



Coventry Partnership Transport Theme Group

**Wed Sept 24th 2008
Hazel Room, Elm Bank**

Present:

Mike Barnes (Acting Chair)	RAWM
Nigel Wain	Coventry Partnership
Ted Hiscocks	Coventry City Council
Bernard Delaney	West Midlands Travel
Martin Trewinnard	Coventry City Council
Kathryn Bell	Coventry City Council
Neil Ross	CENTRO
Stephen Docherty	C&W Chamber of Commerce
Dilip Chauhan	Coventry City Council
Gemma Rowan	UHCW
Des Rogers	Ring and Ride
Phil Brannon	Community Transport
Karen King	Community Transport
Graham Hine	University of Warwick
Lesley Kelly	Voluntary Sector
Terry Crewe	GMPTE
Cllr Andrew Williams	Councillor

Apologies:

Christine Eade	Routeforward Project Manager
Cllr J McNicholas	Chair
Cllr Gary Ridley	Councillor
Andrew Page	Centro
Nigel Mills	Coventry City Council
Tony Lunt	C&W Partnership Trust
Peter Maggs	Ring & Ride
Pat Marlow	CEN
Keith Waller	UHCW
Alison Porter	Physical Sensory Impairment Partnership
Sophie Thompson	Learning Skills Council
Andy Littlewood	Coventry City Council

1. Introductions & Welcome

Mike Barnes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made. Mike welcomed Phil Brannon, Caron King, Cllr Andrew Williams and Ted Hiscocks who were attending for the first time. Mike also welcomed Terry Crewe from GMPTE .

2. Apologies

These were noted as above.

3. **Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

Matters Arising /Actions:

Drop Kerbs – Neil Ross reported that Andrew Page would update the group on progress at the next meeting.

Action Andrew Page - Ongoing

City Centre Consultation – Nigel reported that the next phase of consultation has now started and plans can be seen at a shop in the Arcade. Nigel was trying to fix up a date for the Theme group to visit the shop so they could input to the consultation.

Action Nigel Wain

Routeforward Project Board Terms of Reference

Dilip had delayed circulating these until he had come to an understanding of how Routeforward would work with Partners, particularly Ring and Ride. A meeting had now been arranged with Ring and Ride, Dilip expected to circulate the TOR after the meeting

Action Dilip Chauhan

4. **Household Survey Transport Theme Report**

Nigel gave an overview of the Household survey findings on Transport:-

The Coventry Partnership Household survey was now in its 5th year. Over 1400 residents in Coventry were asked questions face to face. The questions covered all of the themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the results were analyzed by thematic experts to identify trends and conclusions. The reports were available on the Coventry Partnership Web site:-
<http://www.coventrypartnership.com/PIEdocuments>

The findings of the Transport Theme survey report:-

- The evidence pointed to significant positive progress towards the Partnership's goal of improving public transport and encouraging people to make more short trips by public transport and on foot.
- Satisfaction with the bus services had increased from 53% to 67%
- Satisfaction with punctuality of the bus service had increased from 48% to 59% with similar increases in perceptions of frequency and condition of bus stops
- More people in Priority Neighbourhoods are using public transport or travelling by foot to travel to place of education.
- The mode of transport to other services appeared to have remained stable.
- Cycling rates need to be monitored to assess the progress of the latest school cycling initiatives
- Parking and congestion around the hospital were seen as problems

- Overall considerable and sustained long term strategic improvements have been achieved for the SCS Transport Theme from 2003 to 2007.

The reports on the web site contained detail results from the survey over 5 years. The findings have been included in the development of the SCS and LAA and should be considered during any future service planning.

Bernard commented that the improvements were due to the strong partnership working over the last 4 years on Prime Lines, timetable changes to improve frequency, bus priority changes etc. The electronic information displays had been introduced since the survey was held in Dec 2007.

Neil was pleased to see the improved perception of the bus stops and commented that vandalism tended to be lower where bus shelters had been renewed

5. **Routeforward Update**

Dilip updated the group with progress on Routeforward:-

- The Council had invested £1.1M in 20 new vehicles, 10 delivered now and 10 later this year. The vehicles have been branded with the Routeforward logo. Dilip will send pictures for the news letter.
- The PCT Routeforward contract has been running for 3.5 years , and is now based on a sustainable model where the costs per trip have reduced from £19 to £9-50. The PCT have now put the contract out to tender which should be decided in Jan /Feb .Routeforward will bid for the 3 year contract and the existing contract had been extended to cover till the contract has been awarded.
- The pilot to transport cleaning staff to Warwick University ran in July for 2 weeks. Approx 80 staff were picked up- a survey of staff was positive. Consultation with other departments involving 450 staff is ongoing with a view to a competitive tender being placed to run the service from Feb next year
- The Council along with the 2 Universities was 1 of 6 successful applicants from 90 for CENEX funding to cover the extra costs of purchasing Low Carbon Vehicles. It is expected that up to 70 vehicles would be replaced. Further funding may be available in the future. The bid was successful because of the strength of the Partnership working demonstrated between the Council and Universities. All agreed was excellent news for Coventry and Dilip and the Universities were congratulated on putting in a winning proposal at such short notice. Also it supported the Environment Theme group's big idea for Coventry to become city of the low emission car. Concerned was expressed that silent vehicles could be difficult for some people to hear – although Dilip confirmed this was covered in driver training.
- The mainstreaming of the independent travel program remained a challenge despite its success with Children and Adult services. The business model must be agreed by Nov.
- A meeting with Ring and Ride involving Trevor Errington to discuss joint working has been arranged for October .

