

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	14 th March 2022	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 9999
TITLE:	Journey to Net Zero: Reducing the Environmental Impact of Transport in Bath	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Journey to Net Zero – Consultation Document		
Journey to Net Zero - Equalities Impact Assessment		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Journey to Net Zero Transport Plan identifies the transport measures required in the short, medium and long term. The measures included in the plan are likely to have long term impacts and benefits to the communities we serve and as such needs to be examined before being approved.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to;

- 2.1 Review and scrutinise the Journey to Net Zero Transport Plan and make any recommended alterations to the plan prior to it being taken to Cabinet for full approval in May 2022.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Getting Around Bath Transport Strategy (GABTS) was adopted in 2015 and covered the period up to 2029. The Strategy identifies increasing the numbers using sustainable transport as the key overarching aim whilst supporting growth. As part of the strategy a set of performance targets were agreed up to 2020. Those targets for walking, cycling and bus passengers have now been delivered.
- 3.2 In March 2019, B&NES declared a Climate Emergency, which included a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030. Transport currently accounts for 29% of carbon emissions in the B&NES area. The B&NES Climate Emergency Outline Plan identified the scale of change required to meet t the carbon

neutrality target. There are many potential pathways to achieving this target. For example, one scenario would require:

- 7% decrease in the number of car journeys across the local authority area
- 25% reduction in kilometres travelled per person by car each year
- Electric cars: 76% pure battery, 14% petrol hybrid
- Buses: 76% electric, 24% hybrid
- Rail: 37% of freight rail is electric, 100% passenger rail is electric

- 3.3 The declaration of the climate emergency provides an unparalleled opportunity to look at Bath as a whole and to develop a coherent, long-term vision and plan for transport in the city. No single mode of transport will be dominant. Instead, people will have a choice between a range of modes of transport – each of them accessible, viable and sustainable.
- 3.4 The current ways in which we travel will not get us to carbon neutrality by 2030. This plan sets out the changes needed to our transport system to create places we want to live and work; with better connected, healthier and genuinely sustainable communities.
- 3.5 The Journey to Net Zero (formerly the Bath Transport Delivery Action Plan) report sets out a plan to tackle some of the biggest challenges our society faces: combating climate change, improving air quality, improving health and wellbeing and tackling congestion.
- 3.6 In April 2020, the Journey to Net Zero Phase 1: Current and Future Report⁵ (Current and Future Report) was published by B&NES, setting out the current and future situation for transport into, out of and around Bath, and the need for significant and focused improvements. This report looks at the ways in which we currently travel, and provides the evidence base that underpins the consideration of future transport measures set out in this plan.
- 3.7 This plan forms the second part of our Journey to Net Zero report, identifying measures to overcome the challenges identified in the Current and Future Report. When combined, these reports:
- Identify the problems that currently affect travel in the district
 - Identify solutions to improve and promote sustainable travel in, around and into the city
- 3.8 The plan provides an holistic approach for meeting the transport needs of those living, working and visiting Bath from 2020 onwards and identifies how transport will respond to and support delivery of the targets set out in the Climate Emergency.
- 3.9 We have placed people at the centre of the Journey to Net Zero, focusing on providing transport infrastructure and environments that will encourage the use of sustainable modes by making them a genuine alternative to the car. This will involve reducing the dominance of the private car while maintaining access for those whose needs cannot easily be met by more sustainable modes.

- 3.10 This plan focuses primarily on the City of Bath, but also recognises the importance of the travel corridors between the city and the wider district. In light of this the plan includes measures to improve transport connections along the main corridors into Bath.
- 3.11 The plan sets out the steps that we have already taken and those that we are currently working on. The plan considers projects in three groupings based on level of development:
- Current projects – these are projects that are already underway and are either being developed by the Council or have been delivered. These projects have been consulted on, and assuming the resource and funding is available will be delivered (if they have not already)
 - Developing projects – these are projects which are under development and are subject to consultation and approval
 - Future projects – these are emerging projects that are not currently under development, but could be pursued by the Council in order to support the ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030
- 3.12 The Plan identifies at a high-level the potential scale of carbon reduction that the future projects could deliver. As the projects identified in the plan develop, we will consider their impact on reducing carbon in more detail, and estimate the quantified impacts.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The plan will deliver the outcomes of the Joint Local Transport Plan 4, The Getting Around Bath Transport Strategy (GABTS), B&NES Corporate Plan and build on the Liveable Neighbourhoods.
- 4.2 The GABTS identifies sustainable transport as the key overarching aim whilst supporting growth. The vision and objectives contained within the Journey to Net Zero have been reviewed with Cabinet Members and updated to reflect the importance of the Climate Emergency.
- 4.3 The vision for the Journey to Net Zero Transport Plan is:
- “Bath will enhance its unique status by adopting measures that promote sustainable transport and decision making, whilst reducing carbon emissions and the intrusion of vehicles, particularly in the historic core. This will improve the quality of life for local people, enable more economic activity and growth, while enhancing the special character and environment of the city.”*
- 4.4 The objectives for the Journey to Net Zero Transport Plan are set out below:
- Improving air quality and health
 - Promoting sustainable mobility
 - Supporting and enabling economic growth, competitiveness, and jobs
 - Widening travel choice

