



Your Local Community Network

Taunton LCN

Agenda

1. Introduction / To receive any apologies for absence
2. Agreement of minutes of the last meeting
3. Presentation from Somerset Council Transport:
 - Taunton Hub – Josephine Paterson, Service Manager Transport Schemes
 - Bus Services – John Perrett, Service Manager Transporting Somerset
4. Updates from working groups
 - Highways and Traffic Working Group
 - Young People's Working Group
5. Action and next steps to determine the priorities and areas of focus for the Local Community Network for the next 12 months
6. Presentation from Fodo Higginson – SALC Health & Wellbeing funding
7. Next steps and future agenda items
8. Dates of future meetings

Introductions

- **Housekeeping**
- **Introductions and apologies**
- **Agreement of notes of the last meeting and actions**

Somerset Council Transport

- **John Perrett – Service Manager Transporting Somerset**
- **Josephine Paterson – Service Manager Transport Schemes**

Taunton Hub

Josephine Paterson – Service Manager



Taunton Garden Town- Vision 2019



1.

Grow our town greener – transforming our open spaces and streets

Quality of our Environment: give our town a green makeover, joining up our green spaces, waterways, parks and play spaces, planting more street trees and woodlands and managing our water more imaginatively with wetlands and rain gardens to improve it for recreation, tourism and wildlife.



2.

Branching out – moving cleaner, moving smarter

Quality of our Movement: we will integrate our transport network so that it serves Taunton with much improved bus and appropriate vehicle links to our main destinations and make much better prioritised provision for walkers and cyclists encouraging healthier and more sustainable journey choices as attractive alternatives to travelling by car.



3.

Growing quality places to live – town centre, new and existing neighbourhoods

Quality of our places and neighbourhoods: we will deliver an outstanding built environment focused on places and spaces with high quality neighbourhoods, green streets and public spaces and with homes and buildings that are distinctly local in appearance. Our houses, offices, employment areas, public services and road infrastructure will embrace innovation, will be energy efficient and will exploit the latest sustainable technologies.



4.

New shoots and blossom – a dynamic and prosperous community founded on knowledge, culture and business

Quality of opportunity: we will responsibly nourish partnership, prosperity and growth in social value, through our strengths in knowledge, education, culture and business. We will germinate and grow sustainable arts and cultural venues as hubs that foster excellence in the region. We will pursue low carbon and digital infrastructure to make a town that connects businesses and markets well, drawing on our University Centre and growth industries in digital, land, marine informatics, health and nuclear.



Our Vision

“Taunton, the County Town of Somerset will be flourishing, distinctive, and healthy – and the country's benchmark Garden Town. We will be proud to live and work in a place where the outstanding natural environment, diverse and thriving economy and inspiring cultural offer, contribute to an exceptional quality of life and well-being”.



BSIP

- Somerset Council were one of only 31 councils who received funding from the Department of Transport for our Bus Service Improvements Plan (BSIP).
- This was a highly competitive process with over 70 Local Transport Authorities submitting a bid.

BSIP Aims & Objectives

1. A more extensive and frequent network of services
2. Reduce the cost of travel
3. Improved co-ordination
4. An easily accessible and reliable network
5. A safe and comfortable network
6. A decarbonisation plan for Somerset buses

BSIP Capital Funding

Taunton Bus Town:

- **£4.7m:** Up to 4,000 metres of bus lanes & up to 19 bus priority detection at signalised junctions
- **£2.79m:** Taunton Mobility Hub development

