



## Coventry Partnership Transport Theme Group

17<sup>th</sup> October 2007 14.15 – 16.15

University House, University of Warwick

### Present:

Cllr J McNicholas	Coventry City Council
Nigel Wain	Coventry Partnership (minutes)
Dilip Chauhan	Coventry City Council
Mike Barnes	Community Transport
Barry Connor	Ring and Ride
Kam Kaur	Older Peoples Partnership
Nigel Mills	Coventry City Council
Graham Hine	University of Warwick
Gemma Rowan	UHCW
Cllr Foster	Coventry City Council
Pat Marlow	CEN
Damian Dixon	West Midlands Ambulance Trust
Peter Hardy	JMP
Peter Smith	ARUP
Kathryn Bell	Coventry City Council
Mike Stacey	University of Warwick

### Apologies:

Bernard Delaney	West Midlands Travel
Alison Porter	Physical Sensory Impairment Partnership
Joyce Lambert	NRF Programme management
Su Edwards	Coventry Partnership
Chris Smith	CEN
Martin Trewinnard	Coventry City Council
Keith Waller	UHCW
Lesley Kelly	Voluntary Sector

### 1. Introductions & Welcome

Cllr John McNicholas welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Graham and the University of Warwick for hosting meeting.

### 2. Apologies

These were noted.

### 3. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed. Pat Marlow asked the minutes to be changed to record the fact that she attended.

**Matters Arising:-**

**Action Cllr McNicholas action to contact Centro to support Ring And Ride in their request for Drop Kerbs at Bus stop to facilitate access from Ring and Ride Transport at Bus Stops** is ongoing .

**4. University of Warwick Transport Plans**

**Graham Hine  
Peter Smith**

See attached slides

The University was facing a 40% increase in traffic and currently 72% staff arrive as a car driver and only 4% as a passenger. The University is has set transport goals:-

1. Limit the increase in car parking
2. Encourage sustainable travel options
3. Provide more student residences on site
4. Improvement infrastructure / key junctions.

Travel plan targets have been set for parking , car trips and car sharing/modal share

A travel plan coordinator will be appointed (currently Graham Hine) to promote greener travel and availability of car park spaces will not be increased to meet demand. Free parking spaces will be reduced.

Improvement to public transport and junctions are proposed particularly around Gibbet Hill /Kenilworth Road

An express bus service form the city centre is proposed until Sprint is available.

The Transport plan and corrective actions will be monitored by a Transport Sub group involving the Council.

Cllr McNicholas pointed out the hospital experiences where they tried to restrict parking availability.

The University has a fleet of 172 vehicles and was experimenting with electric vehicles. Graham was keen to share the results of these trials with others. Graham is tasked with reducing the fleet and reducing emissions. He was already working with Routeforward to assess the feasibility of using Routeforward instead of in house provision for transporting some employees.

Cllr John McNicholas thanked the University for sharing their plans and commented he was pleased to see that they were engaging with Routeforward.

**5. Patient Transport Service**

**Damian Dixon**

See attached slides for full presentation

Damian Dixon gave a presentation on the operation of the Patient Transport Service for Coventry and Warwickshire which covers non emergency. The

service provided 233,000 patient journeys in 2006/7 in Coventry and Warwickshire, has 117 full time staff and 70 vehicles.

The eligibility criteria for accessing the service follow Department of Health guidelines and have been agreed with commissioners such as the PCT.  
(Attached are the latest guidelines)

The key points are:-

- Medical condition needs PTS staff to give support
- Medical condition means other means of transport may be detrimental to patient's condition
- Parent/Guardian
- Eligibility determined by healthcare professional or non-clinical staff
- Patients with Disability Living Allowance or Mobility Car may not be eligible
- No obligation to provide free social transport
- Commissioners can levy a charge for social transport
- PCTs (through hospitals) provide financial assistance for low incomes HTCS (Hospital Transport Cost Scheme)
- Escorts for
  - Physical/mental incapacity
  - Parent/Guardian
  - Translator

Barry Connor asked for clarification on the flexibility on the restriction for people receiving Mobility Allowance. Damian replied disputes are referred to the PCT.

There was also some discussion on the transport for Carers. Barry Conner referred to examples where carers/spouses followed the PTS transport in Taxis. Damian highlighted that someone would have to fund any increase in the eligibility / provision of transport for Carers /spouses.

In Coventry GPs are responsible for booking the service, in Warwickshire the GPs will not book transport.

Barry commented that it might be more cost effective for all hospital transport to be provided to reduce the number of no shows at appointments. Damian commented that 8% of PTS trips booked do not show.

