

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

MINUTES OF COMMUNITIES, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Monday, 17th September, 2018

Present:- **Councillors** Neil Butters, Richard Samuel, Peter Turner, Patrick Anketell-Jones, Ian Gilchrist, Anthony Clarke and Michael Evans

Apologies for absence: Councillors:

25 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

26 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Alan Hale had sent their apologies to the Panel. Councillor Anthony Clarke was a substitute for Councillor Hale.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

29 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

30 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

There were 8 questions from members of the public.
(Copies of the questions and responses have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix and are available on the Council's website)

Caroline Ambrose read out a statement *(attached as Appendix to these minutes)* where she asked for meaningful facts or evidence to support Bath Central Library project.

David Redgewell made a statement about bus and rail transport issues, in particular: Revenue issues on rural services; Radstock corridor; submissions to the West of

England Transport Committee; and, maintenance of the Bath Bus Station (seats, signage, glass damage), as well as the Bath Spa train station.

Paul Stansall read out a statement (*attached as Appendix to these minutes*) where he felt that early design and layout proposals on Bath Central Library had represented unrealistic operational expectations.

31 MINUTES

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

32 CABINET MEMBERS UPDATE

The Chairman informed the meeting that he would bring this item forward and invited Cabinet member to give their updates.

Councillor Karen Warrington (Transformation and Customer Services) statement:

‘Community Run Libraries

The transitioning of our branch libraries to community run libraries is proceeding at pace.

Saltford Community Library opened its doors in July and is an exciting joint community initiative. Planning for additional use has been approved and the post office counter will open on the 24th September. The Community Library is putting back something into the community and getting revenue at the same time.

Weston has completed public consultation, planning has been approved to include office space. The Library has established its governance and volunteer network and is now undergoing remodelling by the landlords with the view to opening its doors as a new community library in mid-October.

Moorland Road is currently undergoing consultation with the community and a community group have established themselves with a volunteer network ready to take on the running of the library. A full application is expected in the Autumn.

Paulton has completed public consultation and a full application is expected from the Parish Council in the Autumn subject to costs being resolved due to potential rental increases from the landlord.

2 brand new exiting community libraries have been approved with grant funding issued and will be opening in Bishop Sutton and Timsbury at the end of October and November respectively. These are rural areas that have reduced services and therefore are likely to have isolated residents. New Community Libraries are an opportunity for the community to have a focus for the village and the wider area.

3 other expressions of interest have been received from Chew Valley School, Peasedown and Southside. Further conversations are ongoing with Radstock, Chew Stoke, Combe Hay, Larkhall, Foxhill and Whitchurch.

A new system for the delivery of stock to community libraries has been successfully implemented which will be much more efficient and sustainable for any future growth as well as improve the service we can provide to them.

We will monitor and review the Mobile Library route in light of the changes to community libraries and community demand, but no significant route or service changes have been instigated to date.

We have looked at options for a replacement service and have concluded that a like for like replacement is the best option. Therefore we are embarking on the procurement process for a new vehicle which will reduce the number of days lost due to breakdowns and service issues and ensuring more resilience is in place for day to day operational delivery.

Midsomer Norton Library and Information Service at The Hollies

The new space and the new service opened to the public on 4th June. Early feedback has been positive and this is backed up by a 60% increase in the number of new members compared to the same period last year which will translate into a significant increase in the number of items being borrowed over the coming months. The former Library is currently being marketed for sale.

Bath Library and Information Service at The Podium

Following extensive engagement, the design work on the new space is complete with the aim of going out to tender in October. The feedback from the consultation events has been incredibly positive – most participants agree that we've listened and included their suggestions and that the resulting design looks exciting whilst addressing their operational and integration concerns.

VISUALS are being handed out now for reference (*attached as Appendix to these minutes*).

We are working to find & secure a temporary location for the library for the duration of the works as this is the preferred option in order to minimise the construction period and therefore the disruption to the public.

The current plan is that work will start on site early in the New Year and complete during July/August 2019. Obviously we are not in a position to confirm this as yet until a contractor is appointed and determined the scheme of works.

On points of process – Later this month officers will draw down scheme funding from the provisional capital programme. Also an application for a 'Certificate of Lawfulness' has been submitted to the Planners to confirm that the incorporation of the services is compatible with the existing planning use class of the Library. This application will be available for the public to view on the planning portal over the next week or so (depending on the registration process).

Designing the new service

A vital part of the whole programme is changing the way we work in the new spaces we create and in improving the service we offer to the public. We are looking at all our operations and working practices to ensure they support the customer to self-serve where appropriate but provide the right level of expertise and intervention when required. We are looking at how we ensure that we target our resources to where they are most needed and also how we make the best use of our volunteers and partners. We will be taking every opportunity to use new tools and technology to become more efficient and joined up for the services we offer.

There are concerns regarding safety. You will see from the answers to the questions that there will be a full appraisal of safety and security routes from the building.

An incident at Lewis House was referred to in the questions to panel and I can confirm that this was an incident that directly related to the Police Enquiry Desk, although visitors were moved out of the OSS for their own safety. The Police Enquiry Desk will not be moving to The Podium and will remain at Lewis House, despite scaremongering amongst some quarters.

The whole programme remains on track to deliver its objectives and to generate the savings required.'

Councillor Evans asked if there was any expression of interest on the Midsomer Norton library premises in the High Street.

Councillor Warrington responded that there were no expressions of interest yet.

Councillor Evans commented that library integration with One Stop Shops in Keynsham and Midsomer Norton had been working quite well so far and asked if the same or similar model would be used for the Bath library.

Councillor Warrington responded that the Midsomer Norton library was based on the Keynsham library model, though both had operated in slightly different way.

Councillor Samuel commented that if the certificate of lawfulness would be launched next week then the Planning Department would probably not consider it until November, which means that design of new space would not start before that date. Councillor Samuel asked if specific permissions were granted to speed up the process.