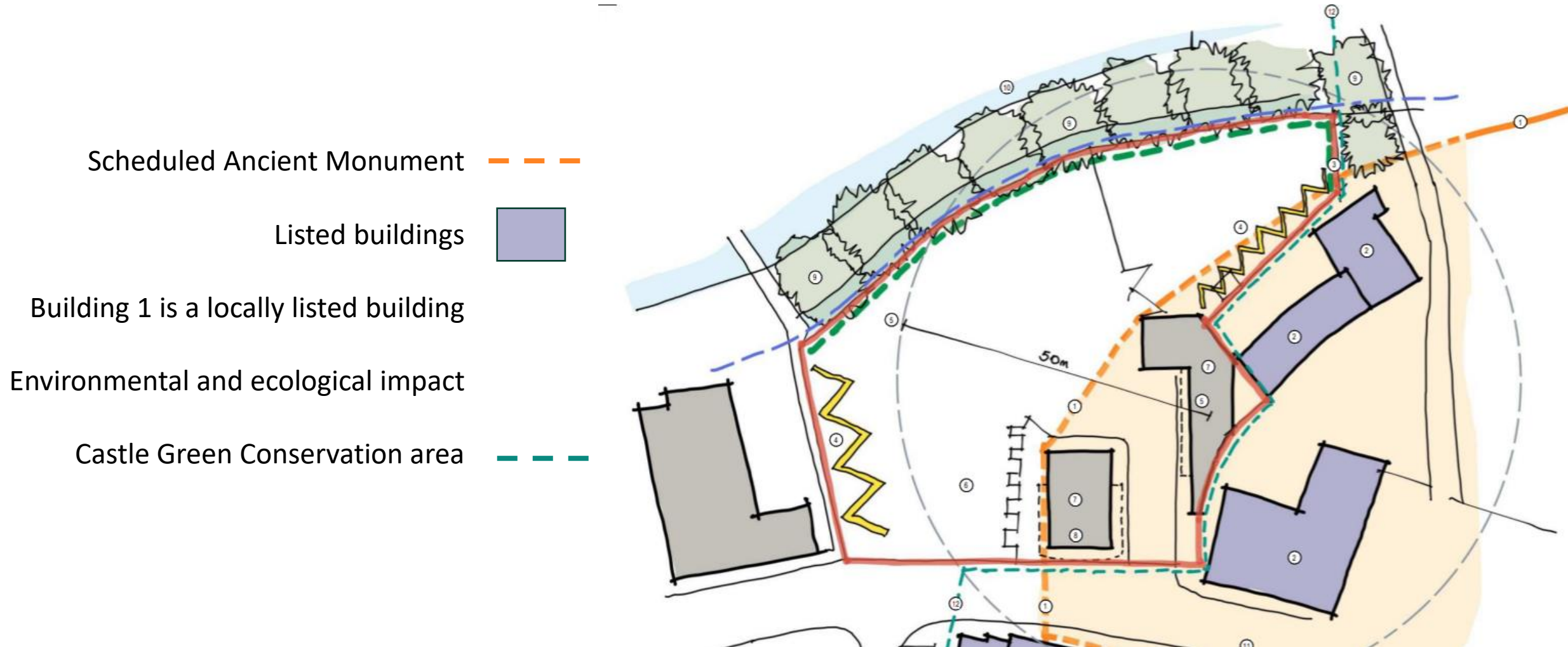
What is a Transport Hub?



Transport hubs are highly visible, safe, and accessible spaces where public, shared and active travel modes are co-located alongside improvements to public realm, along with community facilities where relevant. It could include - cycle parking / lockers, shared bikes, information (including real-time departures), covered seating, public toilets, cctv, drinking water filling station, bike maintenance stand, cargo bike parking, parcel lockers, taxi rank, drop-off / pick-up spaces, car club spaces, or EV charging.

It's unlikely that the Taunton hub will have a full range of facilities initially, due to budget, additional features will be planned for.

Complex Site



Branching out – Taunton Transport Hub

The Proposal

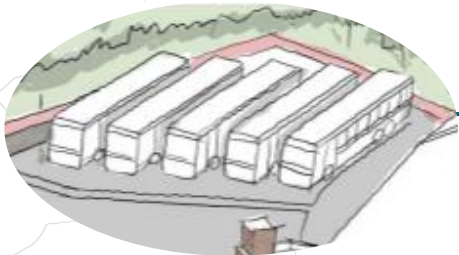
- Six bus stops within the site, each with their own bus shelter. These are drive in, drive out bus stops and are considered safer than the previous drive in, reverse out bays.
- Two coach stops located nearby along Castle Way.
- Five layover bays.
- Real time information to help passengers know when their next bus is due to arrive.
- Indoor waiting room.
- Toilets.
- A changing places toilet facility with dedicated accessible parking bay.
- Pedestrianised area between the two buildings including some outdoor public realm seating and planting.
- Improved pedestrian crossings at the site entrance to help pedestrians safely cross.
- Bike parking.

