



Minutes of the meeting of the Transport Committee held on Monday 9 January 2023 at 6.10pm in the Council Chamber, Lewes Town Hall.

Present:

Councillor Bird
Councillor Catlin
Councillor Handy
Councillor Makepeace
Councillor Maples
Councillor Waring

In attendance

Town Clerk

1. Election of Chair

1.1. Councillor Makepeace was elected as chair for the municipal year 2022 to 2023.

2. Filming of council meetings and mobile phones

2.1. The procedures were noted.

3. Apologies for absence

3.1. There were apologies from Councillors Milner and Herbert due to family commitments. There had been no word from Councillors Baah, Clarke, O'Keeffe and Vernon.

4. Members' declarations of interests

4.1. There were none.

5. Question time

5.1. Councillor Maples, who was in the public gallery, clarified if questions could be asked when the agenda item was discussed. It was clarified questions can be asked when the matter arises for debate.

6. Chair's announcements and urgent items

6.1. There were none.

7. Compass bus presentation

7.1. The Committee received a presentation from Compass regarding bus service provision in relation to the funding provided by Lewes Town Council.

7.2. It was noted that East Sussex County Council were in the process of tendering all bus service contracts across the County with the new contracts starting 1 April 2023. Compass would like to come back to a future meeting to discuss more

specifically as to how they can improve services including newer buses that are environmentally friendly.

7.3. The funding from the Town Council is used to enhance the service in particular the frequency of the service. When asked exactly how the Town Council's £15,000 contribution was spent Compass explained that it makes up the shortfall in their budgeted income and expenditure once the increased frequency was added. Passenger use figures were sent previously to the Town Council. Compass would ensure the reports on revenue expenditure and passenger use were sent to the Town Council.

7.4. Compass are about to recruit to an office administration post which will include responsibility for social media. Compass would like to promote the use of the mobile phone app 'myTrip'. The Committee noted that real time information especially at Neville and Landport would be helpful. Compass are happy to add Town Council branding to the buses as part of the service funding agreement.

7.5. Compass were happy to agree in principle the £15,000 service funding agreement.

It was resolved that

Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to prepare information on bus service funding for the draft budget for Full Council.

8. CTLA (Community Transport for the Lewes Area) bus presentation

8.1. The Committee received a presentation from CTLA regarding bus service provision in relation to the funding provided by Lewes Town Council.

8.2. CTLA is not a commercial service but does need to cover costs. Salary and fuel increases will have a significant impact on their budget and they are anticipating to just break even.

8.3. CTLA are also submitting a tender to ESCC to operate bus services from 1 April 2023.

8.4. Some of the Town Council's funding contributes towards marketing. CTLA have just appointed an employee to take on in house marketing so costs for marketing and publicity should be reduced.

8.5. CTLA were happy to agree in principle the £12,600 service funding agreement.

It was resolved that

Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to prepare information on bus service funding for the draft budget for Full Council.

9. Lewes low traffic scheme

9.1. The Committee received a presentation from Cycle Lewes and Living Streets regarding ideas for a proposed traffic management scheme for the town.

9.2. The vision was for Lewes to become the UK's first green and sustainable historic town. To be an exemplar of green and sustainable living.

9.3. The aim was to reduce through traffic in the town following a survey of through traffic undertaken by a specialist data company identifying 2,000 vehicles a day are through traffic.

9.4. The proposals included the installation of a camera with the ability to charge those who pass through the town with an exemption for local users. The aim being to encourage through traffic to utilise the by-pass whilst incentivising visitors to use car parks. Other proposals included widening pavements and creating a pleasant visitor environment as well as supporting the local economy.

9.5. Next steps included consultation in spring on the potential options and to pilot traffic free days as part of that to enable the town to experience these but also to analyse and assess the impact of these. There would also be an exhibition and online surveys.

9.6. The result of this would be used to present an option to East Sussex County Council to investigate and model. Initial discussions have been had with the Assistant Director at ESCC. It cannot be included in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) until consultation has taken place.

9.7. The presentation has not been given to Lewes District Council formally but has been given to some LDC councillors.

9.8. The committee was asked to support the consultations on the potential options to reduce through traffic in the town given the study of traffic on Lewes High Street, funded by the Town Council, identified that 50% of the vehicles travelling each day were through traffic and the impact this has on air and noise pollution.

It was resolved that

A report be taken to Full Council seeking the Town Council's support of the Lewes low traffic consultations on potential options to reduce through traffic in the town.

10. To consider the proposal to appoint a task and finish group to build on the vision statement which prioritises cycling and buses and consider how the Town Council can define its intentions to promote active travel.

10.1. Councillor Makepeace explained that it would be useful to articulate what the Town Council means by supporting active travel, cycling, walking, safe school streets, speed reduction, supporting air quality improvements, supporting road closures for community activities, framing this as a policy statement that sits under the vision. This statement could also contribute to the neighbourhood plan if it is reviewed or for any transport strategy that the Town Council may explore.

It was resolved that

Councillors Handy, Makepeace, Waring and Bird form a task and finish group with up to three other councillors, to build on the vision statement which prioritises cycling and buses and define the Town Councils intentions to promote active travel.

The meeting closed at 8:25pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

DRAFT