



Highways and Transport Strategic Board

Date: Wednesday 29 January 2025

Time: 2.00 pm

Location: Flensburg Room, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3
8GQ

Present: Cllr D Rollo (Chair), Cllr B Cannon and Cllr A Quilter

In Attendance Lawyer - Highways and Traffic
Public Transport Manager
Communications Officer
Parking Manager
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Senior Manager - Infrastructure Planning and Transport
Capital Portfolio Manager
Senior Manager for Asset Management
Assistant Director - Highways and Transport
Senior Manager, Highways Delivery

Councillors Dobson, Grisdale, Markley, McDermott, Minshaw, Perry, Pratt, Semple and Troughton were also in attendance representing their respective Community Panel.

Call-In

Date of Publication: 31 January 2025

Call-in Period Ends: 7 February 2025 at 4.00 pm

Notes: Information regarding call-in procedures can be viewed in Paragraph 13 of Part 3 – Section 5 Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution: [Cumberland Council Constitution](#)

HSTB.35/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from councillors Brown, Eldon, Fryer and Lynch together with the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport.

HSTB.36/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

HSTB.37/24 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

HSTB.38/24 Public Participation

There was no public participation to be considered at this meeting.

HSTB.39/24 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on 24 October 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

HSTB.40/24 Health and Safety Update

(Non-Key Decision)

Portfolio: Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places

Relevant Scrutiny: Place Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Board received a verbal update from the Chair which highlighted the poor knowledge of the Highways Code. It was suggested that members encourage drivers to review the Code to ensure they were familiar with signs to enable them to stay safe and drive responsibly.

The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport referred to a recent gas explosion within the Cumberland footprint and urged all members to encourage their constituents to purchase a gas detector for their homes which would provide additional safety and potentially avoid a similar incident in the future.

Alternative Options: None

DECISION: that the update be noted.

Reason for Decision:

To inform the Highways and Transport Strategic Board of additional safety measures which could be undertaken.

HSTB.41/24 Capital Programme Update

(Key Decision)

Portfolio: Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places

Relevant Scrutiny: Place Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Board received a detailed presentation which provided an update on a number of schemes within the Capital Programme including Devonshire Street, Carlisle, Reimagining Greenmarket/Market Square, Carlisle, Carlisle Southern Gateway, Citadel Junction, Carlisle, Carlisle Station Gateway, Active Travel 4: Cargo Cycleway, Connected Millom and Haverigg, Connected Cleator Moor, Workington Town Centre Connectivity, Workington Gateway, Active Travel 4 Extension Funding and Active Travel 4: South Whitehaven – Cycle improvements.

In summary members noted the following:-

- Devonshire Street - feature lighting had been installed in January with further works on buildings to be completed in February 2025.
- Greenmarket/Market Square – the contract had been extended to increase the area of public realm improvements to reflect movement of budget from Central Plaza to Greenmarket/Market Square.
- Southern Gateway – English Street was closed to allow works in the carriageway to be undertaken with works to the footway being largely completed.
- Carlisle Station – a planning application had been submitted for Court Square and George Square.
- Murray Road, Workington - designs were being finalised with the programmed works commencing in February 2025.
- Workington Gateway – the main Contractor had been appointed and design works were progressing.

A Member drew attention to the concerns raised regarding the effects the works at the Greenmarket/Market Square were having on local businesses and whether any financial support was available. The Senior Programme Manager, whilst advising that no financial compensation was available, confirmed there was a close working relationship with business owners and positive feedback had been received.

During the course of discussion a Member raised a concern regarding parked vehicles on Victoria Viaduct, Carlisle and obstructing the footway and cycleway.

The Senior Manager – Asset and Strategy acknowledged the concerns raised and advised the Board that a revised Traffic Regulation Order would soon be implemented to prevent vehicles parking in the area.

The Board welcomed the procurement of local contractors for works undertaken and thanked officers for involving local members during the process.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, highlighted the £67m investment in Cumbria and thanked all officers for their support in delivering the Capital Programme.

Alternative Options: None

DECISION: that the Highways and Transport Strategic Board welcome the Capital Programme Update.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that the Highways and Transport Strategic Board was fully appraised of progress of the schemes contained within the Capital Programme.

HSTB.42/24 Bus Service Improvement Plans Funding

(Non-Key Decision)

Portfolio: Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places

Relevant Scrutiny: Place Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Board received a detailed presentation regarding bus improvements which included information regarding funding, Bus Services Improvement Plan, prioritised and proposed interventions, engagement with the bus industry and stakeholders and the programme of work.

Members were informed that since 2014, with the exception of a few locally funded routes, bus services in Cumberland had only existed if they were commercially viable as they were not subsidised by Cumbria County Council.

The Board was advised that increased financial support for bus improvements was now being provided by Government and Cumberland Council was taking a fresh approach to the delivery of inclusive services that were shaped by residents and communities.

Members noted that the Cumberland's Bus Services Improvement Plan (updated 2024) set out the ambitions for bus service improvements and supported the aspirations set out in Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan.

A Member highlighted the positive engagement which had been undertaken and emphasised the importance of connectivity within urban areas specifically with regards to access to healthcare services. The Senior Manager for Infrastructure Planning and Transport acknowledged the importance of access to those services and advised this was being considered alongside a number of priorities.

The Board discussed the current use of bus services and whilst members welcomed the positive impact due to the national £2 and £3 fare Schemes raised their concerns if the Scheme was terminate. Members felt that Government should be aware of the vital lifeline this provided for rural services.

