



**Coventry Partnership Transport Theme Group**  
**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> July 10:00 – 12:00**  
**Committee Room 3 Council House**

**Present:**

Mike Barnes	Acting Chair
Martin Trewinnard	Coventry City Council- Planning
Jake Thrush	Centro
Esther Higden	PCT
Karen King	Community Transport
Des Rogers	Ring and Ride
Cllr Andrew Williams	West Midlands ITA
Bernard Delaney	National Express Coventry
Nigel Mills	Coventry City Council- Transport and Planning
Graham Aylott	Chamber of Commerce
Surindar Nagra	Equalities and Communities Theme group
Lesley Kelly	Voluntary Sector Rep
Alison Porter	Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership
Nigel Wain	Coventry Partnership

**Apologies:**

Cllr John McNicholas	Chair
Moriah Preistley	Older Peoples Partnership
Graham Hine	University of Warwick
Keith Waller	University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire
Karen Kelly	University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire
Peter Maggs	Ring and Ride
Cllr Gary Ridley	Cabinet Member

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr McNicholas has asked Mike to chair the meeting in his absence. Introductions were made. Mike informed the group that he was starting a new job with Ring and Ride in Coventry.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

**3. Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.  
The proposed item to discuss the appointment of a deputy chair had been deferred to the next meeting.

**4. Coventry Partnership Community Cohesion Strategy**

Surindar reminded the group that at the last meeting they had agreed to set up a task group to consider the Theme group's contribution to Community Cohesion for

inclusion in the Coventry Partnership Community Cohesion Strategy. A consultation draft of the strategy will be published in August with the final version launched at the Partnership conference in December.

Surindar circulated the draft agreed by the Task group and invited comments (paper attached). The following points were raised:-

- Lesley raised the ongoing concern about mothers with prams taking up the space reserved for wheel chairs. Bernard commented that the only way to address this was with a Respect campaign as drivers only have limited powers if customers will not move from the space when requested.
- Bernard also clarified that the gateway checks were when staff from National Express and the Police carry out spot checks on Buses, which helps to reassure passengers on their safety.
- Bernard confirmed that school visits were generally in response to areas where problems had been identified; these were extended to primary schools last year. Surindar commented that the link to the schools could be explored further when the leaders of all the theme groups review the strategy together.
- Bernard pointed out that it is Centro's responsibility to provide information at Bus stops. Lesley was interested to review how the information is provided in accessible formats.
- There was discussion about whether priority should be given to travel to work but it was felt travel to shops and Leisure was generally very good in Coventry.
- Cllr Williams wanted to encourage the use of the Transport User Forum as the basis for any wider communication. The next TUF meeting was on the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept and he wanted as many people from the Theme group as possible to attend. Don Essex at WMPTA could provide details of further dates.
- Bernard noted that National Express were planning to park an information bus in the city centre to coincide with the next TUF meeting and wanted the backing of the Transport Theme group if needed to support him locating the bus in Broadgate.

#### **Action Bernard to confirm date for the National Express information bus in the city centre**

- Des reported that Ring and Ride had now signed a rolling 3 year agreement with Centro. This enables them to release reserves for investment in the service. Ring and Ride were exploring the provision of travel for disabled to FE (Birmingham) and work(Sandwell). Ring and Ride were also looking to improve integration with Bus services, now that accessible buses were available and were also committed to closer working with Community Transport. Des agreed keep the group informed of when these service improvements would be available in Coventry
- Bernard suggested we should use indicators that measure Bus usage, such as those available from the Place survey and Household survey.

Surindar finished by proposing to incorporate the comments into the draft which would then be circulated for consultation. The strategy would be launched at the annual conference on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mike thanked Surindar and the members of the sub group for their work in preparing the draft.

## 5. Integrated Public Transport Prospectus Jake Thrush

Jake presented an overview of the draft Integrated Public Transport Prospectus (see attached slides) which was currently being consulted on with comments due back by the end of August. Jake overviewed the prospectus:-

- The previous 20 year strategy was produced in 1991.
- The prospectus needed to support the Regional Spatial Strategy, Local Development Frameworks ,LTP3, Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, guidance for LTP 3 and the Sub National Review.
- The vision was based on a strong evidence base and existing Transport plans and strategies.
- It aimed to reduce the £10b GVA regional productivity gap and meet carbon reduction targets.
- The prospectus catered for a slight population increase with increased white collar jobs.
- Rail and Metro travel were increasing, Bus Travel had reduced across the WM.
- Traffic demand assumed a 23% increase in car journeys and a 12% increase in public transport journeys.
- The WM vision for world class Public Transport would be based on a 3 Tier Integrated System:-
  - Rail and rapid Transit network- (including Sprint)
  - Modernised Bus Network
  - Complimentary Travel network (included Ring and Ride, Community Travel and other subsidised buses)
- Major benefits would be improved access to jobs, reduced car journeys, CO2 reduction and improved air quality.
- The transport network would support planned housing development
- A high level implementation strategy was included but a more detailed plan which relates to the high level funding allocations was being developed.
- Consideration is given to the supporting transport and spatial development strategy covering highway capacity, freight, walking, cycling and the provision of smarter travel choices.
- A range of key performance indicators were proposed.
- The consultation would close on Aug 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The final sign off would be in the Autumn

