

TRANSPORT ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT

SCS Aim: Encourage more sustainable patterns of travel and tackle road congestion

Summary of Issues:

- Improved planning processes and joined up working both in North Somerset and sub-regionally
- Infrastructure, including facilities and transport options, must be planned and delivered with any development. Should also encourage walking and cycling
- Encourage cycling – cycle lanes to useful places, safer routes, training
- Improve public transport – comfort, costs, sustainability, information and routes, including rural connectivity
- Improve coordination across public transport services - buses and trains
- Support to develop and expand community transport services
- Local employment to reduce travel
- Flexible working to reduce travel and/or congestion
- Education about sustainable travel in schools

Planning

- Implement sub-regional strategy
- Make West of England Partnership less bureaucratic
- Sub-regional strategy is king – so many commuters in North Somerset. Would also present opportunities to cut costs by working more closely with other areas
- Regional/sub-regional planning
- Coordination and reliability across sub-region
- Progress the delivery of the sub-regional transport schemes – SBL/BRT/Weston Package
- Sub-regional transport plan
- No infrastructure across South West – many people travelling between local authority areas – needs to be simple and cost effective system to encourage use
- Strategy to ensure in NSC/development plans
- Develop more robust local plans/policies
- Promote good planning
- Speed up planning process
- Infrastructure before or with development not after
- More improvements to road system when significant housing/commercial development occurs
- Be mindful of transport issues when dealing with planning
- Plan better to ensure that development is infrastructure led, to minimise and avoid road congestion
- Transport network in place before development
- Make sure network is sustainable in the future
- Joined up approach to travel across the local authority
- Road congestion affects all forms of travel and therefore the first problem to deal with. New build areas should have transport the first consideration. NS Council needs to work more closely with highways to ensure that highways agree to the proposals of the 106 agreement
- Road design – less regulation, smooth flow
- S106 – all developments/early and robustly/closely supervised
- S106 cash to fund improvements
- Greater supervision of S106 by NSC
- Job opportunities/housing alongside development reduce the need for commuting

- Ensure new development have local facilities that reduce the need to travel – cycle routes/schools/work
- Design of transport networks – need to take into account safety
- Design of new communities should encourage all people to walk and cycle rather than use the car
- Planning – don't close local schools or post offices
- No more regional shopping centres – reduce reliance on car and motorway (M5 delays)
- Working with CPA to shape developments/growth so as to include alternatives to car

Alternative travel

- Cycle lanes right across, towns and villages
- Always include cycling facility on any new highway development
- Encourage walking & cycling to work
- Cycle paths
- Safe cycle routes to secondary schools, especially rural schools
- Increase cycle paths, make safer
- Better continuous pavements and cycle paths
- Make a proper job of cycle routes (a la Holland)
- Look at extending cycle network
- Encourage people from outlying villages to cycle – safely or bus across villages
- Safe cycle routes – training for cyclists
- Safe cycle routes
- Cycle path, Dutch systems
- Promote bus and rail schemes
- Alternative routes
- Re-open rail link between Portishead and Bristol
- Establish LT link W C & P
- More focus on rail use
- Electric car charging points
- Share lifts
- Encourage car share
- Car share
- Car pooling – flexibilities in the model?
- Make it financially advantageous to share transport provision
- Set up a park and ride scheme
- Greater use of 'park & ride' schemes to reduce town centre congestion
- Park & ride facilities – work with Bristol
- Safer roads, with pavements and cycle routes
- Encourage group rather than individual journeys
- Sharing good practice e.g. green travel plans
- Accessibility/travel plans
- All business/schools to have green travel plan and implement it
- 1 person to walk children to school

Community Transport

- Further develop community transport
- Community Transport provision across North Somerset
- Promote and develop/expand community transport
- Increased support for organisations providing transport to the community
- Transport coordinator for community transport
- Promote diamond scheme more extensively – shuttle services more frequent up and down hilly residential areas

- Encourage community support car sharing
- Streamline options and communicate effectively

