

CLEANER AIR AND SAFER TRANSPORT (CAST) FORUM AGENDA

Date:	Thursday 28 th November 2024	
Location:	Reading Council Chamber), Civic Offices, Reading Borough Council, Bridge Street, Reading	
Time:	6:30pm - 8pm	
Chaired by:	Councillor Lanzoni	
Attendance:	Cllr Jacopo Lanzoni Cllr John Ennis Cllr Adele Barnett-Ward Cllr Karen Rowland Cllr Jenny McGrother Cllr James Moore Ross Jarvis James Turner Non-RBC Attendees Redacted	Reading Borough Council (RBC) RBC RBC RBC RBC RBC RBC RBC
Agenda Items:		
No:	Item:	Action:
1.	Introduction and Apologies: Apologies had been received from: Cllr Will Cross Cllr Andrew Hornsby-Smith Cllr Kathryn McCann	
2.	Air Quality Update Ross Jarvis (RJ) provided an update on the following AQ items. Clean Air Living Matters (CALM) Project Update As previously presented Reading Borough Council, in collaboration with Design Nature, Stantec and the University of Reading, is offering schools across Reading the opportunity to participate in the CALM - Exploring Reading Air Quality programme. The aims of the wider programme, which will be running until the end of June 2025 are to:	

- Increase knowledge around air quality, its causes, impacts and solutions, with pupils and staff in schools
- Increase awareness of air quality in the wider community and surrounding schools
- Encourage behavioural change in activities that impact on poor air quality, surrounding schools, by enabling pupils, parents and the wider community to take action
- Ideal for after or pre-school activities and Eco Clubs
- Link with other Reading Borough Council initiatives and school engagement, such as transport and travel and wider climate strategy

The work has so far delivered:

- Brochure produced to hand out to parents: [Your Guide to Air Quality Education - Reading Borough Council](#)
- Poster Competition - <https://media.reading.gov.uk/news/pupils-winning-design-used-to-raise-air-pollution-awareness>
- Animation - <https://youtu.be/78ECHEjLGvw>
- A web page containing material on AQ and the CALM:ER programme has been developed: [Clean Air Living Matters: Exploring Reading with Schools - Reading Borough Council](#)
- Engagement with:
 - 10 primary schools out of a target of 24
 - 7 secondary schools (4 independent) out of a target of 9
 - 650 pupils with an increase in knowledge through attending activities (target is 2,800 pupils - 23%)
 - 3000 pupils with increased awareness through attending CALM assemblies, careers fairs, community events etc. total ~3,000 (target 16,000 ~23%)
 - 2,545 parents through activity sheets from primary schools (target 3,000 parents ~85%)
- Deployment of 16 indoor (static) and 18 outdoor sensors (static) in schools (target 10 static and 20 mobile). We also have 30 mobile sensors which are taken to the schools when activities are run.

A question was asked regarding the monitoring of air quality prior to introduction of the school street scheme at Civitas Academy on Great Knollys Street. RJ updated that we were not able to undertake detailed air quality monitoring prior to this scheme commencing.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy and Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Award Update

- Electric Vehicle Strategy adopted
- Council Awarded £866k LEVI funding
- Deliver approx. 1,500 (minimum) on-street EV chargers
- Installation of up to 150 pavement gullies

The Council is currently awaiting approval from OZEV (Office for Zero Emission Vehicles) to process with the tender process to appoint a charge point operator (CPO).

Questions were raised regarding the tariff rates that would be available to people wanting to make use of the on street charging points and

	<p>what mechanisms the Council was proposing to put in the contract to ensure Reading residents were offered good value. RJ confirmed that the Council was aware of this issued and committed to ensure that the contract delivered the best rate possible but this would need to adhere to the terms of the funding body by delivering the volume of charge points that we are projected to require.</p> <p>Boroughwide Smoke Control Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New borough wide smoke control area comes into force on 1st December 2024. • In a smoke control area you can only burn fuel on the list of authorised fuels, or any of the following ‘smokeless’ fuels, unless you’re using a Defra approved appliance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anthracite • semi-anthracite • gas • low volatile steam coal • Unauthorised fuels, such as wood must be properly seasoned, and can only be burned in exempt appliances. When purchasing wood, look for the ‘Ready to Burn’ logo as a guarantee of good quality dry wood. • You must only use the types of fuel that the manufacturer says can be used in the appliance. 	
3.	<p>Strategic Transport Update</p> <p>James Turner (JT) provided an update on the following Strategic Transport items.</p> <p>Reading Transport Strategy 2040</p> <p>The Reading Transport Strategy (RTS) 2040 was fully adopted at the recent full Council meeting in October. This is the Councils 4th Local Transport Plan for the period 2024-2040 and set out an ambitious vision to create healthier, greener and more equal communities through the future provision of travel options in Reading.</p> <p>The transport strategy can be viewed on the Council’s website here: www.reading.gov.uk/RTS2040</p> <p>Active Travel Schemes Update</p> <p>JT provided an update on Reading’s Active Travel Fund (ATF) Schemes:</p> <p>ATF2 - Shinfield Road</p> <p>Major construction works on the ATF2 Shinfield Road scheme remains on hold due to works to date meeting the scheme budget. This leaves approximately 800m in each direction to deliver south of Cressingham Road and the Council is currently exploring options on additional funding to complete the scheme.</p> <p>Despite the budget constraints there are a number of elements that are still planned to be delivered or issues addressed throughout the current section. This includes lining and signing (signing taking into consideration previous comment received from RCC).</p> <p>The Council is also aware of a number of areas where water pooling occurs during rainfall due to either blocked or broken drains and gully’s (this has also been reported by members as well as RCC). The council’s Highways team is intending to undertake works to address some of this in the new year. Transport Officer will provide further updates on these works once dates are known.</p>	JT

