

Planning Committee

Title:	Travel Plan Working Group Update
Date:	28 May 2024
Contact Officer:	Becky Reid, Environmental Project Officer

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report on action by the Travel Plan Working Group (TPWG) taken since last report to P&E meeting on 7 May 2024.

2. Community Bus Update

- 2.1 Following the successful launch of the new 121 service, the TPWG is continuing to work towards implementing an additional Community Bus to cover areas of the town and surrounds that do not have regular bus provision. Since last report the members of the TPWG have continued to explore 2 options to deliver this service:
 - 2.1.1 Working in partnership with another Community Transport Organisation to deliver Thame's Service.
 - 2.1.2 Setting up our own organisation (likely to be a CIC) to deliver our bus.
- 2.2 At the meeting of TPWG on 21/5/24, a decision was made to seek to work with an external organisation, subject to further research. The reasons for this decision were:
 1. We have no experience in community transport and therefore delivering the work ourselves would involve a huge amount of work, learning and risk management, that we do not currently have the capacity to deliver.
 2. It would allow us to deliver a service to our community more quickly.
 3. It would be a cost-effective approach, although further exploration of figures are needed.
 4. We would retain significant influence on the route, marketing and community engagement, as we could retain responsibility for leading on these areas, with costs covered through Section 106 funding.
 5. We would be able to trial the service with minimum impact, and if it was found not to be successful then it could be easily wound down.
- 2.3 Since the last report meetings have also taken place with members of the community who have expressed interest in playing a role in the delivery of the bus service. The next step is to form a group that will lead work on taking this project to the next stage, which will likely include 4 members of the community who have specific experience in the transport sector, 2 Councillors and one Officer.
- 2.4 This 'Community Bus Group' will take on the responsibility of developing a detailed and well researched proposal for the next step. This will include exploring how partnerships between Councils and Community Transport Organisations elsewhere work, costing proposals, working through the legal requirements to move forward, and if necessary leading on a tender for the work. They will also take the lead on liaison with OCC.

Action Required

- i) To note the report.