Naden, 01373 475579, nadenc@frometowncouncil.gov.uk

There are also summaries of this stream of work at: www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/cleanfuture , www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/community-cars