Public transport

- Better public transport
- Safer & timely public transport infrastructure that is cost effective and affordable
- Affordability of public transport for individuals – coordination
- Encourage use of public transport by making it more affordable without penalising car users
- Public transport – affordable
- Public transport – costs/reliability/sustainable
- Cheaper public transport
- Make public transport more comfortable, reliable and affordable
- Consistency in charging (through tickets)
- Public transport not always cost effective – no incentive to use
- Affordable travel, public transport
- Stop the local bus companies from dictating which services should be cut based on costs alone
- Improve public information in publicity for transport
- Better access to public transport information – real time information, timetables, routes
- Real time information on bus time
- Easy access routes, times, that suit need
- Improve access to and provision of public transport
- End destinations to where people actually need and want to go/get to
- More ‘provided’ transport to set end destinations
- Bus routes across North Somerset – Banwell/ Worle/ Locking/ Bleadon
- Demand responsive public transport
- Look at bus routes, frequency, size of buses, cater for public take up – possible route change
- Tube approach for bus routes
- Tramway/improve bus – nationalise buses?
- Better linkage between train and cycling facilities
- Improve rail services i.e. doubling rail track to WsM/Portishead railway
- Railway – gov pricing issue re laying on additional carriages to make a better experience and encourage more passenger travel
- Existing lines/railways used for bikes/new railway networks
- Late bus tokens enable children to take part in after school activities and travel home safely without needing lifts
- Bus pass for children e.g. Churchill
- Late bus – parents pick up link to public transport – change route slightly for pick up
- School buses outside hours for community transport
- Review –
 - Cost of public transport fares/routes/timetables
 - Bus that take you where you want to go, when you want to go at an affordable price
 - NSD has high car use/how public transport because of above
- Note how busy buses are with 60+ travel cards
- Bring First Group to heel

Rural Transport

- More rural connectivity to ‘focal points’
- Rural transport options for many communities

- Rural communities – travel/transport
- Reduce HGV's from local cross country roads

Employers

- Charge for workplace parking
- Make travel plans a reality
- Working with colleagues – employers/car share
- Working hours – vary start and finish times/avoid school times
- Encourage/increase flexible options for work i.e. reduce hours, home working, flexi working
- Encourage business community to promote working from home where appropriate
- Employment led regeneration
- Financial incentives for businesses that provide employment for locals i.e. rate reductions
- Employment led

Schools/Education

- Make school zones red routes
- Change rules for school catchments
- Schools travel plan
- Areas to promote walking buses
- School runs – minibus system?
- Kids in on it but not parents
- Talk to schools about parents not driving kids to school
- Education in schools – parents/children

Other

- Robust
- Think of the environment before you travel by car/bus/train or plane
- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Be realistic regarding car use in the country
- Safe travel – safe routes to school, buses and train security
- Reduce need to travel – home working
 - Social isolation
 - Reduction in cross fertilisation of ideas and expertise
 - Must not remove one programme and create another
- Talk to the communities affected by congestion/get ideas from them
- Roadwork schemes
- Motorway accident info
- Access to hospitals
- Road congestion must be addressed
- Smarter traffic light systems
- Enable people to travel to shopping centres without needing cars
- Behavioural change to reduce the problems
- Video conferencing facilities in village halls/community buildings
- Car club scheme
 - Coordination
 - More utilisation of taxi companies
 - Training for more people to be able to move and handle wheelchairs
- Use of school buses/minibuses outside school hours – e.g. for community transport
- Transport for young people in evenings and weekends
- Educating young people on the need for sustainable travel and encouraging utilisation of these modes of transport

- Not just showcase routes – interconnectivity especially links to rural areas
- Put up RFL/petrol
- Road tolls
- Salary sacrifice scheme for rail/bus/bike
- Disincentives for parking – workers
- Rebuild schools in sustainable locations
- Encourage businesses to locate in main towns in North Somerset
- Car sharing website to reduce emissions
- Promote shops in villages to cut down the need for travel – more services to villages e.g. Gateway/library/post office
- Be smarter e.g. car clubs – do not totally eliminate the car just manage it better
- Make it more inconvenient to drive e.g. humps and bumps, cost of petrol, eliminate rat runs, car parking charges
- Road work congestion – consider coning off only when work in progress
- Traffic lights create congestion. Do we need so many?
- Shared transport schemes for businesses – rebate on tax/use of bus lanes
- Local resources
- HA approach to local roads
- Transport sharing systems – that work
- Webcams – video conference
- Benefits for reduction on personal travel
- See people working on road work

TRANSPORT ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT

SCS Aim: Regenerate main town centres as locations for retail, civic and cultural activity with employment and housing

Summary of issues:

- Be clear that developments are what communities want and meet their needs, balance provision of services for residents and tourism
- Develop a North Somerset identity and promote North Somerset offer to businesses, tourists etc to come to North Somerset
- Develop identity of individual towns
- Utilise empty shops – information services, community information, art displays
- Flexibility in terms – short leases, capped or reduced rents and rates
- Grants to support new businesses to begin
- Support development of managed workspaces
- Support development of social enterprises with the third sector e.g. IT, recycling
- Encourage mixed economy and local employment
- Encourage employment through subsidised apprentice schemes, publicise access to work for disabled people, experience through volunteering, training in specific work streams or for local disadvantaged areas
- Improve transport infrastructure and parking amenities
- Ensure developments link new and old communities and provide good infrastructure and integrated facilities and allow green spaces
- Young people in schools and college could design key art installations/new street furniture working alongside noted artists
- Tackle issues from night time economy – binge drinking

Local service provision

- To develop a primary care resource centre in Weston through one of the key sites regenerated. This will allow for more services to be provided to local community and help to reduce expenditure in secondary (hospital) care

