

Notes of Meeting and Action Points

Date of Meeting: 8/12/2015

Topic: Cycle City Ambition Programme Board



Present: Coun Ged Bell (Chair), Graham Grant, Bryn Dowson, Craig Blundred, Rob Snowball, John Litherland, Tim Pheby, Peter White,

Apologies: None received.

	Action
1. Actions from Previous Meeting	
Notes from previous meeting were agreed - GG noted that he had attended previous meeting.	
Item 10 - Bikes on the Metro Trial - no further information had been received from Nexus relating to this. GB stated he would write to Nexus to ask for an update (RS to draft letter).	RS
2. CCA Programme / Cycle Infrastructure Update	
PW has prepared an update note, which will be circulated alongside these notes	
There was discussion on the following points:	
Resources - a new member of staff has been brought into the engineering consultancy to provide additional design resource. Arrangements for seconding staff continue as well.	
Orcas – GG raised that as part of the Gosforth Transport Improvement Project, the Council had committed to evaluating the use of orcas over a 12 month period and therefore consideration of this was required further to the designs for Benwell Lane. GB asked that a report be brought to the next board meeting to provide an update on the operation of Orcas and consider positive and negative aspects. Supporting evidence from elsewhere should also be incorporated.	RS / PW
Acorn Road – GB has been asked to consider an ‘opening’ event. Publicity will be undertaken and will include information on contraflow cycling.	GG
John Dobson Street – a question was raised around the potential opening of sections of the route as phase progress. It was considered that there may be issues with this due to the ongoing works and the need to ensure that suitable crossings etc are in place to tie in with existing routes (e.g. St Mary’s Place). It was noted that good communications are required to keep people up to date with progress and of opening dates.	
A question was raised as to the overall status of the CCA programme being considered ‘red’ under the Council’s traffic light report system due to the significant progress now being made. PW explained that although this is the case, the timelines from the DfT indicated that phase 1 would be complete by Sept 2015. It is noted however that Newcastle is not alone in this situation. GG suggested that Phase 1 and 2 be combined in future reporting now that funding has been confirmed as part of the spending review.	
GG asked for a view on whether a letter should be prepared at officer level to send to the DfT’s Cycling Team to thank them for the support and assistance in helping to	

secure the funding. JL suggested he would like to send something also on behalf of the Cycling Stakeholders forum. It was agreed that two letters would be drafted.	RS
3. Newcastle City Centre Cycle Parking	
<p>Further to the recent study that Sustrans had been commissioned to undertake, a report had been prepared relating to the provision of cycle parking in the City Centre.</p> <p>GB raised that he was aware of parking being damaged / removed and requested that this is considered and any new parking is more securely installed. RS outlined, that the location of all parking is now mapped out and any future issues can be identified.</p> <p>The report identified that future parking provision could provide more security for cycles in terms of the actual provision. Stands such as 'A' frames could be considered, or alternatively, manufacturers have stated they would be willing to develop a 'Newcastle' Cycle Stand. GB suggested that sponsorship from businesses / organisations could be sought. Work to do this will be taken forward.</p> <p>The report also considered factors such as over/under utilisation of parking and it was agreed that this will be monitored in future surveys and action taken as necessary.</p> <p>A Cycle Parking location map has been developed based on the audit and has been placed on the City Council website.</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>RS</p>
4. Future Behaviour Change Initiatives	
<p>A report had to provide an update on the situation relating to Go Smarter and Legacy Proposals arising from the cessation of funding from 31 March 2016 and the potential implications for cycling promotion in the city. Proposals as set out below were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake further work to understand the full picture relating to ongoing cycling promotion activity in Newcastle post March 2016. • Seek to ensure that any future promotional activity that comes forward on a regional basis is aligned with our existing capital programmes and ongoing revenue activity that is currently taking place in the City in a suitable and comprehensive manner. <p>Further reports and updates will be made to the board in due course. It was agreed that briefings would be provided to NCC members ahead of TNEC and TWSC meetings in January.</p>	GG / RS
5. Delivery of CCA Phase 2	
<p>Discussions are continuing in relation to the necessary support to assist with delivery with CCA Phase 2. GG will provide an update to a future meeting.</p> <p>Engagement on schemes such as the city centre north proposals have been undertaken and feedback is being assessed. Discussions with stakeholders are ongoing. A bid to the ERDF is being prepared to assist with the implementation of these proposals.</p>	GG
6. Bike Life Bike Account	
The board formally noted that the Newcastle Bike Life report was launched in October. Good coverage had been obtained in newspapers, radio and on Tyne Tees television.	

