

CABINET – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Questions	Cabinet Member
<p>1. COUNCILLOR MARK CHERRY</p> <p>A few months ago electric, conduit polls were installed at the following bus shelter locations:-</p> <p>Chepstow Gardens Towards Bradley Arcade (340003156CNR)</p> <p>Bradley Arcade Towards Banbury Town Centre (340001388OPP)</p> <p>Will the cabinet member for highways management inform myself as local councillor for Banbury Ruscote when the real time ready display will be installed on the two polls and be operational please.?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>I have been informed that the displays have been installed last week.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR CHARLIE HICKS</p> <p>It is welcome to see that Council are applying for more funding from Active Travel England. Please can Cabinet the Cabinet Member outline the process that has been undertaken by Cabinet Members and/or Officers to-date to choose the schemes in the bid ATF4 Extended Opportunity bid? Does the Council have a ready-made prioritised pipeline of active travel schemes that can be allocated for bids when opportunities arise from Central Government, and if so, what is the status of this active travel pipeline of schemes, and how can councillors scrutinise this pipeline?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The original Active travel 4 bid submitted by OCC in February 2023 was unsuccessful in securing funding against competitive bids from other councils.</p> <p>However, since the original submission ATE have extended the bid opportunity to those councils that were unsuccessful in the original bid and for those schemes that were within the original indicative allowance.</p>

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	<p>The deadline for this submission is the 27th November 2023, with a decision due January 2024. Successful bids should expect funding in March 2024.</p> <p>The guidelines from ATE for the Active travel 4 extension are similar to the original AT4 principles.</p> <p>ATE have stated that the indicative available funding for OCC is set at £2,384,163 and is for those schemes that were included within the original indicative allocations for Oxford.</p> <p>This means that the schemes that are applicable for resubmission have been set by ATE based on the original submission as :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abingdon National cycle network 5 (NCN5) Missing Link – ATE ref01052• Provision of secure cycle parking to support staff travels to Oxfordshire Hospitals – ATE Ref 01053• School Streets Programme – ATE Ref 01054• Witney – Madley Park Path improvements – ATE Ref 01055• Oxford Parks Road Quietway – ATE Ref 01056 <p>A series of meetings have been taken with ATE to discuss why the original bid submissions may have been unsuccessful, and to ascertain what information, changes or additions may be necessary to the schemes for the re-submission.</p> <p>Based on these conversations, the scheme owners within OCC have been working up the necessary information, changes or additions required by ATE. With a target of Wednesday 22nd November to have all the necessary information available.</p>

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	<p>The proposed scheme list was discussed at the Pipeline Board Monday 13th November.</p> <p>The now prioritised list does not include Oxford Parks road Road Quietway. This is due to two reasons. Firstly, the delivery timescales not being acceptable before the installation of the Traffic filter trial, and that the trial may necessitate some scheme modification. Secondly that the requirement derived from the ATE conversations necessitate some design work and modification to the scheme that would have increased costs over the available threshold. Whilst match funding could possibly accommodate the cost increase, it was felt the delivery issue would best be solved after the traffic filter installation and any redesign could then accommodate any behavioural changes required within the scheme. This scheme could be picked up as a priority in subsequent AT5 bids</p> <p>The funding originally allocated to parks road scheme will be utilised by the school streets programme, with additional entranceways, or potentially another school street under consideration.</p> <p>The Prioritised list is scheduled for further discussion at the Active travel Board on the 21st November for final submission decision. The Strategic Capital Programme board (SCB) agreed on 5th October that as this was a re-submission there is no need to re-submit to SCB.</p> <p>The schemes therefore that are to be submitted in the bid with their current anticipated costs (pending ratification next week) are therefore as follows :-</p>

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<p>3. COUNCILLOR STEFAN GAWRYSIAK</p> <p>Short Stay Hub beds are being reduced from 97 to 63 in December. The 7 Beds in Henley at Chiltern Court are being axed without consultation with GP's and the community. Can you please supply me with the location of the 63, explain why has there been no consultation and why is there no provision of SSHB in South Oxfordshire?"</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>This question relates to the joint strategy - between Oxfordshire County Council and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West's Integrated Care Board's - to support more people in the comfort of their own home after a stay in hospital and therefore reducing the number of short stay hub beds needed in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Short stay hub beds are contracted by the council and support people after a stay in hospital for a maximum length of about two</p>													

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	<p>weeks. They should not be confused with beds in settings like community hospitals, where medical care is offered. There is no need to consult on the decision to reduce our reliance on these facilities.</p> <p>There are no plans to source any more short stay hub beds. The initial procurement was done based on market factors rather than geography. Oxfordshire residents may be supported in any hub bed in the county, not necessarily the one closest to them.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board are committed to providing the best possible outcomes for residents and ensuring the right resources are focused on a Home First approach – that is enabling more people to regain their independence after a stay in hospital by supporting them to return home to familiar surroundings as soon as possible.</p> <p>With fewer short stay hub beds needed, we are able to redirect our resources to support this approach.</p> <p>Each week more than 30,300 hours of home care is provided for people in the county, which represents a 19 per cent increase in the last 16 months. Our joint strategy will see this upward trend continue and we have capacity within our care provider framework to support this.</p> <p>63 short stay hub beds will still be in operation this winter at Chacombe Park care home; Henry Cornish House; Albany care home (Headington); Isis; and The Close (near Abingdon).</p>

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