Councillor Warrington replied that the officers involved in redesign of library services had been in constant contact with the Planning Department in terms of the design. The application had been logged and it should soon be available to the public. There were no objections from the landlords. Councillor Warrington also said that Certificate of lawfulness was not a subject of consultation.

Councillor Turner asked if the use of new technology in libraries would increase efficiency.

Councillor Warrington responded that users would be shown how to use the self-service facilities.

Councillor Gilchrist asked if the whole programme was on track to deliver savings.

Councillor Warrington confirmed that the whole programme was on track to deliver savings.

Councillor Butters asked about engagements from villages in running community libraries.

Councillor Warrington responded that anyone could run a community library as long as they would come up with a good offer and an adequate space.

The Chairman asked if the Radstock Town Council would be considered to run community library in Radstock and whether villages from around Paulton would be

asked to contribute towards the running of Paulton library considering that a number of users were outside Paulton.

Councillor Warrington responded that anyone, not only Town Council could run Radstock library; and, that she would check with ALCA (Avon Local Councils Association) on potential subsidy for the library from nearby villages.

Councillor Mark Shelford (Transport and Environment)

Busses and coaches

- Bath bus station would be cleaned and refurbished by the First Group who was responsible for the site.
- Wessex busses had withdrawn their services faster than expected.
- Positive discussion with the Traffic Commissioner on parking hot-spots for coaches

Highways

- Traffic calming measures and road works in and around Keynsham were going ahead. Traffic queues and delays where road works were.
- Renewal on the highway maintenance project was on track.
- WECA would help with the Toghill works. An experimental TRO to follow.
- TRO for the Circus had been signed off.
- Churchill subway refurbishment on track.

Councillor Gilchrist asked when a review on 20mph speed limit policies might happen.

Councillor Shelford responded that it should happen this year, depending on a response from the Department of Transport.

Councillor Butters asked about Western gateway and if this would be competitive to WECA.

Councillor Shelford replied that this would not be competitive to WECA; WECA might help hosting it.

Councillor Anketell-Jones asked if the Traffic Commissioner could stop coaches idling the engines whilst waiting for the passengers to board in.

Councillor Shelford responded that he would discuss this with the Traffic Commissioner.

Councillor Turner asked about potholes prioritisation.

Councillor Shelford responded that the Council have had limited funds to repair potholes, and for that reason bigger potholes were priority over smaller ones.

The Chairman asked about the tram working group and whether there was any progress with WECA on that matter.

Councillor Shelford responded that WECA had looked supportively at this issue and any progress would be communicated.

Councillor Bob Goodman (Development and Neighbourhoods)

- Clean Air Zone – the work in this matter continues. The new Clean Air Zone would be larger than the original proposal.
- Refuse and recycling – Food recycling figures were on increase of 50% from the last year, which was a positive outcome. Overall, there was huge improvement on recycling. Significant support from Ward Members around Bath University.
- Fly-tipping – figures were down from the same period last year, which was another positive outcome. One of the main reasons was an increase in fines for illegal fly-tipping.
- Street cleaning – figures had increased from the same period last year, though an increase in street cleaning was expected as the street cleaning now included parks.
- Curo and recycling – the Council had been talking to Curo about recycling in their areas; positive talks with more recycling figures to come.
- Litter dropping – vehicles used to control roads for litter dropping from cars were now fitted with dash cams.
- City Gardens bid – the Council had submitted a bid of £2m.
- Sports centres – the number of users of sport centres had increased. There was a health and safety issue at the Bath Sports and Leisure Centre which is being addressed; Keynsham Leisure Centre work was on track.

Councillor Turner said that 2 residents association had come forward to help with the litter dropping awareness by putting leaflets through residents' letterboxes, and asked if these initiatives would be welcomed by the Council.

Councillor Goodman responded that the Council would welcome any support from the residents' association on this matter.

Councillor Samuel asked if there was any agreement, or a policy, set for the commercial waste/bins left on highways; and, when the Clear Air Zone plan would be published. Councillor Samuel commented on necessity of discussions about recycling with Curo.

Councillor Goodman responded that the draft Clean Air Zone plan would be published on or around 16th October 2018. Councillor Goodman also said that businesses would be penalised if their waste/bins were obstructing the roads or pavements. Councillor Goodman added that all residents, even those living in properties owned by Curo, should recycle in the same way.

Councillor Butters welcomed the progress of waste collection though he highlighted that not all of the waste was collected on waste collection days.

Councillor Goodman agreed with Councillor Butters by saying that waste collection would never be 100% successful. On many occasions waste collectors had found difficult to collect the waste from the roads where the access was obstructed by inappropriately parked vehicles.

The Chairman welcomed that the draft plan on Clean Air Zone would be available in October and asked the Cabinet member to consider Panel's scrutiny input on this matter.

Councillor Goodman responded that he would be happy to present the plan to the Panel for scrutiny.

The Chairman thanked all Cabinet Members for their updates.

33 BATHSCAPE PROJECT - UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The Chairman invited Dan Merrett (Bathscape Development Manager) to give a presentation to the Panel.

Dan Merrett highlighted the following points in his presentation:

- Aims of the Bath Landscape Scheme
- Bathscape Location Map
- Key Threats
- Key Tasks for Development Phase
- Consultation
- Bathscape Activities
- Bathscape Walking festival
- Themes with projects and activities
- Delivery Structure

(A full copy of the presentation is attached as Appendix to these minutes).

The Panel welcomed the presentation and highlighted the following points in their debate:

- Members of the Panel felt that the partnership scheme should be promoted to the people so they could understand what the scheme does and what benefits they would have, such as exploring natural environments, and improving health and wellbeing. Dan Merritt commented that the scheme had been communicated to different groups, and that Bathscape had been monitoring first stages of the current projects.
- Some Members of the Panel expressed their concerns on the current status of the Bath Skyline Walk. Dan Merritt recognised the importance of the Bath Skyline Walk which had been under the National Trust.

