

TRANSPORT USERS ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday, 20th February, 2007
at the Town Hall, Chesterfield

Present –

Representing Chesterfield Borough Council

Councillor Ray Russell – Leader, CBC (In the Chair)
Dave McCall – Head of Design Services
Robert Biggs - Assistant Head of Design Services
S. Bates – Democratic Services Officer

Representing Chesterfield Cycle Campaign

Mr. B. Kay
Mr. C. Allen
Mr. A. Meikle

Representing Living Streets

Mr. C. Brown

Representing National Federation of Bus Users

Miss M. Rhodes

1/07 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Councillor Ray Russell welcomed those present and thanked them for attending the meeting.

2/07 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from John Wrightson, Corporate Director of Regeneration.

3/07 **OVERVIEW**

Mr. Biggs, Assistant Head of Design Services, presented an overview of the purpose of the Group:-

- To assist the Borough Council in influencing transport policy at local level.
- To advise the Borough Council on transport issues so that the Council could better represent the interests of its residents.

He explained that:-

- Liaison between the two authorities was undertaken at officer level – officers from the Borough Council's Regeneration Directorate met 2/3 times per year with their counterparts at the County Council to discuss progress on the Local Transport Plan and to raise issues of interest and concern at the local level.

He informed the Group of the Borough Council's local transport priorities which were:

- **Town Centre:**
 - Need for a strategic transport plan.
 - Improvements required to public transport, cycling and walking.
 - Improved access to the railway station.
 - Consideration of transport measures to support the Northern Gateway development.
 - Park and Walk and Park and Ride facilities to support commuters and visitors
- **A61 North/South Corridor:**
 - The need for County to consider preferred transport solutions and thereby enable vacant land to be safeguarded for future highway improvements and to maximise potential for contributions from the private sector associated with redevelopment of adjacent land.
- **A617/A619 East/West Corridor** - Similar considerations required.
- **Chesterfield – Staveley Regeneration Route:**
 - Proposed early development of options to improve access to the corridor to support regeneration objectives including redevelopment of the Staveley Chemicals site.

He referred to the transport planning process associated with the Local Transport Plan which the County Council had recently briefed the Borough Council's Cabinet on.

The Local Transport Plan was a strategic document with little detail of what was foreseen at the local level.

The Annual Service Plan was more specific, giving details of the year on

year programme of works, e.g. improvements to Whittington Moor Roundabout.

He added that County Council officers had confirmed their intention to develop a transport plan for the Town Centre, Borough and North Eastern Derbyshire area and meetings at officer level were expected soon to look at issues in terms of transport and planning.

This would then present an opportunity for this Group to assist the planning process by providing the Borough Council with views that represented the interests of transport users.

It was envisaged that the advisory group would constitutionally be a consultative committee of the Council and would report to Cabinet via the Lead Member, on issues of significance. This would then form the basis of a dialogue with the appropriate authorities.

Members of the Group welcomed the opportunity to have more involvement in the planning process and felt the Group was a useful means of conveying residents' concerns to both Councils, for example:

- addressing the needs of pedestrians and cyclists as well as motorists when considering local transport policies
- the need for improved cycle parking in retail areas of the town centre
- the need for encouraging sustainable forms of transport
- the need for improved bus services
- the need for bus lanes approaching the town centre
- the need for consultation on possible Park and Ride schemes in the area

4/07 **CORE GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. Biggs reported that it was envisaged that the Lead Member for Planning and Asset Management would Chair the group. Three other council members would be appointed including a member of the minority party. Where a meeting was likely to be of interest to a wider audience then other elected members and/or interested parties would be invited.

There would be a standing invitation to the County Council to provide a representative at officer level.

The Council's Equalities Officer had been consulted with regard to membership and an Equalities Impact Assessment would need to be undertaken to accompany the formal report to Lead Member/Cabinet.

The Group agreed the following core membership:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representing the views of</u>
Chesterfield Cycle Campaign	Cyclists
National Federation of Bus Users	Bus and Coach users
Pedestrian Association	Pedestrians
Motorcycle Group	Motorcyclists
Passenger Focus	Rail users
Institute of Advanced Motorists	Motorists
Derbyshire Coalition for inclusive living	People with mobility difficulties
Derbyshire Ramblers Association	Ramblers
Transport 2000	Transport users that favour sustainable means of travel

In addition the Group requested that a representative of the Planning Service be present at future meetings.

The Group agreed that the membership should be extended according to the Agenda.

5/07 **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The draft Terms of Reference were approved by the Group as follows:-

- **Consideration of major development and major transportation proposals within the Borough**

Consideration of major development proposals:

The Group would consider proposals for major development e.g. A61 corridor development, Northern Gateway development, redevelopment of the former Brian Donkin's land, etc and comment on their transport implications.

Developers and planning officers would be invited to address the group on

proposals for major development highlighting considerations given to the provision of transport facilities, although this would be a purely voluntary arrangement.

This could afford the group an opportunity to influence the design of new development from a users perspective.

The Transport Users Group (TUG) itself would not be a consultee for individual planning applications. TUG participating bodies would continue to be consulted individually as appropriate.

Consideration of major transportation projects:

The group would be made aware of significant changes proposed to transport infrastructure e.g. MEGZ development, M1 traffic management/ widening scheme, A61 corridor improvements. This would be an opportunity for the group to advise the Council of any special local considerations.

• Consideration of Transport policy

Consideration of significant transport implications arising from the Local Development Framework and Local Transport Plan:

The group would have an opportunity to comment on changes to parking standards associated with new development and to comment on the implications of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) and what was proposed Countywide.

The group could advise on the transport implications of policies and development proposals drawn up as part of the Local Development Framework.

The group could also act as a forum for sharing and exchanging views on policy matters and consultations relating to transport at national, regional and local level. Where consensus exists this could enable the local area to respond to external consultations with one voice

Consideration of other matters with transport-related outcomes

An example here was the opportunity to contribute to policy and practice reviews that may not be primarily about transport, but could affect transport-related provision. Current work on street-based advertising and its possible implications for bus shelter provision or future revisions to Planning Gain policy, practice and priorities are examples.

Consultee in respect of annual report on parking policies and objectives:

The Group could participate in the service planning, monitoring, improvement and user feedback cycle. The House of Commons Transport Committee has advocated an annual report for Council parking services and the Group could

be a customer for this.

- **Consideration of significant change to transport services**

Consultee for significant changes to public transport services:

The group would receive details of significant changes proposed to bus, coach and rail services, possibly via guest speakers and any views arising would be channelled via Lead Member/Cabinet to the appropriate authority.

6/07 **FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

It was suggested that the next meeting of the Group be held in May/June and subsequently, future meetings would be held three times a year.

7/07 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other issues were raised.

8/07 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be notified to the Group.