

## Planning and Environment Committee

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Travel Plan Working Group Update</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>20 February 2024</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Becky Reid, Environmental Project Officer</b>

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report on action by the Travel Plan Working Group (TPWG) taken since last P&E meeting on 23 January 2024.

### 2. General Update

- 2.1 The TPWG, chaired by Cllr Helena Richards, last met on 07/02/2024. Currently the group is focusing on:
  - establishing the need for a Community Bus in Thame, and
  - supporting the roll out of the LCWIP – a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan being developed by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

### 3. LCWIP Update

- 3.1 Thame is one of the next towns identified by OCC to have our LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) created. OCC are leading on this work. They are currently in the process of speaking with their legal teams to finalise the contracts they need to send out to the consultants when the brief for delivering Thame's LCWIP gets submitted to them. Once started the process of the LCWIP can take anything from 12 – 18 months in order to provide plenty of time to get all of the details ironed out and settled.

### 4. Community Bus Update

#### 4.1 Update from feedback received following last P&E meeting status

- 4.1.1 At the P&E meeting held on 23 January 2024 some concern was raised about the monies that have been committed to fund a bus in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council, and whether TPWG had the power to authorise this spend. To clarify, spending this funding is under the authority of OCC who have responsibility to provide Public Transport services to best meet the needs of the area. Thame Town Council can only make representation to OCC to influence this.
- 4.1.2 Since Nov 2022 it has been the delegated responsibility of the TPWG to explore whether Thame Town Council could set up and run a Community Bus to replace the current 121 route, following a request from OCC who felt this would make the service more sustainable. The TPWG started investigating this, leading to the establishment of a CIO for Thame to allow us to do this. However, at the same time Buckinghamshire Council started talking to OCC about whether some of their section 106 funds requiring them to run a regular bus from a new estate in Haddenham to Thame could be combined with the Section 106 funding for Thame to meet both needs. By pooling the funds the service would be better for both locations, and enable it to go further. This became OCC's preferred option, but the TPWG could see the strong benefit of this approach for Thame, but also asked that some of the funds could still remain to be spent on a Community Bus. This was agreed.

4.1.3 During this period, the TPWG were in regular contact with the Public Transport Team at OCC, representing other local public transport needs. During this time the following have been established:

- A continuation of the 121 service – although less frequent it will, from April 2024, connect the East of Thame to the Town Centre, Health Centre on East Street, Haddenham & Thame Parkway, and Haddenham Garden Centre.
- A Tuesday and Thursday bus from Moreton
- A Tuesday and Thursday bus from Towersey
- An allocation of funds to still be spent to meet any gaps in services identified by the community - possibly through the establishment of a Community Bus for Thame if this is deemed to be the best solution following a consultation.

## 4.2 Community Consultation

4.2.1 Community Consultation: 3 meetings will now run on 29/02/24 at 3pm, 6pm and 7pm to share current service details, and get feedback from the community about what they think the gaps are in Thame regarding transport. A subsequent questionnaire will also be sent out to gather additional feedback, and following this an initial proposed route and costings to deliver this will be created.

4.2.2 Once the above are completed, a proposal for next steps will be made.

### Action Required

- i) ***To note the report.***