- Dan Merritt informed the Panel that the schemes were very flexible and not tied to a specific funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- The Chairman commented that he recognised that the schemes were focused on Bath and surroundings, though he had hoped that the scheme would extend to North East Somerset. Dan Merritt responded that Bathscape would support any events in North East Somerset; however, the Heritage Lottery Fund would only support projects within the existing boundaries.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the presentation

34 TRANSPORT STRATEGY - GETTING FROM A TO B

The Chairman expressed his concerns that the Panel had received quite late in the day a copy of the presentation 'Getting from A to B – Strategic Transport Review'. The Chairman felt that the Panel would not be in a position to properly scrutinise this matter considering that Members of the Panel were not having enough time to consider information in the presentation.

The Chairman instructed the officers to send detailed presentation, or a Committee report, well in advance of the next meeting when they are required to present a further update, or a report, on this or other matters.

The Chairman invited Chris Major (Group Manager – Transport and Parking), Richard Morgan (Education Business Manager) and Christopher Wilford (Head of Education Inclusion Services) to give a presentation to the Panel.

The officers highlighted the following points in their presentation:

- Purpose
- Update
- Barriers
- Review – Home to School Transport
- SEND – promoting independence
- Opportunities and challenges
- Still to do's.....
- Next steps

(A full copy of the presentation is attached as Appendix to these minutes).

The Panel highlighted the following points in their debate:

- Councillor Richard Samuel felt that the project may go against Council's commitment to improve the air quality in the area, especially for Bath. Councillor Samuel commented on the allocation of school places to children in South Bristol, where a certain number of children had to travel across the city to their schools down to parental preference. Councillor Samuel expressed his concerns that journeys to non-allocated schools would be made by private cars, which would be against Council's initiative to reduce usage of private

vehicles in order to improve air quality. Councillor Samuel added that he was aware that the Council could not do much on the transport preferences for pupils and asked if the project was joined up with the improvement of air quality. The officers responded that the project had started before the Air Quality Zone programme. However, the outcomes of the project would be within the Air Quality Zone requirements. The Council would, where eligible, get the children on the buses or encourage them to walk or cycle to their schools. The Council would work with coach operators to ensure that coaches would be available as much as possible. The officers acknowledged that a query from Councillor Samuel was about children who travel to schools that were not allocated to them. Less than 10% of secondary school pupils in Bath area had been provided with a transport from the Council; that was because transport had been provided only to pupils who live outside the 3 miles catchment of their allocated school. Councillor Samuel added that very few of 90% of other children would use busses, or walk/cycle to their schools so their journeys would be in private cars. Councillor Samuel also said that the Council should take an initiative to provide some sort of transport for the remaining 90% of children which would have less impact on the air quality.

- The Chairman said that, for many years, one of the big issues was that working parents would take their children to school in their cars on their way to work. This had contributed to congested parking spaces and blocked roads around the school.
- Councillor Michael Evans asked if the £1.1m of savings to date had been associated to the cost of 1.5 officers. The officers replied that that cost had been separate from the savings allocated in the budget. Councillor Evans also asked what sort of proportion a target of £1.9m of savings was from the total cost. The officers replied that they would get back to Councillor Evans with an answer.
- Councillor Brian Simmons asked if most of the savings would come from the buses contract hire. The officers responded that the savings would come from the personal transport budget. The officers also explained that the Council had been working with the parents of children with special educational needs (SEN); the Council had offered to pay the cost of transport to parents of children with SEN to drive their children to school.
- Councillor Peter Turner asked if this project was unique for Bath. The officers responded that the Council had tailored this programme around the needs of the area. It was important to remember that children with the SEN would need extra support to gain an access to education. There were 37 strands to the project and the Council had learned from other local authorities on how they exercised their projects.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the presentation and to receive a further update in 6 months' time.

35 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Panel noted the workplan and agreed to include the following items at future meetings:

- Rural Transport (the Chairman)
- Service/Financial Plans (the Chairman)
- Gulls nest programme (Councillor Gilchrist)
- Transport Strategy update (in 6 months' time)

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

Item 6 – Statements and Questions – Communities, Transport and Environment Panel 17th September 2018

Statements (3 minutes) to the Panel:

1. Caroline Ambrose – Bath Central Library
2. David Redgewell – Transport matters
3. Adam Reynolds – Transport
4. Paul Stansall – Bath Central Library

Question from Mr Hal Macfie (& answer shown below)

In response to my question at the January meeting of the CTE panel it was indicated that Council investigation of the need for a pedestrian crossing at Steel Mills on the Wellsway at Keynsham would take place in this financial year. Following requests from residents I would like to enquire when this has been scheduled to occur.

A feasibility study to investigate whether a formal crossing facility can be provided in Wellsway between Steel Mills and Hurn Lane will be started in the third quarter of 2018/19. That is, between October and December. The study will investigate if a crossing can be provided taking into account constraints such as the position of driveways and the width of pavements, and how much it will cost. If feasible, funding the construction of the crossing would then be considered for a future year's capital programme.

Questions from Dionne Pemberton (& answers shown below)

1. **Q.** Risk assessment. As you probably remember, a few months ago the OSS was evacuated when a member of the public turned violent. The evacuation was quick and successful. However, at the Podium, such an evacuation would occur from a 2nd story position with limited access points, and the amount of public would be at minimum 4 x greater than the current OSS sees. In other words, council staff may need to evacuate several hundred people at a conservative estimate through an escalator, two small lifts, and back staff access. There is the added consideration of strollers, elderly, small children and mobility scooters and wheelchairs. What risk assessments have been done to ensure the public would be safe in such an eventuality? I have asked council officers this question previously and not received a satisfactory response.