- Widening access to opportunities: jobs/learning/training
- Safeguarding and enhancing the unique historic environment and World Heritage Site status
- Improving quality of life in the city

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 Following the approval of the Journey to Net Zero Transport Plan work will begin to develop detailed business cases for each of the transport measures being taken forward.
- 5.2 The business cases will be used to secure the necessary funding to deliver the transport measures through both the Department for Transport (DfT) and the West of England Combined Authority through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), Investment Fund and any other potential sources of funding.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment report has been produced as part of the Journey to Net Zero Transport Plan and is provide as an appendix to this report.
- 7.2 In addition to this a full Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken for each of those schemes that are taken forward as part of the Journey to Net Zero Plan.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 One of the main objectives of the plan is to identify how to reduce carbon and meet the 2030 climate emergency targets. The Journey to Net Zero sets out the authority's route map for carbon neutrality in transport terms by 2030.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Initially several facilitated workshops were undertaken with B&NES Officers, Transport Exec Members and key stakeholders. From this a number of possible options were identified and put forward alongside others identified in previous consultations listed in the phase 1 report.
- 10.2 These options were used to develop a package of concepts for future transport in Bath that were of a suitable magnitude to address the climate emergency whilst also responding to the other objectives. These included reimagining our road space, connecting rural communities, resilient mobility, freight, pedestrians, cycling, bus improvements and mass transit.

- 10.3 Following this a 6-week full public consultation took place from 15th January to 1st March of last year, seeking the public's views on a range of transport themes and concepts that added a level of (non-geographic) detail to the theme.
- 10.4 Alongside the public consultation a number of Stakeholder meetings were undertaken with key groups covering transport, parish councils, education, health, the environment, business and seldom heard groups. A public webinar was also undertaken that allowed attendees to ask any questions regarding the Journey to Net Zero Plan. As part of the consultation report answers were provided to each of the questions posed at the event. The outcomes of this consultation informed the development of the 'future projects' presented within the JNZ, supplemented with additional input from the project team and wider Council
- 10.5 The results of this consultation were published on the Council's website and were used to develop the initial Journey to Net Zero Report. The Journey to Net Zero Consultation Document was then subject to a further 4 week public consultation between 10th and 7th February of this year.
- 10.6 The consultation was published on the Council's website and included an online questionnaire that asked the public to give their views on the 'future projects' that were identified. The questions sought to gauge the strength of support for the schemes put forward and the extent to which each measure would reduce an individual's transport carbon footprint. The consultation made it clear that we were seeking views on the future transport measures, not those transport schemes currently being delivered or in development.
- 10.7 In response to feedback from the first consultation, significant efforts were made to publicise the second consultation including
- A poster campaign within libraries and at bus stops across Bath
 - Emails to Parish Councils and other key stakeholders that took part in the first consultation to raise awareness
 - A social media campaign
 - Radio adverts on a number of commercial radio stations
 - Promotion on the Travelwest website
- 10.8 In addition to these the Project Team undertook a number of meetings to raise awareness and increase levels of input to the plan including:
- A specific meeting with ward Councillors
 - A public webinar event hosted by B&NES with a presentation and Q&A session
 - Two meetings with Stakeholders followed up with a Stakeholder Pack that provided Stakeholders with a suite of messaging and graphics to use in their own publications and websites to increase awareness with their members.

10.9 The Project Team are currently analysing the responses received from the second consultation and are compiling a list of recommended changes to the Journey to Net Zero Consultation Report. The list of recommended changes will be submitted for agreement to the relevant Cabinet Member before being actioned. The updated report will then be agreed through the decision pathway before being formally approved by Councillors at the Cabinet meeting in May 2022.

Contact person	Nick Simons
Background papers	Journey to Net Zero Consultation Report Journey to Net Zero – Equality Impact Assessment Report.
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	