**Action Cllr John McNicholas said he would raise the issues of eligibility criteria for Patient Transport Service with Cllr John Clifford of Health Scrutiny.**

## **6. Routeforward – Dilip Chauhan /Peter Hardy**

Dilip updated the meeting with the progress on Routeforward:-

- Booking for Swiftlink will be transferred to the Routeforward Bureau in October, this should increase booking capacity for customers, notification of the new phone numbers is being sent to active users.

- RouteDirect – the door to door service for young people would be the first of its kind in the country. Discussions are ongoing with Taxi drivers before the launch.

Barry Connor asked to be provided with information about the service prior to its launch. In the past people had phoned Ring and Ride even where services were not provided by them. He would brief his staff so they could signpost to the right contact. This follows mis-reporting by the Telegraph of the Active (Car driver scheme) launch.

Barry also queried if the £5 charge would be affordable and thought it was excessive. Dilip responded that it was cheaper than the average Taxi fare in the city and the charge needs to cover the service costs if it is to be sustainable. The idea of the pilot was to see if the service was viable and there had been a lot of interest to date.

- Independent travel – significant progress has been made since the focus of the project was moved to Young People. Service agreements are being negotiated with Henley and Herewood colleges.
- JMP have been contracted to carry out the Evaluation and will be contacting Theme group members to get their views on what the project has achieved.

Peter Hardy from JMP then introduced his evaluation work. A number of questions had been circulated prior to the meeting, he would contact people outside to discuss. The questions are:-

- What were partners' original expectations of the Routeforward project?
- Have these expectations been met?
- What do you believe the key successes/achievements of the project have been?
- Which aspects of the project have been most successful, in your opinion?
- Which aspects of the project have been least successful, in your opinion?
- What, if anything, could be done to improve the project?
- Is Routeforward helping you to meet your own departmental or organisational objectives? If so, how?
- How well has partnership working been developed and delivered as part of the project?
- How well has the project adapted to change?
- Are there any opportunities for further mainstreaming Routeforward into wider activities of partners or to pool resources to deliver Routeforward in future?

Feedback was mainly surrounding the difficulties experienced in accessing regional and local funding to sustain projects which on the face of it make sound business sense ie more efficient use of Transport assets in the city.

**7. CEN / Voluntary Sector**

Nothing to report

**8. Right of Way Improvement Plan Nigel Mills**

Nigel Mills reported that the consultation on the Right of Way improvement plan was now underway. The link for the consultation is

<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/ccm/content/city-development-directorate/planning-%26-transportation/strategy-and-planning/public-paths-user-survey.en>

The consultation covers all rights of way not next to highways.

**9. Strategic Review of Transport**

The West Midlands Regional Assembly was holding a Strategic Review of Transport and was inviting contributions, The review will cover:-

- Regional transport structures
- Development of transport policies and priorities
- Resources
- Delivery
- Cross Cutting Issues

Mike Barnes declared an interest as he was part of the reviewing panel

After discussion it was agreed that we would make a contribution to the strategy , based around the experiences of the Routeforward project and especially how the funding regimes are not always aligned to support innovative approaches for transport to address cross cutting issues.

**Action Nigel Mills to register our interest in contributing to the review**

**Action Dilip Chauhan to prepare contribution based on experiences of Routeforward.**

**10. Sustainable Communities Strategy / LDF**

Nigel Wain thanked all who attended the special meeting on Sept 5<sup>th</sup>. The LDF input had been forwarded through the consultation process. Martin Trewinnard had provided the following update on what next:-

- Planning are beginning to analyse the responses (including giving everyone an extended opportunity to object to any development in the Green Belt!)
- Planning still hope to publish a Preferred Option document by the end of the year and the Group will then be re-consulted for a statutory six week period.

- The Preferred Option document will probably miss the Group's December but may fit in with the next one.

The SCS input had been fed into a Partnership Board workshop held on Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. Key feedback was the need to make the outcomes more exciting and easier to relate to. This work is ongoing and will be presented to the Nov partnership board, ready for public consultation starting in Dec.

**11. Communications**  
**Nothing to report**

**12. Items for future meeting:**

City Centre Parking  
Accessibility Planning  
Prime Lines Update  
Walking and Cycling, Clean Air Updates  
Sustainable Communities  
NDC transport issues  
Employment Action Plan

It was agreed that next meeting should focus on major transport schemes , employment action plan and route forward evaluation.

**13. Any Other Business**

**14. Future meeting dates:**

The next meeting will be Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 10 till 12. Elm Bank. Cllr McNicholas advised he would not be able to chair the meeting so it was agreed that Mike Barnes would stand in.