A. *The number of security incidences is extremely low in comparison with total visitor numbers. Also the footfall in the OSS continues to decline due to Universal Credit rollout. The public and voluntary organisations that offer*

a service from the current One Stop Shop continually change, depending on demand and the resources of the organisations. But it is anticipated that organisations such as Citizens Advice, Bristol Credit Union and Reach will continue to offer services in the new Bath Library and Information Centre space when it is complete, but Avon and Somerset Police will not have an Enquiry Desk or a presence in this location. The project has no impact on the current location of the Police Enquiry Desk. Nevertheless this has been discussed at length during the design process in order to mitigate and minimise any impact in the rare event of an incident. Detailed operational security plans are being formulated with the Emergency Planning and Health & Safety teams in line with our incident management procedures which include the use of security technology e.g. CCTV and direct link panic alarms to police and links to Bath City Marshals, as well as lock down procedures. Safety protocols for staff and customers which are also being developed further in a specific security working group.

2. **Q.** What efforts are being made to ensure that the essence of a library is maintained. Libraries are quiet spaces for study, reflection, reading and work. At present much of the library allows for this. The plans we have seen have a seamless integration between OSS and library, with only one front facing customer service desk to handle all OSS and library needs. On the same note, how will OSS users find privacy to express sensitive concerns? The plans we have seen do provide private rooms, but only 2 or 3.

A. The feedback from the consultation events has been incredibly positive – most participants agree that we’ve listened and included their suggestions and that the resulting design looks exciting whilst addressing their operational and integration concerns. The space has been designed based on user need and the types of enquiries. The design is accommodating 4 private meeting rooms, 4 small acoustic pods, 3 large semi-private pods, 6 small semi-private booths and 2 large semi-private booths in addition to general serving areas.

Questions from Sophie Hooper Lea (& answers shown below)

3. **Q.** Bevans Chartered Surveyors undertook an Access Appraisal of the Podium and Lewis House in March 2017. Section 5.2.1 of the reports that that: “We were unable to undertake detailed inspection of these premises and therefore have only had a cursory look at the site.” Section 2.6.1 states that: “Once a decision has been made as to which option is to be selected [the Podium or Lewis House] **we advise that a detailed access appraisal is conducted including public consultation to ensure the new proposals fully meet the reasonable needs of the Equality Act and also that the approach properly reflects the needs of all user groups not only those who use wheelchairs which only relate to**

approximately 6% of the disabled population protected by the legislation.” Please could you confirm that the detailed access appraisal has been undertaken and, if so, make the report publicly available and explain how the findings have been taken into account in the new library designs. If not, please confirm when it will be undertaken or explain why B&NES will not commission a detailed access appraisal for a project of this scale with such high visitor numbers.

A. The external Access Appraisal and engagement with user groups that may be affected by access requirements is an ongoing element of the design process to capture the issues currently apparent with the proposals and to advise the design team of their presence and suggest a way in which they can be addressed. Only when this is finally completed for the tender package of information will a final access statement on the completed design be available.

4. **Q.** Please could you clarify the timings of the upcoming library integration, including: when is work expected to start at the Podium, if and when will the library need to move to a temporary location, when is work expected to be complete and the new library open?, etc.

A. Following extensive engagement, the design work on the new space is complete with the aim of going out to tender in October. The preferred option is to secure a temporary location for the library for the duration of the works in order to minimise the construction period and therefore the disruption to the public. We are actively looking for a suitable central location. The current plan is that work will start on site early in the New Year and complete during July/August 2019.

Questions from Andy Halliday (& answers shown below)

5. **Q.** Please can you advise if a revised risk assessment has been prepared to accommodate the anticipated footfall increase in the event of the One Stop Shop moving to the Podium, and have areas of responsibility been identified as a result of the changes. What part has the site manager O+H, and Waitrose safety team, played in the consultation relating to this issue.

A. This is covered in question 3

6. **Q.** Please can you advise on the action being taken to improve the service reliability of the Mobile library service vehicle, and if there are any proposals to acquire a replacement vehicle by leasing or purchasing. Additionally are there plans in place to review the library visit stops in the light of Community library proposals in some rural areas.

A. We have looked at various options to improve the service reliability and have concluded that a like for like replacement is the best option. Therefore we are embarking on the procurement process for a new vehicle which will reduce the number of days lost due to breakdowns and service issues and ensuring more resilience is in place for day to day operational delivery. We will monitor and review the Mobile Library route in light of the changes to community libraries and community demand, but no significant route or service changes have been instigated to date.

Question from Paul Stansall (& answer shown below)

7. **Q.** My question concerns permissions obtained to date for the above refurbishment project to proceed. Specifically has the project team obtained permissions from the property company that owns the Podium site; from the immediate landlord Waitrose; and from BANES Council development control, including planning?

A. Regular dialogue has been undertaken with the immediate landlord and parent company and an application for a 'Certificate of Lawfulness' has been submitted to the Planners to confirm that the incorporation of the services is compatible with the existing planning use class of the Library. This application will be available for the public to view on the planning portal over the next week or so (depending on the registration process).

I'm Caroline Ambrose, resident and founder of Bath's international Novel Awards. I'm here to talk about public libraries.

It's been a year since cabinet's sudden decision to close all but three public libraries. By early 2019 Bath & NE Somerset residents will have one of the worst residents to library ratios in Europe, with just one public library per 60,000 residents compared to the average of one per 16,000.

This leaves Bath Central Library left to play an even bigger part of the council's lawful obligation to provide a comprehensive public library service for everyone in Bath & NE Somerset. It's never been more vital the £3m proposed changes for Bath Central Library strengthens, not weakens, it so I'm rather puzzled that we're a year down the line no meaningful facts or evidence to support and explain the project have come to light.

