**Leeds Active Travel Group**

9 Sept 2020

**Attendance:** Paul Chatterton,Cllr Lisa Mulherin, Cllr Peter Carlill, Mark Goldstone, Tina Shield, Ruth Gelletlie, Martin Hamilton, Margo Hanson, Lizzie Greenwood, Paul Foster, David Mihell, Anzir Boodoo, Shannon Jackson

**Apologies:**

**Thoughts from the business community on increasing active travel**

Leeds Chamber of Commerce (Mark)

* Many people still nervous about getting on public transport
* Many people still working from home full or part time
* Cycle storage is a recurring issue—bigger firms sometimes have space in car park, smaller firms often don’t have safe storage so cyclists end up having to bring their bike into the office
	+ Cost is a barrier as safe cycle storage can be pricey
* May be impractical for people who work outside city centre to use public transport
* Staff committees within businesses can be helpful at picking up these kinds of things

Leeds Trinity (David)

* There are now 50 units of free bike parking at Trinity—please help spread the word!
* Trinity car parks are full and trains and buses still look empty which may be an indication that some people who used to commute on public transport are opting to drive instead
	+ Car park occupancy recently has been a mix of workers and shoppers and people taking up the “Eat Out to Help Out” offers
* Fewer people are coming into city centre as many still working from home
* Mask wearing has decreased lately which may keep more people away

Bruntwood (Wendy)

* Bruntwood has secure cycle parking, showers and some buildings have bike repair facilities
	+ They’ve noticed more people asking for access to cycle store as they start to come back into offices
* Currently at 8% occupancy in Leeds and 12% in Manchester
	+ Waiting for more people to come back into the buildings to survey people on what they need in terms of active travel support
* Manchester cycle to work schemes (there is an aspiration to try to replicate some of this in Leeds eventually)
	+ 7 active travel hubs in the city working with a variety of stakeholders
	+ hubs offer info on routes, sign posting to cycle hire, test rides
	+ Scooter hire trials
	+ Cycle buddy scheme
	+ Free energy incentive—offices log commutes and compete for a prize (free energy)
	+ Social media campaigns—people post pics of active commute to win prize

**Update from Leeds City Council**

* Free E-bike trial scheme has launched in Leeds
* Cycle hub at Leeds Kirkgate Market has successfully launched

How is the Chamber of Commerce encouraging businesses to embrace the idea of reducing car use?

* Encouraging good design
* Initially they were talking to business about CAZ and reducing car use and were impressed with the positive response from businesses

Is this part of the discussion of how businesses bounce back?

* Its part of a wider conversation about how businesses contribute to net zero
	+ working on a toolkit aimed at SMEs—Active Travel is a part of this

New buildings and housing schemes need to be designed with active travel, EV charging and public transport links in mind not just cars

We need to encourage active travel into city centre so that if confidence in PT doesn’t come back we don’t reach a point when city centre parking reaches critical mass

**City Centre Plans over the next 5 years**

* Goal to remove traffic from City Square
* Transforming Cities funding to improve safety and access to train station as projected number of passengers grows
* Transforming Cities Fund also to address some cycle route gaps into city centre
* Creation of city centre Aire Park at heart of South Bank development
* LPTIP schemes to transform public transport links and walking environment on Corn Exchange and Headrow
* Additional pedestrian river crossing near ASDA House
* Expanding Park and Ride capacity: adding site in Stourton, Elland Road extension has been completed, funding to extend Temple Green

City Connect is seeing increased use of bike routes outside the city centre but are seeing less cycling in city centre

More people will cycle into the city if they know there is safe cycle parking and businesses will benefit

There is a need for more positive messaging about the safety of public transport. There is evidence that using public transport (wearing a mask) is not a significant covid risk.

Currently bus schedules are constantly changing without warning, there is no information posted at stops, many of the display screens are missing or don’t work, and the mobile apps don’t show accurate info

When was most recent city centre travel survey? It would be useful to have a recent dataset around who travels into and out of city and why. Paul Foster has some data on this.

There seems to still be scope for quick interventions in city centre example—Albion street, lower speed limits, create temporary cycle lanes on three lane roads

There are plans and work happening to add more pedestrianisation—Cookridge Street has been closed to traffic this summer and New Briggate yet to come

We need to send people around the city centre quickly rather than send people through it

The issue is with the stop start traffic. Would a lower speed limit help it keep moving or exacerbate the issue?

Will E-scooter trials be coming to Leeds?

* We withdrew interest in taking part in trials because the government classification of them made it almost impossible for the scheme to work so we won’t be taking part at this time.

**Update on Active Travel Neighbourhoods**

* By the time we next meet work will have started on the first ATNs
* Letters have been sent to all of the residents in the first ATNs
* Need a positive article in Yorkshire Evening Post to launch the scheme
* Press releases should include voices from people in the community championing the projects and/or supportive statements from business community and public health
* What is being done to garner support cross party? Reference was made to discussions at Council, CEAC and WYCA. Active Travel measures have the support of most of parties but it’s difficult to get support from everyone across the board
* Bruntwood new director Rob Valentine very interested in Active Travel
* This group is happy to support efforts to bring what has worked well for Bruntwood in Manchester to Leeds