	<p>ATF 3 - Bath Road - Castle Hill Cycle Track</p> <p>Following further work on the cost estimates for this scheme, as well as the Council's experience of delivering our Shinfield Road scheme, it is forecast that there will be insufficient funding to deliver the full scheme as originally designed.</p> <p>Transport Officers have paused the tendering process and have put together a series of options that were discussed recently with members. These predominantly relates to the signals on the Castle Hill Roundabout and the design options for cyclists and pedestrians through this junction where there are some distinctly different options.</p> <p>Further details on these options will be discussed with members before being shared with RCC and other stakeholders for comment and agreement on preferred approach. This may be subject to further consultation.</p> <p>ATF 4 - Upper Redlands Road Pedestrian (Zebra) Crossing</p> <p>Reading's ATF 4 scheme, a pedestrian crossing on Upper Redlands Road, was delivered in August 2024 and complete prior to the start of the new academic year. The scheme was supported with a contribution from University of Reading and St Joseph's College as well as the funding from Active Travel England (ATE).</p> <p>The new crossing will provide safer walking environment for children to walk to school as well as linking to the university, via Elmhurst Road, to the active travel scheme on Shinfield Road.</p> <p>ATF 4 extension - Sidmouth Street junction and Christchurch Green junction Scheme Design</p> <p>These two schemes will provide cycle and pedestrian connectivity at major junctions on the network and provide connectivity to previously delivered ATF schemes. Our ATF4ext funding is for development of these schemes rather than construction. We have initiated stakeholder engagement for Christchurch Green and held workshop with members. Discussions will continue with other stakeholders including RCC, The University of Reading and Friends of Christchurch Green.</p> <p>Bus Service Improvement Plan Schemes and ZEBRA Update</p> <p>ZEBRA 2 Fund</p> <p>In spring 2024 Reading Borough Council was awarded £4.7m through the Zero Emission Bus Regional Award (ZEBRA) 2 fund. The details are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total funding: £4.735,514 • Will see delivery of 24 electric buses (for use on routes 17 and 21) • Fund contributes to charging infrastructure to be installed at depot (75% of costs) • All buses due into service in June 2025 <p>BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan) Update</p> <p>Reading Borough Council continues on the delivery of its BSIP programme following award of £26million to deliver a mix of revenue and capital schemes.</p>	
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	<p>Capital schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 5 of the South Reading BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) scheme. • Programme of new bus lanes on key routes in the Borough. • Improvements to passenger facilities at MereOak Park & Ride site. • Package of town centre public transport enhancements, bus signal priority measures and improvements for passengers at bus stops. <p>Revenue initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a multi-operator fares discount scheme. • Programme of bus service enhancements including for Route 9 and Buzz 18 services. • Comms and engagement programme to publicise the enhancements delivered through the BSIP programme. • Development of initial proposals for future bus priority measures in the borough. • Management of the EP arrangements and programme delivery support. <p>Regarding the new bus lanes the inbound bus lane on London Road, between the junctions with Liverpool Road and Cemetery Junction, was delivered in August 2024. Prior to this the Council worked with Wokingham Borough Council and Reading Buses to reinstate Monday to Friday Park and ride services from Winnersh Triangle into Reading to coincide with the introduction of the new bus lane. The Council is also funding a £1 park & ride ticket through its BSIP grant. The Council is also continuing to work with Wokingham to implement enhancements to the bus lane outside of the borough to improve the situation for both buses and general traffic.</p> <p>A further two new bus lanes have recently been introduced on Oxford Road. In October, the outbound bus between the junctions with Zinza Street and George Street was delivered, and in November the outbound bus lane between the junctions with Pangbourne Street and Norcot was opened.</p> <p>It is intended that works on the bus lanes on Southampton Street/Oracle Roundabout and London Road (nr Kendrick Road) will start in 2025.</p> <p>RCC Crossings Policy and ‘Wants List’</p> <p>The Reading Cycle Campaign (RCC) previously provided Transport Officers with a list of ‘wants’ in terms of design standard for crossing and junctions in Reading. This needs the input from colleagues in Highways and Network Management as well as Transport Planning Officers and JT agreed to share the document and collect feedback. This action is outstanding, and JT will action prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>The RCC also have supplied a schedule of rates for various interventions and crossings on the highways. The purpose of this is to set RCC’s expectations when various levels of funding is announced as to what is achievable. JT agreed to share this with colleagues in Highways and report back to RCC as to whether these rates are reflective of what is incurred in Reading. It should be noted that the costs did not include traffic management measures which can often exceed the actual construction costs incurred.</p> <p>It was agreed that RCC and Transport Officers would have a separate meeting to discuss these and other general updates. JT to set up meeting.</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>JT</p> <p>JT</p>
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	Network Management Update There was no further Network Management update to the update already provided by Transport Officers	
5.	Any Other Business London Road Bus Lane Prior to the meeting a series of questions was submitted regarding the London Road bus lane from Reading Friends of the Earth. With regards to the air quality impact of the scheme RJ confirmed that monitoring was in place, but it was too early to assess the impact of this and data over a longer period would be needed. This would also need to consider other factors that impact air quality such as weather conditions. JT confirmed that there are various traffic and other surveys being undertaken as well as liaison with the bus operators over the impact of the scheme and this would be reported in due course. There has been a steady increase in the use of the Winnersh Park and Ride service since its reintroduction in August.	
	Date of Next Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 1st April 2025 - 6:30pm Council Chamber 	All to Note