Here's my top 8 of basic facts the public have asked and not had answered:

1. The up to date costs of the Bath Central Library project with a detailed breakdown for the £3+ million expenditure?
2. A detailed breakdown of savings cited as the key driver for the £3m spend?
3. The updated advice from Bevans Chartered Surveyors addressing their serious misgivings about the viability of the space as an inclusive multi-function space back in March 2017?
4. A schedule of works detailing the planning permission schedule, the works and where the city's library services will be sited during the lengthy closure of the Podium site?
5. Business plans setting out how the council's progress in bringing on the £1m+ funding and income opportunities highlighted by myself and others?
6. Detailed layouts with explanations of how each of the One Stop shop services will be provided within the middle of the public library
7. Benchmark evidence citing a comparable small footprint / high footfall city library anywhere in the world where this has proved a success.
8. Details about the additional opening hours to be implemented to enable residents no longer near a public library to travel and make use of services?

At a time when budgets and services are going downhill fast, the public expects every pound to be wisely spent. The libraries project has already wasted a great deal of time and public money. Will the cabinet member address these questions?

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BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Modern Libraries Programme - Scrutiny Panel 17/09/18

Questions and observations on current design proposals for Bath Podium Library

The Friends of Bath Podium Library welcome this opportunity to question the Council on its current plans to upgrade the Podium space for continuing future use as the city's main library.

Having been involved in the consultation process to date the Friends of Bath Podium Library are supportive of the library being upgraded but not supportive of OSS integration.

Our reasoning

These are two complex public services with diametrically opposing requirements. Sharing the same open-plan layout, entrance, reception and exits will court failure. Combining the main city library with the 'One Stop Shop' in a catch-all space, is a supply driven solution and in all likelihood will fail its objective. There is no convincing explanation as to how this combined facility would be run and managed. What will it look like five years on? What kind of library space will be left when more Council operations are allowed to occupy the Podium? We do not want a change of use to the Podium. Bath deserves a World Heritage library in the centre of the city. It also deserves a fully functioning Council front-line service supporting citizens and visitors. But the space requirements and HR skill-sets of these two essential services are entirely different. Could it be made to work in a new building with creative separation of these Council operations, employing professional librarians and investing in a fully trained Facilities Management team? Possibly. But that isn't what we're being asked to support.

What we have seen to date are early design and layout proposals. Unfortunately the design proposals embody unrealistic operational expectations. Forcing together two quite different but key public services risks serious operational failure. Conflicting requirements for reception, enquiries, queue management, confidentiality, way finding and movement, quiet reading and study, dealing with emergencies, moving furniture and signage, among other things are set to clash. Moreover, its funding will not deliver a value-for-money solution and de-skilling the library service through reducing the number of qualified staff will not add value to Bath's reputation as an important UK destination.

We would like to know what progress has been made on this project since the last consultation in May of this year, please. Specifically:

1. How far has the design been resolved?
2. What news on the latest cost check?
3. What landlord and statutory approvals have been obtained?
4. How many professionally qualified librarians will be employed?
5. How far has any organisational design including Facilities Management planning been developed?

We would be happy to meet and discuss with the Council team any points arising from this submission.

Thank you

Paul Stansall - Chair

Mary English - Secretary

FRIENDS OF BATH PODIUM LIBRARY (REGISTERED ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE)

BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

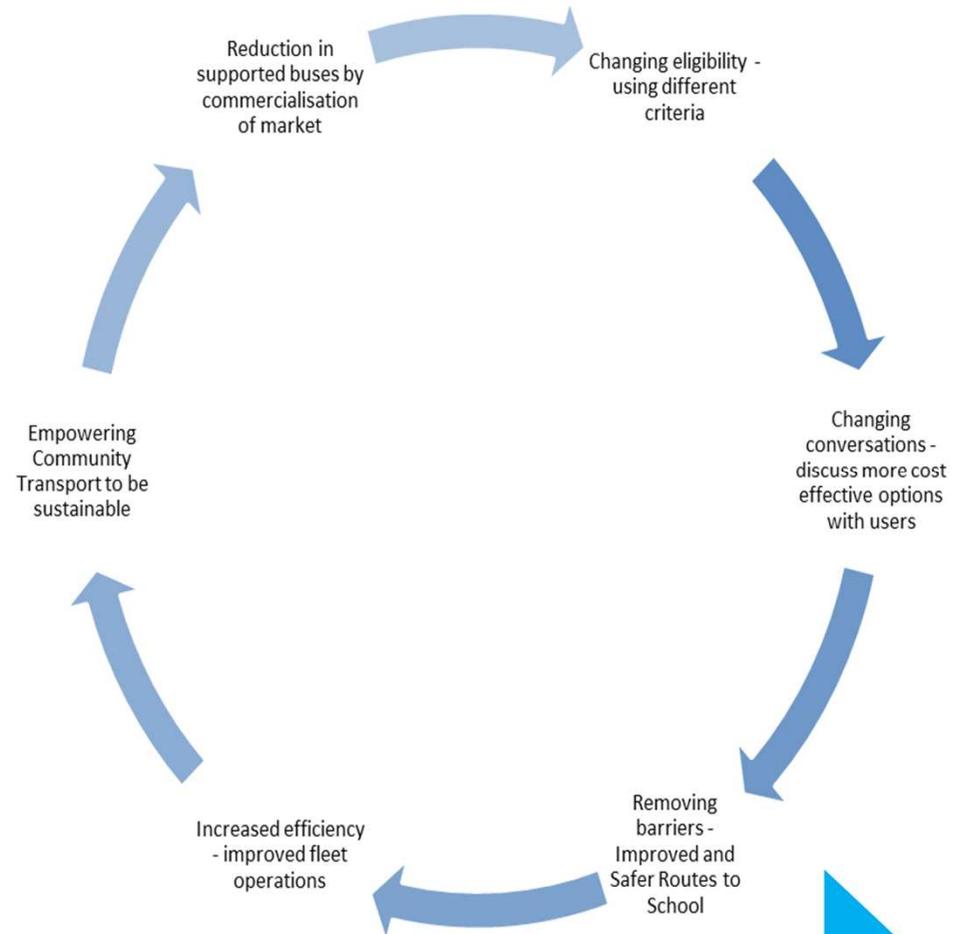
Modern Libraries Programme - Scrutiny Panel 17/09/18