<p>JL queried whether some of the findings could be presented in the 'City Life' magazine. GB agreed this would be a good idea and subject to space and cost it would be suggested for the Spring edition.</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>7. Active Travel Centre Update</p>	
<p>BD provided an update on the operations of the Journey. Overall, it is felt that good progress has been made and there is a good range of clientele. A number of recent attempted break ins had been noted and it may be the case that some additional support for security and maintenance may be required.</p> <p>JL spoke on behalf of Recyke Y'Bike and felt that they were very positive about the Journey and felt that they would never have received such a broad range of customers simply remaining at their base in Byker.</p>	
<p>JL did stress that there is a need for more information on the cycling offer in the city to be advertised in the centre. In particular, more information on schemes / engagement etc should be provided.</p>	<p>GG</p>
<p>8. Cycling in the City Update</p>	
<p>CB provided an update.</p> <p>Programme has reached the end of its first year. Successes include the engagement with hard to reach groups and in particular, the high numbers of women that have been engaged. A significant element of this has been the emphasis on the social side of cycling.</p> <p>The cycle library has begun operating and is showing a high level of demand.</p> <p>There has been high take up of initiatives in areas with high levels of deprivation. There is a concern of the bike maintenance course offer as take up has not been as high as expected. This is to be investigated further.</p> <p>The Newcastle University evaluation of the project is to report in December.</p> <p>Promotion of newly installed cycling infrastructure is being undertaken with the implementation of the Toon Tours rides and leaflets.</p>	
<p>9. Feedback from the Cycling Stakeholders Forum</p>	
<p>JL outlined that the last meeting of the Cycling Stakeholders Forum had been positive and Forum members are delighted that progress on cycle routes is occurring at pace. JL did express that through the forum and also the TAG that there is scope for the Council to make greater use of both groups to channel and encourage support for cycling schemes. If they could be notified of things such as upcoming engagements and consultations then support could be mobilised. It was noted that through the use of the Re-newcastle website / commonplace engagement tool, that the Council had become better at this. GG explained that there is a phase 2 to come on the Re-newcastle website and stated that NCC comms would attend the Cycling Stakeholders Forum in January to present this.</p>	<p>GG</p>
<p>10. AOB</p>	
<p>RS raised that 'Street Velodrome' had approached the Council to see if we would like to be a venue on their 2016 racing programme. This would involve a 3 day promotion to engage the public with cycling and for the competitive event to take place. Due to the significant cost involved, it was felt that Newcastle should not take part on this occasion.</p> <p>TP queried whether there was any plan to seek to develop cycle route design guidance / palette of treatments for cycle schemes in order to bring some standardisation / consistency to routes as they are developed. PW indicated that the TAG will be</p>	

discussions some 'general' items at the next meeting and that this was something he was looking to champion.

JL did raise maintenance issues. He cited the example of the route in Byker. The surface is good quality, but there is a significant amount of overgrowth of bushes. PW outlined that this issue was something that Cycling Cities had raised with the DfT around the ongoing maintenance of routes (all CCA money is currently capital). There was some discussion amongst partners around an approach to tackling these issues. BD indicated that Sustrans volunteers may be able to be involved. It was agreed that partners would undertake some consideration of this and for the item to be discussed at a future.

ALL

Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th January 2016 3pm to 5pm.