Mike Thanked Jake and suggested that the group needed to focus particularly on Coventry. During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:-

- Des asked for the Ring and Ride logo to be included in the public transport hierarchy.
- The group queried how realistic the prospectus was given the current state of the public finances.
- Cross Boundary Travel in Warwks needed to be considered.
- The Complimentary Travel Network section depended on the review of Community Transport which has not yet been published- this would be one of the main areas of interest for the group. Jake agreed to find out when the report would be available

### **Action**

#### **Jake to check on availability of the Community Transport Review**

It was agreed to set up a task group to consider a response from the Theme group. Graham (A) , Mike, Cllr McNicholas and both Nigels .

## **Action**

**Nigel(W) to organise a meeting for the task group to respond to the Centro consultation.**

## **6. Community Transport Update –Karen King**

Karen updated the group with the Active Minibus and Coventry Active Volunteer Car services:-

- The Coventry Active Minibus service was commissioned by the Older Peoples Commissioning group.
- It provided Older People with the opportunity to go to activities not normally accessible due to transport difficulties
- 20 hours a week of driver time in a minibus had been commissioned as a pilot service.
- Older people in receipt of a social care payment were eligible to book transport by phoning Community Transport
- There was a charge of £1 per mile but carers travelled free.
- People could go out for the day instead of attending a day centre.
- The Car Active scheme , which Sam Price presented to the group last year had successfully secure 3 years funding from the PCT. This ran side by side with the Active Bus scheme

In response to questions the following points were confirmed:-

- Passengers only paid for the mileage when they travel on the Active Bus scheme.
- The average length of journey is 3 / 4 miles
- The Volunteer driver scheme has been successful in recruiting drivers who are paid 40p per mile for miles travelled and 25p per mile for dead mileage.
- Karen agreed to email leaflets for the two schemes to the Theme group.

## **Action**

**Karen to email details of the Active Bus and Car schemes to the Theme group.**

## **7. Round Table Update**

Martin raised three points of interest:-

- The LDF core strategy had now been finalised and they were awaiting a date for the public examination.
- The City Centre Area Action Plan will be reviewed by cabinet members in Sept and will then be available to the general public. This contained the preferred strategy for routes in the city centre
- A report was being taken to Cabinet on the plans for Ironmonger Row and the Burgess. The routes in Trinity Street, Ironmonger Row and the Burgess will be restricted for buses and taxis.

Jake reported that the West Midlands Sustainable Travel Cities Bids had been submitted, and the result would be announced in Sept.

Des reported that he was visiting an engineering firm which develops electric vehicles for existing bodies, which might be of interest for the next meeting.

Cllr Andrew Williams invited as many of the Theme group as possible to attend the next Transport User Forum on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. so that the discussion might broaden from specific timetable issues. TUF meeting dates for Coventry are:-

29 September 2009	Council House, Earl Street, Coventry
24 November 2009	Council House, Earl Street, Coventry
26 January 2010	Council House, Earl Street, Coventry
23 March 2010	Council House, Earl Street, Coventry

Bernard highlighted two recent press announcements :-

- The introduction of the Real Time link from the buses to keep the Real Time display timetable information up to date
- The recent press release re the success of the safer travel campaign which showed a 13% reduction in recorded Crime on the buses.

He also proudly announced that Coventry was the first city where all National Express Vehicles were fully accessible . The group commended that achievement.

Graham highlighted the need to resolve the NUCKLE North South transport route and reported that Nigel Mills was visiting the Chamber to consult on plans for LTP3.

## **9. Communications**

The deadline for the Partnership newsletter was the end of the week. Articles already submitted included the safer travel press release.

## **10. Items for future meetings**

Key items already agreed for the next meeting include Low Carbon Vehicles , an update for Routeforward and election of a deputy chair which had been deferred from this meeting.

## **11. Any other business**

Future meetings are scheduled:-

23<sup>rd</sup> Sept Diamond Room 2 Council house  
25<sup>th</sup> Nov Diamond Room 2 Council house

Nigel Wain  
4<sup>th</sup> August 09