Questions and observations on current design proposals for Bath Podium Library

Getting from A to B Strategic Transport Review

Purpose

- » Programme looks at options for moving people differently – high level of innovation
- » Looked at people rather than modes of transport
- » Removes dependence on Council or subsidised transport – empowerment for communities
- » Willing to ask what hasn't been asked



Update

- » Real cashable savings of £1.1m to date against target of £1.938
- » Significant reduction in growth
 - » Difficult to quantify
 - » Savings are slowing down
- » Accessing funding from WECA
 - » £400k of funding for supported bus routes over next 2 years

Barriers



Communication

- Difficulty with timelines
- Engagement with teams



Challenges

- Expectations of users
- Needed to sell better



Capacity

- Due to competing projects resource reduced



Unforeseen issues

- WECA
- Lack of data



Review – Home to School Transport

- » Continuing the changes to application processes
 - » Year 1 and year 7 application process
 - » Trail last year resulted in overall reduction in provision required
- » New contract requirements developed
 - » Pass scanning trial extended
 - » Requirement build into new contract
- » Software trial being undertaken to get more pupils on public buses (currently 170) to support services
 - » Behaviour change can be challenging

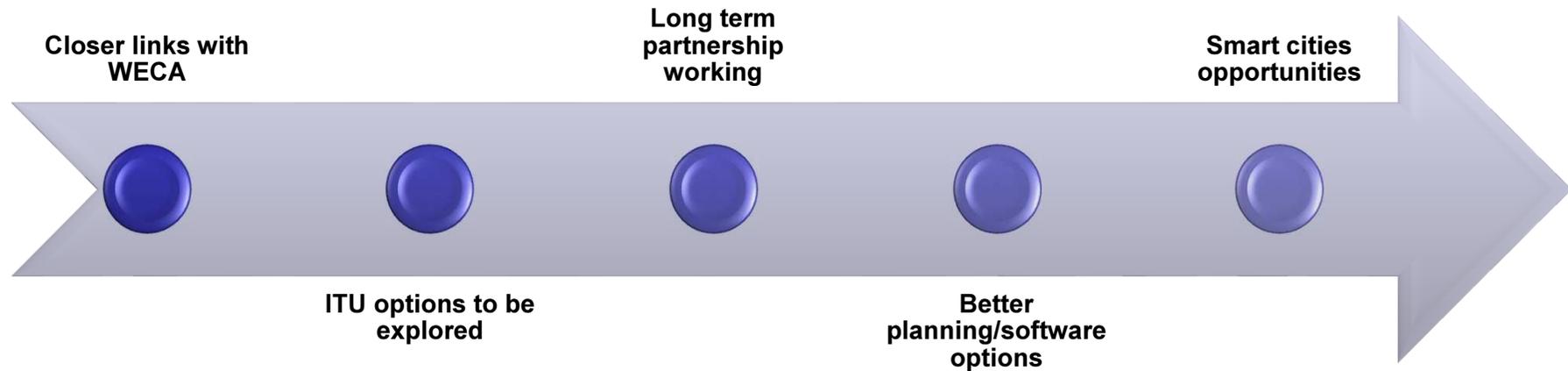
SEND – Promoting Independence

- The approach to offering transport is now very much embedded
- Continuing to offer personal travel budgets (PTB)
- Offering travel training to young people
- Case officers have reviewed all existing travel routes
- Brokering individual solutions and promoting independence
- Completed training with schools so they can talk to parents about travel
- Receiving some really positive feedback from some parents
- Some parents still not able to take up this option, or do not wish to take up a PTB. Parents still have right for traditional methods of HTST

Opportunities and challenges

- » The corporate move to replace Capita One with Liquid Logic Eyes system is challenging for Passenger Transport
- » Further review of hazardous route policy to set new baseline
- » Continued review of Passenger Transport work to ensure cost efficiency

Still to do's.....



Next steps

- » Continuing to try to get CCG to commit to working together
- » Develop long term policy positions (with WECA where necessary)