Budget dependent



Bus Charging Points

VEHICLES REVERSE INTO SPACES. BOLLARDS AND 'WHEEL STOPPER' STRIPS MAY BE ADDED DURING DETAILED DESIGN. PASSIVE PROVISION BEHIND SPACES FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING



Bus Layover



Bus Shelters



Changing Places



Live Bus Times

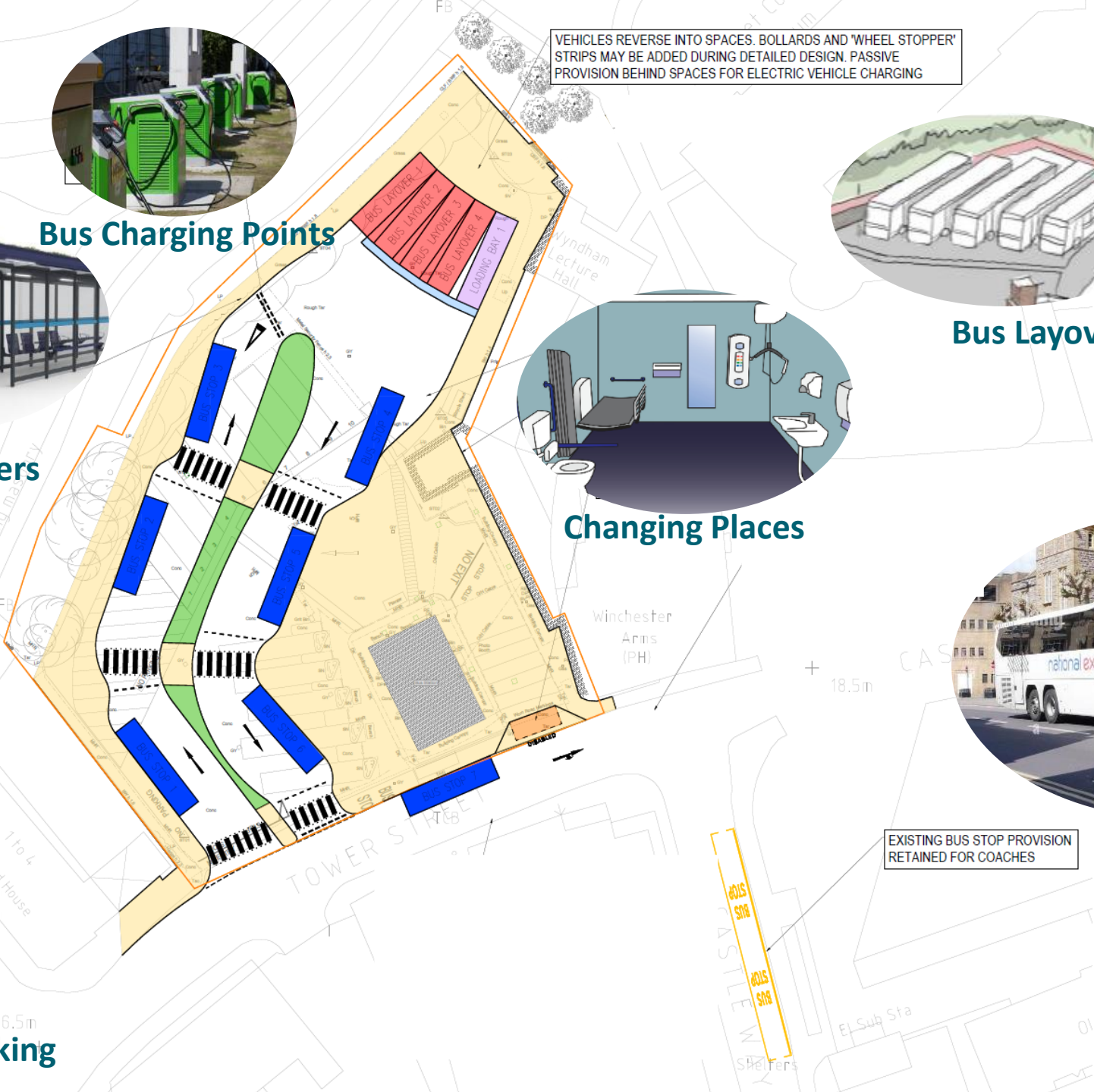


Coach Interchange

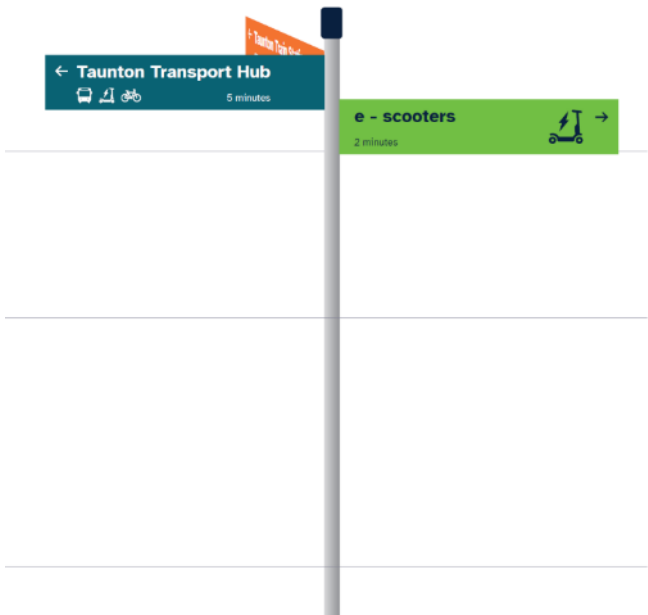
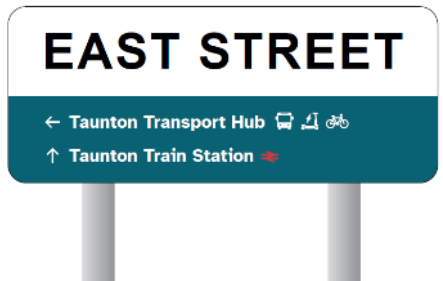
EXISTING BUS STOP PROVISION RETAINED FOR COACHES



Secure Bike Parking



Hub Branding



Questions and Discussion



Somerset
Council

Thank you



Taunton LCN Meeting Bus Services

7 October 2024



Somerset
Council

Bus Services

- Bus Services can be commercially operated, partially funded or wholly funded by Somerset Council.
- In Somerset there are currently 116 bus services, of these 21 are commercial, 15 are partly funded and 80 are wholly funded by Somerset Council or neighbouring Authorities.
- The reason for the low level of commercial services is due to sparsity of population, long routes, high car ownership, demographic of users young (half fare), elderly (concessionary bus pass).
- Buses tend to be above the average age of the overall UK bus fleet.
- Local Authorities have a duty to provide “socially necessary bus services”, provide co-ordination of services and publicise them.

Bus Services

- Operators are a mix of First Group Plc operating companies and local operators such as Hatch Green Coaches.
- Bus Services are regulated by the Traffic Commissioner who is appointed by the Department of Transport to oversee safe and legal operations in a given geographical area. The Traffic Commissioner is supported by officers from the DVSA (Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency).