Marketing

- Marketing – push with Weston’s new front
- Decide on an identity for the town centre i.e. tourist, business, etc so all can work towards an aim. Who do we want to attract to our town centres?
- North Somerset brand famous for something
- Promotion of the event calendar of WsM and other towns to squeeze as many £s as possible out
- Somehow incentivise other than housing. Premium incentives for green industries

Re-using/alternative uses of empty shops

- Utilise empty shop facilities – advertising, plans, small businesses, NSP, SCS
- Make use of empty premises
- Look at ways to utilise empty shops/houses to breathe life into areas – incentives, rent free periods
- Strategy for the use of empty premises for promotion of information/stop smoking etc. Short term leases. Local art – walk in, windows etc
- Free vacant shop use for the arts
- Zero business rates to encourage shop use

Cultural offer

- Learning opportunities to promote cultural diversity of the area and social development of children and young people – could be done through educational work in schools and colleges
- Cultural identities – North Somerset wide identity then individual towns

Encouraging business

- Support development of managed workspace schemes that provide plug in and go opportunities at a low cost with business support provided
- ‘Oven ready’ development sites needed
- Encourage and support small businesses which are less prosperous
- ‘Capping’ rents for shops, re-visiting lease agreements for shops
- ‘Spend to save’ support to get new business up and running via grants or reduction in rates etc
- Small business encouraged/helped by short term leases
- Shops to work together to agree opening hours i.e. do they/don’t they open for longer hours before Xmas?
- Shops and businesses to open later too
- Encourage businesses from outside employers
- Use Town Centre manager to promote business
- Encourage business development in town centres
- Support small businesses to bring people into area
- Support BID process
- Better engagement with business sector
- More emphasis on leisure/retail/better night time economy
- Encourage new industries to North Somerset
- Support a development of social enterprises with third sector – IT, recycling
- Buy and supply North Somerset local produce campaign
- Look at multiuse of business space i.e. – café during day, bistro at night - run by different people

- 24hour town centre offer?

Encourage employment

- Arrange active and 'subsidised' apprentice schemes aligned to local businesses or strong public sector bodies
- Backing Young Britain is a campaign encouraging business cooperation in employing young people
- Train young people to start own business
- Work for those trained
- Publicise access to work for disabled people
- Volunteering to get skills as route into job when recession ends
- JobCentre Plus can offer financial support to recruit from local disadvantaged groups. It can also provide training support for organisations e.g. care industry and retail
- Regeneration of town centre to benefit existing communities as well as appeal to tourists. How to engage communities in the jobs that might be generated. Diversify the local economy.

Planning

- Planning process needs to be pro-development
- Implement Weston Area Development Framework Action Planning
- Sell public land in conjunction with developers to strengthen specific retail activities e.g. council supply land, developers supply money 50:50
- Re-development - refurbish/redevelop existing buildings first
- Make towns nicer, in terms of environment, attractiveness
- Iconic design – to attract other investors in
- Ensure house builders contribute to the aims e.g. build a school on new estate and shops
- Integrate some employment development with town centre developments – aim to reduce over with emphasis on segregating development
- Provide 'green' spaces and infrastructure (trees & housing) linking retail, civic, residential and employment developments
- Ensure that public transport provision is adequate and efficient, without imposing an amenity value
- Improve rail services and infrastructure
- Similarly provide car parking linkages to public transport without parking imposing on amenity
- Transport issues – parking etc

Other

- Be clear on what is the potential for issues proposed
- Be clear that proposals are what public want to see
- Meeting needs:
 - Redevelopment not new development
 - Draw it to the centre, not the periphery
 - Leisure activities
 - Flats over shops
- Mix it up – retail/civic activity and cultural and employment and housing
- Balance of provision of services to residents and tourism
- Ensure area has smart street scapes, kept clean and looked after
- More 'offender' working parties through community sentences to improve environment
- Keep towns litter free – tidy, especially WsM, clean up Sunday
- Gateways to Towns/Town centres – signage, clear, welcoming
- Is funding available to provide a TCM for all main towns?

- Agree across Somerset for areas of excellence:
 - Arts – WsM Concert Hall
 - Bridgwater Cultural Centre
 - Somerset Sports Arena
- Neighbourhood management encouraging active citizenship and responsibility for areas
- Link new communities with existing – link through employment
- Look at opportunities to link with rebuilding of pier
- Use resource of young people in schools and colleges to design key art installations/new street furniture, working alongside noted artists
- More flats over shops on social lettings basis
- Tackle binge drinking at night – more night time economy activities – night time atmosphere
- Night time economy to be fully integrated with all plans including housing and employment i.e. funding – pavement cafes – cleaning
- Town Centre Management arrangements to include voluntary sector
- Explore EU funding opportunities
- Reusable bags sponsored by businesses