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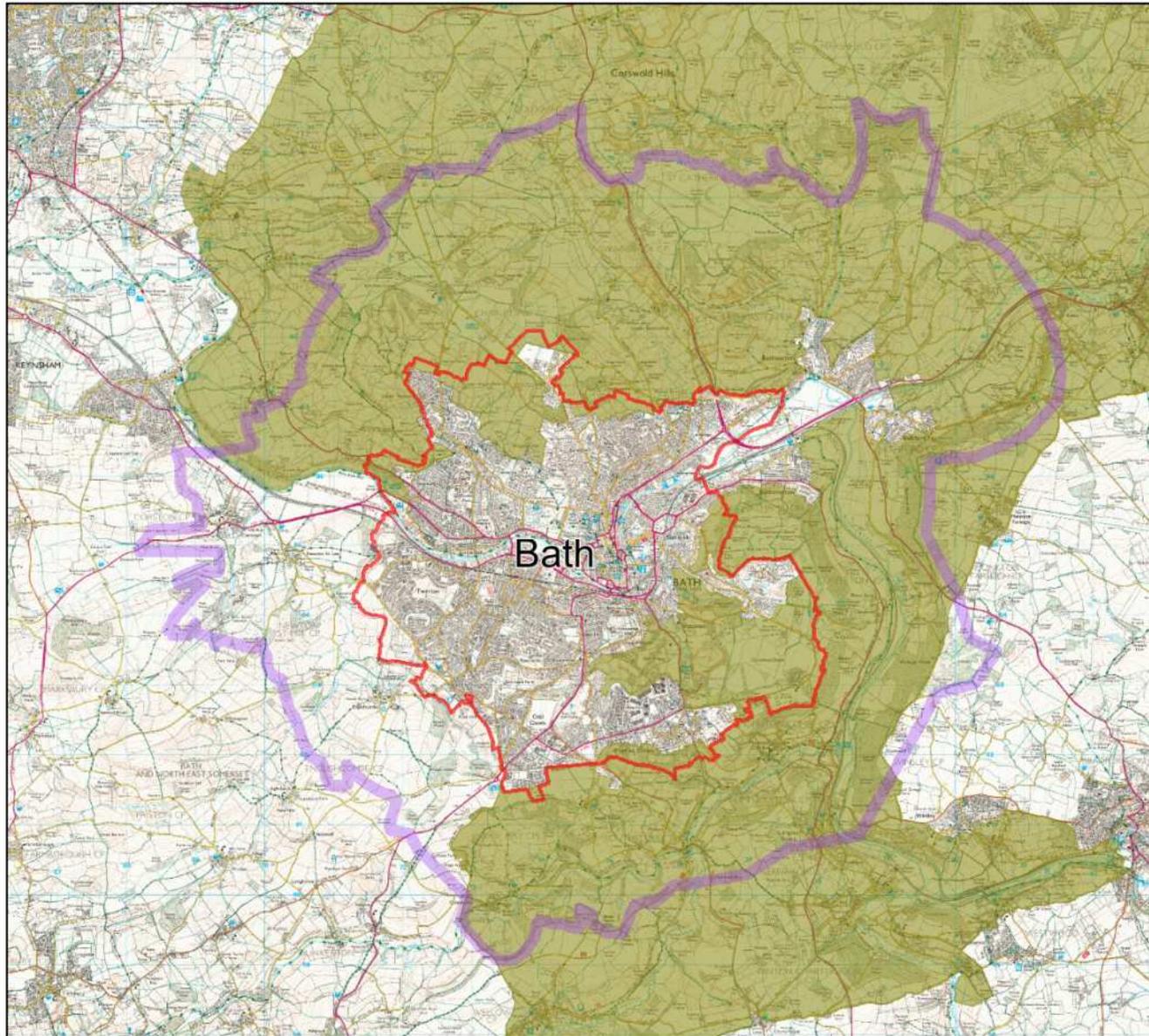


Bathscape Landscape Partnership Scheme



The Bathscape scheme will ensure Bath and its setting are better recognised, managed and experienced as a landscape city, with the surrounding hills and valleys enhancing the World Heritage Site and actively enjoyed by all. A greater number and wider range of people will feel connected to their local landscape and inspired to explore the outstanding built and natural environments, improving health and wellbeing.





**SD1
Bathscape Location Map**

Reference: LP-15-08457
OS Grid Ref: 375100,164900

-  BATHSCAPE Scheme Boundary
-  World Heritage Site Boundary
-  Cotwolds Area Of Natural Beauty

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Key Threats

- Neglect – woodland and grassland
- Poor management – grassland
- Fragmentation of habitat
- Poor understanding/recording
- Loss/neglect of archaeological features
- Pressures from expanding city
- Visual impacts, skyline trees
- Public disconnect and loss of skills
- National threats – policy changes, ash die back, climate change



Nov 2016

- Heritage Lottery Fund confirm support
- Round one grant of £176,800

2017 - 2018

- 18 month development phase
- To develop a detailed 2nd round application

2018-2023

- Delivery phase
- £2 million over 5 years

Key tasks for Development Phase:

- Detailed Landscape Character Assessment
- Consulting new and existing audiences
- Gathering baseline data
- Developing a detailed program of activities and projects to engage people with the heritage
- Detailing costs and cashflow
- Planning for the legacy to sustain the outcomes



Consultation



BATHSCAPE VIEWS AND VISTAS

This project aims to provide better management, protection, understanding and enjoyment of important views throughout the Bathscape area.

Where's your favourite view?
Please take a couple of minutes to tell us the location of your favourite view by completing a questionnaire. It may be a popular viewpoint or one which is rarely visited. It may be rural, urban or both. The only restrictions are that it is within the Bathscape area, and publicly accessible. Please tell us:

- 1) Where's your favourite view?
- 2) Why do you like it?
- 3) Do you have any concerns about it?

What happens next
We will record your favourite views on a map, together with views identified through other projects. Eight of these views will be chosen for detailed analysis and management recommendations.

How else you can help
Over the next few months we will be looking for volunteers to undertake analysis of additional viewpoints in and around the city. This is likely to include photography, fieldwork and archive research. In the longer term we will be looking for people to help monitor the views to see how they are changing and how effective the management policies are.

Background: Wooded backdrops formed by hills on the south-west side of the city.
Concerns: Loss of trees as a result of tree disease; potential developments on skyline.

Bath from Skempton
Midvale Green (City of Bath Internal Heritage Site)
Concerns: Large buildings, or those constructed from reflective materials, may be particularly visible.

Paragon Road, South Castle Viewpoint
Concerns: Risk of glazing trees and arches obscuring the view from this location.



Richard,

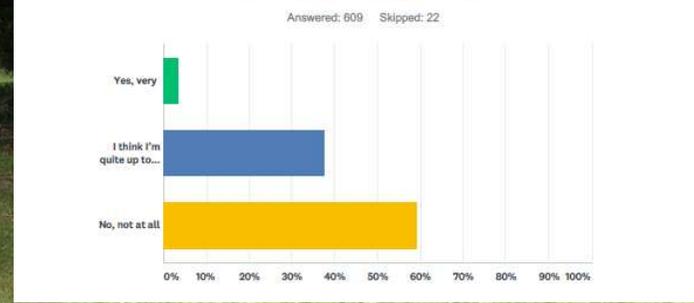
Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Bathscape Walking Routes. Is there any merit in adding a link to the American Museum and also mention of the Two Tunnels route which would give a link to or from the city. Under the outline of the circular route where you mention links to long distance routes for completeness there should be a mention of the Cotswold Way.