6. Partnership Board Transport Forum

Nigel outlined the plans for the Partnership Board Transport forum which will be held on the 24th October at St Peters. The main audience will be the Older People's Partnership, PSIP, Coventry Society for the Blind and Carers from the Learning Disabilities Partnership. The 3 key transport issues which will be focused on are Ring and Ride, Hospital Access and Taxi. The main focus will be on the quality of service users should expect. The format will be for brief input by speakers followed by opportunities for people to discuss the issues in more depth around tables.

7. CEN/Voluntary Sector

Nothing to report.

8. Smarter Travel

Ted presented the paper on Smarter Travel in Earlsdon which had been prepared by Joanne Rainbow. :-

- The project aimed to encourage households in Earlsdon and Whoberly ward to think about how they travel and how they can use their cars less. The aim is to reduce single occupancy car use.
- These areas were targeted because viable alternatives from cars exist and there are a lot of 2 car families .
- The pilot runs from August to October and will be monitored in Jan/Feb.
- Funding was via the LTP Capital programme
- The pilot has been awarded to Steer Davies Gleave who had experience of similar projects elsewhere.
- Travel Advisors visit households to explore existing travel habits and highlight the benefits of alternative arrangements
- Various material and information supporting the alternative modes of travel is left with the households.
- Feedback to date has been positive, particularly as the project is not anti car.
- The results of the pilot will be reported back to a future Theme group meeting.
- Ted confirmed the project was primarily targeted at people who drive cars currently not at supporting travel for vulnerable groups

Mike Thanked Ted for his presentation but the Theme group expressed some concern that the project had not been raised before, particularly as it overlapped with the Routeforward project.

It was agreed more regular coordination meetings around the LTP should be held.

Action Nigel Mills/Nigel Wain/ Ted Hiscocks

9. GMPTE DRT Experience

Terry Crewe from GMPTE gave an outline of the Flexible Travel in the Greater Manchester area.-

- It covers 10 Local Authorities in the GMPTE region – 2,2M people
- The program was born out of a best value review of all the DRT provision in the area.
- There are 81 Ring and Ride networks, 35 DRT services and 15 different Community Transport services in the area.
- GMPTE had worked with Community Transport Services to set a baseline standard so they could bid for services
- The overall programme is called ISNT- Integrated Social Needs Transport.
- The need for the service is driven by the social exclusion agenda.
- DRT is seen as plugging the gap left by Bus services and can be used to assist piloting new routes as well as during withdrawal of routes.
- Services are used to get people to the airport at 4-00 or to get low paid staff to work at the hospital
- They are looking to centralise call centres and scheduling using Trapeze or Mobisoft.
- Current funding comes from a mixture of sources :-
NRF/SRB/ERDF/ABG
- They are working on a major European bid improving the first and last minute of the journey- this would provide £7M over the next 3 years.
- Manchester may have access to funding through the Congestion fund to improve transport – up to £3B
- Concessionary fares are not included in the scheme
- Ring and Ride are part of GMPTE in Manchester – different to the WM where it is a voluntary sector organisation
- GMPTE are driving the integration in Manchester.
- A £5 cost per passenger is seen as sustainable- compares well to £12 per train passenger.
- Looking to the future there will be increased demand for services as there are more older people living longer
- DRT service can suffer a perception that it is only for disabled people
- For further info see the following link:-
<http://www.gmpite.com/flexible/index.htm>
- 25% of R&R users would not get out of the house of the service was not available. They are exploring how the cross sector benefits can be quantified for any business plans.
- They are looking to reduce the 9 R&R booking centres to 3 then 1 by using Trapeze.
- They were talking to the Patient Transport service about how they could work together; DRT could handle the predictable load such as kidney patients.

During the discussion that followed the meeting highlighted the importance of the PTE in Manchester in driving forward on the DRT agenda and contrasted this in Coventry where the strong partnership working was trying to drive the DRT agenda. Terry was visiting the Routeforward office after the meeting .

Mike thanked Terry for sharing the DRT progress of Manchester and was reassured to hear that much of what he said aligned with Coventry's experience.

10. Items for future meeting:

Review of Theme Group Plans and Membership
City Centre Consultation
Accessibility Planning
NDC transport issues
Centro transport vision (Neil Ross)
LDF (Core Strategy will be available late summer)
Smarter Travel Evaluation
LTP

11. Any Other Business

None

12. Future meeting dates:

19th Nov all 10-12

Nigel Wain