- Changes to bus services must be registered with the Traffic Commissioner giving 70 days' notice, of which the first 28 days are for consultation.
- Somerset's current EP (Enhanced Partnership) limits the number of timetable changes to twice a year (Easter and beginning of September) although exceptions can be made if they are in the public interest.

Bus Fares

- Bus Fares are normally determined by the bus operator, especially if the service is commercially operated. Fares for funded services can be set by the operator or the Local Authority.
- Current National Bus Fare Cap (Government funded) limits the maximum adult fare to £2, but this fare cap is due to end on 31 December 2024.
- Taunton Town Fare Cap – (funded through BSIP) initially £1 which rose to £1.50 in July 2024 and is currently due to end in March 2025.
- Operators provide fare offers through season tickets and multi journey tickets and all services in Somerset now accept contactless payments.
- English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) passes are available to local residents on the grounds of retirement age or certain disabilities. There are approximately 104,000 ENCTS pass holders in Somerset.

Taunton Park & Ride

- The Taunton Park & Ride is operated by Stagecoach South West under contract to Somerset Council.
- Operates Monday to Saturday on a 20-minute frequency and all journeys are provided using double deck vehicles.
- Operated from two sites at Silk Mills and Taunton Gateway.
- Currently we have a £1 fare cap which is funded through BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan) due to end 31 March 2025.
- Currently the service is averaging 39,549 journeys per month.
- Site security improvements are due to be introduced at Silk Mills and enhanced at Taunton Gateway during this Winter.