Regards,

Ken Mill
JLAF Member
Chair Severnside Ramblers



Q3 Do you consider yourself up to date with news about the landscape and heritage around Bath?





Bathscape Activities





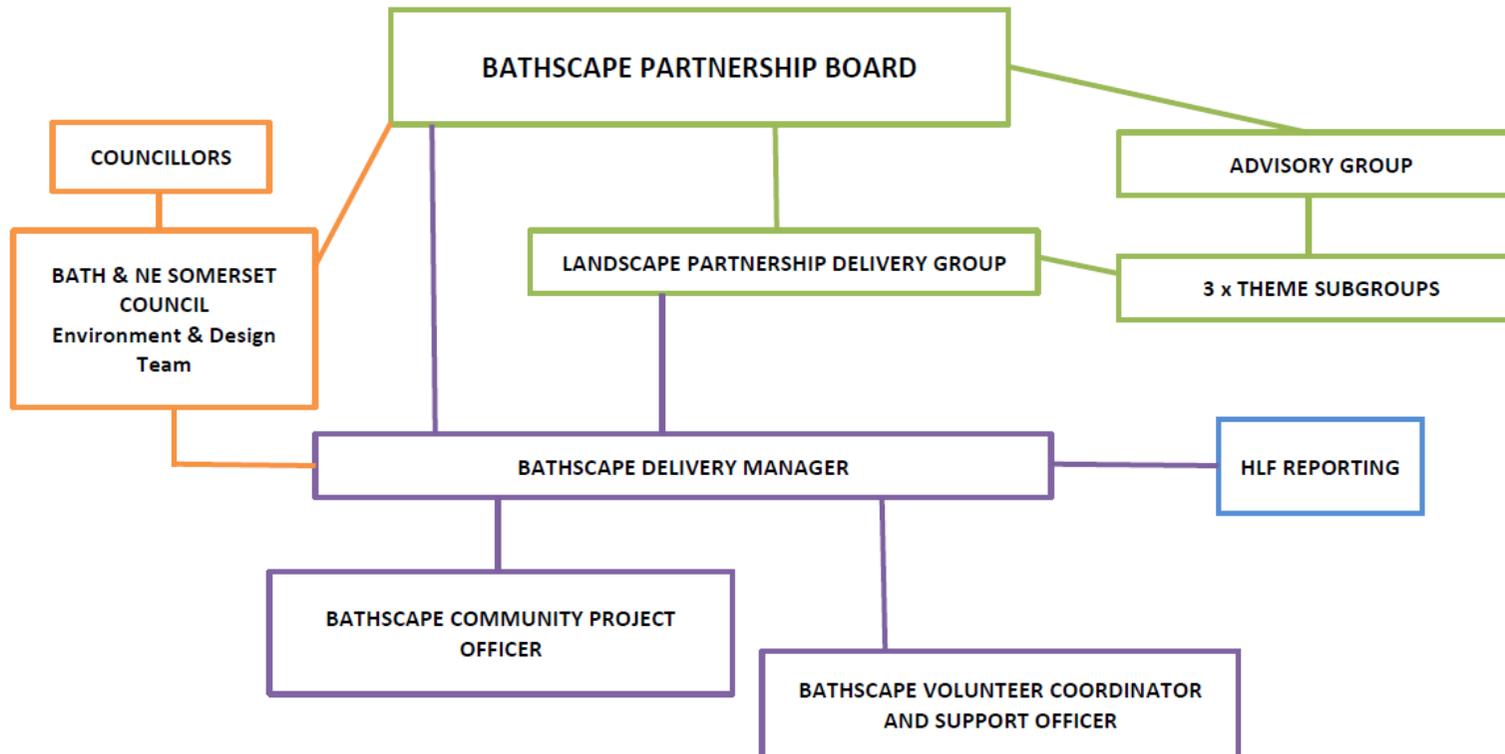
25 walks over
1 September week



Theme	Description	Projects & Activities	Value
Conserving & Restoring	Projects and activities that will enable the heritage to be better managed and in better condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Grasslands for the Future •Grassland Restoration Volunteers •Woodlands of Bathscape •Bathscape Small Grant Scheme •Views and Vistas •Caring for Heritage at Risk 	£156,000 £39,500 £120,500 £80,000 £24,000 £40,000
The Therapeutic Landscape	Projects and activities that develop the therapeutic tradition associated with the heritage of Bath to support health and wellbeing through greater contact with the landscape and natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Landscape on Prescription •Connecting with Nature •Bathscape Nature Watch •Bathscape Green Spaces •Therapeutic Walks Programme •Connecting Families with Landscape •Outdoor Seasonal Celebration Events 	£65,000 £30,000 £5,000 £14,000 £35,000 £40,000 £25,000
Access	Projects and activities to improve access to the landscape and natural environment and reduce physical and other barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bathscape Circular Path & Gateways •Area and Local Hubs •Cure Walks and Carriage Rides •Easy Access Routes & Photo / Video Trails •Active Landscape 	£155,850 £3,000 £20,000 £25,000 £25,000
Learning Training & Skills	Activities to improve the understanding and skills of target audiences, volunteers and participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Habitat Recording and Monitoring •Bathscape Community Skills •Bathscape Training Placements •SW Bath Primary Schools Learning Project •Bathscape Interpretive Media •Trees of Bathscape •Intergenerational Oral History Project 	•£139,540 •£18,000 •£89,000 •£22,000 •£20,000 •£1,500 •£27,000

Delivery Structure

Bathscape Organisational Structure





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