

Information/Discussion Paper

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 3rd June 2019

Cheltenham Transport Connectivity Study

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed.

1. Why has this come to scrutiny?

- 1.1 This paper updates members on progress towards the creation of a transport connectivity strategy for Cheltenham.

2. Summary of the Issue

- 2.1 The Council's corporate action plan for 2018-19 committed to commissioning a study to put in place a borough-wide transport plan with a focus on modal shift, accessibility and bus connectivity.
- 2.2 The corporate plan for 2019-23 reaffirmed that a new Cheltenham transport plan will be developed.
- 2.3 The Cheltenham transport plan will form part of Cheltenham Borough Council's contribution to Gloucestershire County Council's review of the countywide Local Transport Plan.
- 2.4 In order to deliver the plan, Systra, a company with a fifty year background in UK mobility and mass transit schemes, has been engaged. Its brief is to produce a transport vision and mode-based strategies including key deliverables and costed proposals with measurable benefits aligned with the Council's Place Vision.

3. Summary of evidence/information

- 3.1 The development of the transport connectivity strategy has been undertaken with support from a wide range of stakeholders at two major workshops.
- 3.2 Stakeholders present included over 40 leaders from community, transport, business, educational, health, accessibility, local authority and parish organisations. The initial workshop focussed on agreeing outcomes for the strategy, the second on determining elements of a delivery plan.
- 3.3 Alongside these events, two further workshops were held with invitations to all members from CBC, local parish council members, GCC members with Cheltenham constituencies and the GCC Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning. The content of the member workshops paralleled the stakeholder workshops.
- 3.4 Systra has researched and presented summaries of available baseline data on transport policy, demand and provision in and around Cheltenham. This has

revealed:

- A good understanding of journeys to work from census but limited information about wider travel behaviour
- A high use of modes other than car for journeys to work which start and end in Cheltenham
- Diffuse travel demand spread across the town
- Kingsditch and GCHQ have a far higher car based mode share than the town centre for journeys to work
- An opportunity to significantly increase levels of cycling
- An opportunity to increase bus use
- An opportunity to intercept incoming trips (and outgoing)
- An opportunity to improve mode share for cycling and bus for trips to and from Gloucester and Tewkesbury

3.5 Informed by site visits and by research into approaches taken in towns with similar characteristics to Cheltenham, Systra has gone on to propose and discuss with stakeholders:

- Quantified targets for the delivery of outcomes;
- Strategies for each relevant transport mode (walking, cycling, bus, rail, commercial delivery and private vehicles);
- The integration of transport links serving new development in West Cheltenham

3.6 Systra presented its provisional strategy to members and key officers from CBC and GCC in April.

3.7 Systra is now bringing together its final report which will include suggestions for project and programmes with indicative costs.

3.8 GCC's draft consultation document for the countywide Local Transport Plan is timetabled to go to its scrutiny committee in September, followed by GCC Cabinet in December ahead of public consultation in spring 2020.

4. Next Steps - possible next steps for the committee to consider e.g. potential witnesses, further report, site visit etc.

4.1 Systra's report will be brought to Overview and Scrutiny for consideration, potentially at its September meeting, before it is taken for formal Cabinet consideration.

Background Papers	None
Contact Officer	Ken Dale, Interim Townscape Manager, 01242 264389, ken.dale@cheltenham.gov.uk
Accountability	Councillor Andrew McKinlay, Cabinet Member Development and Safety
Scrutiny Function	Overview and Scrutiny Committee