

CYCLE FORUM NOTES

Meeting Held on Thursday 18 Jan 18

Present: Dick Proctor (SCC) – Chair
Peter Marsh BBEST Neighbourhood Planning Forum
Tom Mutton – British Cycling
David Watters – observer
Matt Turner - observer
Dexter Johnstone – Cycle Sheffield
John Chapman Cycle Sheffield
Victoria Grey –Recycle Bikes
Chloe Shepherd – Sheffield City Region
David Budd – Sheffield City Region
Greg Challis - SCC
Paul Sullivan – SCC

1. Apologies For Absence

Dick Skelton, Rob Wormald, Angela Walker.

2. Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy Presentation

Presentation by David Budd and Chloe Shepherd on the SCR transport strategy (which at the time of the presentation was out for consultation. Consultation ends April 2018)
Presentation attached

The strategy consultation concludes in April. SCR will then work with SY partners (as it is they that will be delivering the detail) and engage the Mayor (when elected), with the intention for the strategy to be agreed by the combined authority in July.

The strategy is a precursor to an implementation plan will be developed over the summer.

Questions and general feedback:

How does the strategy promote and create active travel?

This will come out of the Healthy Streets Theme. There is a target of 11% for cycling across the region. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) will help to deliver the strategy's objectives (the Region was successful with a bid to develop an LCWIP with support from Dft appointed consultants which is currently on-going).

General feeling was the strategy should be more challenging.

It was explained that for Sheffield the new transport strategy will be more challenging.

In terms of cycling targets, is Manchester ambitions more realistic (to double cycling by 2025, and then double again by 2040).

There was then a discussion around the propensity model developed by the Department for Transport <https://www.pct.bike/m/?r=south-yorkshire>

Current assessment of cycling schemes does not truly reflect their economic benefits, will this be addressed in the future to better reflect the overall benefits of cycling and walking. The region will be learning lessons for the Healthy Streets tool developed in London that does include the economic benefit of active travel.

However, SCR can't enforce the tool it - will be down to the local authorities to take it on board.

3. Sheffield Transport Vision

Consultation closes on the 9th Feb (now closed).

The vision is being prepared in response to growth in the city – jobs, residential so more travel. The vision is looking at better use of road space, with greater priority for those modes that use the space more efficiently, and have positive impacts on equality and the environment.

The vision consultation will inform the transport strategy which will be complete by the end of April. There will be further consultation on the strategy which will include schemes that come from the vision consultation.

The aim with the consultation is to try and get a broad range of views, allowing anyone to comment using the online option or writing in independently (whether as an individual or a business/organisation).

This is the chance to influence transport policy.

The vision aims to understand the barriers to travel, what journeys people would like to make but can't for whatever reason, and is there an appetite for change.

In addition both the Local Plan and Clean Air Strategy will influence the strategy.

The strategy will include a new way of assessing transport schemes.

Feedback and questions:

The forum felt the vision was positive and upfront, raised the issue about space for parking - this will be addressed in the strategy. The forum was encouraged by the inclusion of the workplace parking levy.

SCC realise that to get into the competitive funding race we need to be generating that all important match funding.

To date there has been no backlash on the measures mentioned in the Vision.

It was noted that the SCR targets differ from the SCC targets for active travel. Should Sheffield, not be higher to bring up the countywide average.

It was discussed that perhaps, of all the SY Las, Doncaster should be the lead cycle area in the region (this is backed by the propensity tool).

One option could be to develop different targets for different areas.

The Forum discussed SCR funding issues. It appeared that new appointments within SCR were supportive of active travel and there is a realisation that the region needs to be more flexible with its funding.

It was felt notwithstanding the positives of the vision that the objectives were a bit woolly and too far in the future. Is there scope to more specific in the short to medium term? It was explained more definitive objectives and short and medium term targets will follow in the Strategy Delivery Plan.

A question was raised, that in the interim before the new approach, will other schemes that don't fit with the strategy still progress?

No doubt this will happen and there will be tensions between priorities in the intervening period.

Given Sheffield's aim to be a congestion free city, does this vision have an opportunity to influence government thinking?

4. OFO – The First 10 Days

OFO launched on Tuesday 9th January with a 500 bike deployment. A further 500 bikes were to be deployed by the end of January, ultimately there would be 3000 bikes available as part of the scheme, probably by the end of the summer.

At the time of the meeting Ofo employed 6 people to redeploy bikes, and collect bikes that were either damaged from use or vandalised. The level of damage and vandalism in the first 10 days was similar to other areas in the UK where Ofo have launched. Usage levels were good especially for the time of year.

The area of operation is quite large for an initial launch, and for the first 2 weeks all rides were free.

A further update will be provide in March

5. Any Other Business

1. Opening Date for City Centre hub? – This has been delayed by the ever-changing landscape of the city centre. We are now looking at a permanent hub run by BikeRehab to be opened for 2019.
2. Close pass.
SYP a bit reluctant to engage, some work has taken place. Cycle Sheffield continues to push SYP to do more. Meeting planned in February.
3. Reallocation of parking in Woodseats.
Could this be done on a trial basis? At the moment this is a resource issue for SCC.
4. Progress of Grey 2 Green 2 and Kelham Island.
G2G2 has learned the lesson for G2G and will be better for active travel. Plans will be shared at a future Forum. Work is on-going with regard to Kelham island, again when something concrete is available this will be shared.

6. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 24 May 2018, at 5pm in the Town Hall

Please note the above change of date

Notes by: Paul Sullivan, January 2018-March 2018