

Planning and Environment Committee

Title:	Travel Plan Working Group Update
Date:	07 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 12 March 2024.

2. Community Bus Update

2.1 Community Consultation

- 2.1.1 Following the in-person community consultation meetings that took place on 29/2/24 a survey, detailing the same information, and asking for responses from those not able to attend, was promoted through our social media and newsletter.
- 2.1.2 The questionnaire closed 15/4/24 and the feedback was analysed by the TPWG the following week leading to the conclusion that we do want to move forward with establishing a community bus.

2.2 Next Steps

- 2.2.1 The next steps for the TPWG are to identify the right organisation to take forward our Community Bus, exploring the following options.
- 2.2.2 The first option being explored is bringing in another organisation who expands to this area to deliver our service. Work is being done to explore various options that are available to us.
- 2.2.3 The second option being explored is continuing the journey to set up our own organisation to deliver our bus. Unfortunately, Thame Town Council's bid to set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation was recently turned down, so instead we are now looking at whether a separate Community Interest Company is established just for the bus delivery model. This would allow us to quickly move the project forward, and leave open the opportunity for us to change the company legal structure at a later date if necessary.
- 2.2.4 Alongside the legal structure we are also starting to engage with the members of the community who have expressed interest in playing a role in the delivery of the bus service. This will allow us to fully understand what resources we have available to deliver the project going forward.
- 2.2.5 Finance for the project will come from Section 106 funds, and at the moment the Town Clerk and Environmental Project Officer are exploring what funds could also be drawn on to support the set-up phase of the service.
- 2.2.6 The TPWG will meet again at the end of May to review the outcome of the work above and make a final decision about how to move the project forward.

Action Required

- i) To note the report.