Slinky Service

- Slinky is the brand name for Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) bus services across Somerset.
- These services are delivered using a fleet of 16 accessible minibuses across the County owned by Somerset Council.
- Available to anyone who does not have access to a public bus service or has a disability which prevents them from using a public bus service.
- Residents must register to use them, either online or by calling the provider. Registration is free.
- The Taunton & Wellington service covers what used to be the Taunton Deane Borough Council area and provides journeys on certain days of the week into either Taunton or Wellington from outlying towns and villages or within the two towns.

Slinky Service

- Registered users can book a journey by contacting the booking office at least 24 hours before they want to travel. Trips can be booked up to two weeks in advance.

Fares - For journeys up to 3 miles, Single: £2.50, Return: £4

For journeys over 3 miles, Single: £3.50, Return: £5

- Concessionary Pass Holders and children aged between 5-16 are entitled to a 50% reduction in the cost of the fare. Children under 5 travel free.
- For group bookings and journey's that cannot be provided by Slinky we also provide Community Transport in the Taunton and Wellington area, charges for this service are linked to distance.

Further Information

- Links
- Slinky Web Page - [SLINKY services \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://slinky.somerset.gov.uk)
- Think Travel Web Page - [Think Travel : Homepage](#)
- Bus Tracking – [Bus Times](#)
- QR Codes at Bus Stops example:



Any Questions



Highways Working Group

Recommendations to the Taunton LCN Meeting

- To adopt the Taunton LCN Highways Working Group Terms of Reference
- To schedule further Highways Working Group meetings for the 2024/25 municipal year, to sit between the main Taunton LCN meetings.
- To agree the Taunton LCN Working Group Membership, as below:
 - Bishops Hull PC
 - Bishops Lydeard PC ~ and Cothelstone PC
 - Cotford St. Luke PC
 - Norton Fitzwarren PC
 - Taunton Town Council
 - Trull PC
 - Nigel Pearce Taunton Business Chamber

Young People's Working Group

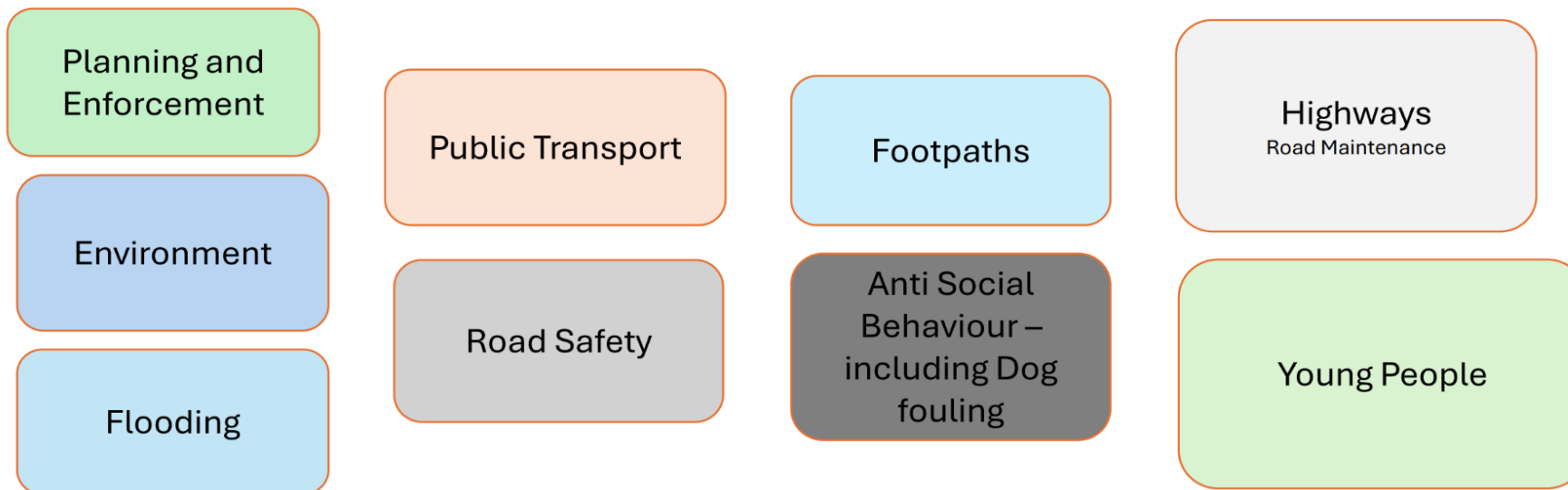
**Update from Chair, Young People's Working Group, Bev
Fernandes**

