

Integrated Transport Thematic Group Meeting

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 2pm, Cabinet Room 1

Attendance

Chair: Cllr Martin Forshaw (WLBC), Denise Nowell (LCC), Roger Bell (OPSTA), , Dominic Carr (WLBC), Tim Gornall (LCC), Jacqueline Day (LCC), Julia Dickinson Edge Hill University, Jill Bradley CVS

1. Apologies

Tony Moreton (LCC), Andrew Varley (LCC), Geoff Wilding (Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust), , Francis Carragher (Edge Hill),, Richard Watts (LCC),, Ian Gill (WLBC), Gillian Whitfield (WLBC), Martin Trengove (CVS), Steve Coveney (CLPCT)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were agreed as an accurate record

3. Matters Arising

- Skelmersdale rail link business case development.

Dominic Carr gave an update and explained that following on from the last meeting officers were still waiting on a final version of the report being published. Officers have seen a draft copy of the document and are waiting for the document to be published. .

Merseytravel have approached Network Rail to review the results to examine any differences between the study and Network Rail's Merseyside RUS Officers have been and will continue to press Merseytravel to get the results of this work. However, as Network Rail are conducting this work for Merseytravel free of charge and have their own workloads they have not given a definite deadline for when they expect the work to be completed.

When this additional piece of work has been completed the report will be published and reported back to Members.

**Action- When the Feasibility Study has been published a report be taken to Members explaining the results of the study**

4. Community Rail Designation of the Preston to Ormskirk Line

Dominic Carr and Roger Bell explained that, following the hard work of the Community Rail Partnership, the Ormskirk to Preston rail line has now been designated as a Community Rail line. They further explained that the Community Rail Partnership is currently working hard to finalise an Action Plan for the line.

Importantly a new, more regular timetable for the line should be in place in December. The new timetable is looking to make the service more regular with services every one and a half hours. It is hoped that a more regular service will improve passenger numbers. Ultimately it is hoped that Community Rail designation can help deliver an hourly service on the line as well as many other improvements.

5. Action plan progress: review and update

Dominic Carr explained that he had been looking at the action plan and suggested there was a need to update and review the action plan. He made a number of suggested changes and sought the views of the group.

In particular he wanted to change contact details of lead officers and some of the actions. (Please see enclosure 2). There was general agreement within the group.

In addition Roger Bell made a number of suggestions including investigating if LSTF funding can be used to possibly pay for new leaflets to be produced to promote public transport.

**Roger Bell to attend meeting with Merseytravel to push for marketing strategy for rail info in West Lancs**

6. Skelmersdale Demand Responsive Transport System Update

Dominic Carr and Jacqueline Day gave an update of the current position explaining that, following the disappointment of West Lancashire CVS to secure Kick Start funding from the DfT making the previous Phoenix scheme unviable, officers at the County Council had been working with officers at the Borough Council to develop an alternative demand responsive transport scheme which should provide an alternative cheaper option than using minibuses. It is hoped that this scheme can be financed through available S106 money the Council has for improvements to transport infrastructure in Skelmersdale.

He explained that although officers were hopeful a scheme could have been set up and running by now due to a restructure at LCC officer support had been withdrawn and therefore the development of the scheme had been delayed. There had also been some issues regarding using S106 money for this scheme in meeting the exact requirements of the S106 agreement.

However we have now been able to take the scheme forward and officers believe that we are almost in a position to take a report to Cabinet to seek approval to release the funds to develop a pilot scheme serving the Pimbo Industrial Estate which if successful can be rolled out across Skelmersdale. We are hoping to get a scheme in place before summer 2012.

**Action- Offices to continue to work with LCC to develop the alternative Demand Responsive Transport System and get a pilot operation running before summer 2012**

7. Information Exchange- LSTF discussed in detail in AOB8. Any Other Business

## Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

Dominic Carr explained that the Council had been successful in being part of a successful Joint Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid with Sefton MBC. Jointly we were successfully awarded £1.55 million between both authorities to be spent over a 4 year period. The aim of the project is to develop and support sustainable forms of transport to promote the visitor economy in both Boroughs.

Julia Dickinson said that Edge Hill University have been approached by LSTF officers and that the University are supportive of the bid. They are looking to work with officers to encourage students to use sustainable means of transport.

**Action- Officers to work with local representatives to develop a range of schemes to promote the visitor offer**

The main areas the bid covered are:

- Cycle Hire
- Southport Eastern park & Ride
- Leisure Routes and Facilities
- Improving facilities for Walking and cycling
- Developing and Promoting the visitor offer.

There was a recent meeting of the Steering Group which was well attended and well received in Southport.

Following the meeting project groups were looking to meet with local representatives about priorities and possible schemes for different areas.

#### Car Park Review

Dominic Carr made the group aware of the recommendations arising from the Environmental and Overview Scrutiny committee Car Parking in West Lancashire.

#### Public Transport Promotional Literature

Roger Bell explained that there is a current issue with bus literature in Burscough. Residents now need 3 separate bus leaflets in order to understand the bus times. Roger explained that some time ago the County Council launched an easy to use, user guide in Newburgh and Burscough and that the results of the Burscough leaflet were not known. Roger explained that he believed these leaflets did encourage passenger numbers to increase and that he was aware that County no longer had the resources to produce similar leaflets.

Roger asked if Denise could provide passenger figures for Burscough regarding the promotional leaflet.

**Action- Denise Nowell to provide passenger information figures for Burscough regarding the promotional leaflet**

#### 9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Meeting to be before summer 2012

**Action- Dominic Carr to schedule the next meeting**