Discussion - areas of focus for next 12 months

Highlights and themes from last years discussion

The opening meeting of the Taunton Area LCN in July 2023, discussed priorities for the coming year and quickly developed an operating pattern of information seeking and discussion around a particular priority or issue for each meeting, agreeing actions where applicable.

The initial list of priorities and discussion points are set out below. The needs of young people was a top priority for many. It was agreed to set up a working group focussing on support for young people in the early meetings.



Fodo Higginson - Community Health & Wellbeing Officer, SALC

Presentation from Fodo Higginson – SALC Health & Wellbeing funding.

Inform and advise on SALC Health & Wellbeing funding and Q&A.



SALC are working with Somerset Council, and other partners, to help support Somerset's city, town and parish Councils to actively engage in and deliver, Community Health & Wellbeing projects locally.

HEALTH & WELLBEING



Health – “physical, mental and social well-being” (WHO)



Wellbeing – is harder to define, but can be based on a whole set of social, health, economic and emotional factors



Equality then factors into delivery of any projects to improve Health & Wellbeing

As individuals we participate in activities that keep us physically fit, help us relax or bring joy and laughter into our lives.

The ways in which we do that are as diverse as the people we are and our interests change as we move through life.

Just take a few minutes to think of all the activities that help you with your health & wellbeing...

...and what might prevent you from participating?



Factors that might impact health & wellbeing

Culture & Creativity

Employment, Education & Training

Environment & Climate Change

Equality & Diversity

Finance

Food & Nutrition

Health & Community Services

Housing & Infrastructure

Physical Activity

Social Connections & Families

Transport



As councils and you no doubt support or deliver many community health & wellbeing projects.

Please think about some of the ways in which
you've delivered support.

Has that support been **Reactive OR Proactive**

Reactive

- Taking over services dropped by other authorities
- Giving grants to local organisations who apply
- Taking action following information from residents

OR

Proactive

- Carrying out a Community Plan or Review
- Creating a Strategic Plan
- Working with and/or offering grants to local organisations who deliver services highlighted by review
- Looking at innovative ways to develop new services or deliver existing ones

A Community Health & Wellbeing project might involve:

- Bringing people together to share food and be sociable.
- Support or activities for young people or older people.
- Tackling transport issues in a rural parish.
- Helping establish a walking or cycling group.
- Bringing in experts for financial or other advice
- Setting up art, drama or music groups

This is also about collaboration - you don't need to reinvent the wheel. Everywhere there are local groups, charities and voluntary organisations.

We can help you work together to come up with innovative projects to improve people's lives.

We are hoping to encourage long lasting projects. We understand this will mean a financial commitment from your council so to help kick start ideas we have grants available:

Seed Grants to scope out ideas – **up to £1500**

Small Grants for smaller projects or smaller councils - **up to £2500**

Large Grants for larger projects, maybe a group of Councils working together - **up to £35,000**

**This Community Health & Wellbeing programme is about us helping
you to support your communities to live happier healthier lives**

To discuss your ideas contact:

Fodo Higginson

Community Health & Wellbeing Officer

Somerset Association of Local Councils

HWBSupport@somerset-alc.org.uk

Mb: 07932265419

Website

<https://somerset-alc.org.uk/health-wellbeing/>



Theme / actions for Next Meeting

- Is there any theme / presentation for future meetings?
- What actions can we take from this meeting?

Dates for future Meetings

**13 January 2025 –Norton Fitzwarren Village Hall,
Station Road, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6QS
6.30 – 8.30pm**

**3 April 2025 – Trull Village Memorial Hall, 21 Church
Rd, Trull, Taunton TA3 7JZ 6.30 – 8.30pm**

**7 July 2025 – Annual General Meeting – John Meikle
Room, the Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton
TA1 1HE 6.30 – 8.30pm**