During the course of discussion members were advised that although bus operators were not obliged to adhere to the reduced fees they would be encouraged to continue with the Scheme in the future.

The Senior Manager for Infrastructure Planning and Transport confirmed it was anticipated that the pilot Cumbria Transport Scheme for Egremont and St Bees would likely place by Autumn 2025 due to lead in times for procuring vehicles. Members were advised that the Scheme was programmed for 3-4 years and, if successful, could be rolled out to other rural areas.

A Member raised a concern regarding the lack of engagement in South Cumberland and highlighted the need for an improved bus service in the area to allow better access to education, training and healthcare. The Senior Manager for Infrastructure Planning and Transport confirmed that discussions were underway in relation to an event taking place in South Cumberland and all issues would be taken into consideration.

A discussion took place regarding the longer-term Strategy and a Member suggested that other integrated routes which captured railway stations, city centres and healthcare services could be investigated in the future together with the possible introduction of trams. The Senior Manager for Infrastructure Planning and Transport explained that the Team had started scoping out the evidence required for an updated Local Transport Plan where the intention was to undertake an integrated transport planning approach that considered all modes of transport and how people moved around the transport network.

The Board welcomed the in-year funding whilst emphasising the importance of longer-term funding packages to enable future planning of services.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, welcomed the update and asked that members thanks and appreciation for the work undertaken be passed onto the Team.

Alternative Options: None

DECISION: that the presentation be noted.

Reason for Decision:

To inform the Highways and Transport Strategic Board of the Bus Service Improvement Plans Funding.

HSTB.43/24 Cumberland Parking Services Annual Report 2023/24

(Key Decision)

Portfolio: Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places

Relevant Scrutiny: Place Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Board considered a report which detailed the 2023/24 Annual Parking Services information on its financial status and service update.

Members were provided with background information on the Service which was clear and transparent. The Board was advised that each local authority had a duty to supply figures to various government departments on different types of enforcement and where Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were issued.

The Parking Manager informed members that the Department for Transport required a breakdown of both on and off-street PCNs issued by each authority. The Board noted that on-street PCNs related to contraventions of stationary parking restrictions, including disc parking bays and yellow line restrictions as well as off-street PCNs which related to contraventions of parking restrictions essentially in car parks.

During the course of discussion the Parking Manager emphasised there were no incentives or targets for Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) and that their priority was to ensure the highway was safe.

A discussion took place regarding the deficit and it was confirmed this was due in part to the cost of the Service, Local Government Review and a reduction in resources due to the challenges around recruitment. Members were informed that due to a reduction in CEOs and the increased work they undertook within the community to promote safety on the highway meant there were fewer officers patrolling the streets.

A discussion took place regarding the locations which CEOs covered and the Parking Manager confirmed that, subject to availability of resources, this included Brampton and Longtown.

The Board highlighted the challenges in the Lake District and welcomed the activity which had been undertaken during 2023/24. A discussion took place regarding additional measures such as 'lift and shift' which could be undertaken in the congested rural areas and it was suggested that this could be considered further by the appropriate Scrutiny Panel in the future.

Members thanked officers and welcomed the report which provided transparent information on Civil Parking Enforcement statistical information regarding the on and off-street breakdown of PCNs issued as well as the provision of detailed information of the locations where the highest number of PCNs were issued.

Alternative Options:

There were no alternative options as it was a requirement of the Government that accounts were to be published setting out income and expenditure from on-street parking.

DECISION: that the Cumberland Parking Services Annual Report 2023/24, (attached as an Appendix to the report) be noted.

Reason for Decision:

- (1) The Cumberland Parking Services Annual Report 2023/24 provided clear information on the parking service and its financial income and expenditure with transparent, informative details on the service provision.
- (2) The Annual Report provided an understanding of Cumberland Council's Parking Services provision and how this Service supported highway activities for both on-street and off-street parking.

HSTB.44/24 Highways and Transport 3-Year Works Programme 2025 to 2027

(Non-Key Decision)

Portfolio: Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places

Relevant Scrutiny: Place Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Board considered a report which detailed the final Works Programme for the Highways & Transport Service for the 2025/2026 budget year and beyond. Members noted the availability of funding within each of the various budget lines which had been determined in line with the Highway Maintenance Allocation received from the Department for Transport.

Members welcomed the update and asked that 'District' be replaced with 'Ward' in future.

A concern was raised regarding the proposed surface dressing on the A595 Holmrook Square to Rueberry Drive, Drigg. It was felt further updating of the infrastructure was required when taking into account the nearby Low Level Waste Repository. It was agreed the Senior Manager – Highways Delivery would discuss this matter further with the Local Area Network Manager.

A Member raised a concern regarding the lack of any proposed infrastructure schemes on Brigham Road, Cockermouth and it was agreed the Senior Manager – Highways Delivery would investigate the matter further.

The proposed footway reconstruction at Millriggs was welcomed and a Member asked if this would include dropped kerbs. The Senior Manager – Highways Delivery advised that community engagement took place on proposed schemes and that dropped kerbs could be included provided there were no additional financial impacts.

A Member advised the Board of the significant number of heavy goods vehicles which travelled along the A595 between Wigton and Silloth and raised concerns regarding the damaged infrastructure. During the course of discussion concerns were also raised regarding the road surface on Criffel Street, Silloth.

A Member raised a query regarding the lack of footway schemes in the South and the Senior Manager – Highways Delivery confirmed that further schemes identified by the Local Area Network Managers could be considered for inclusion and funded from centrally held budgets.

During the course of discussion concerns were raised regarding the effects on footways due to the lack of verge maintenance. Officers confirmed there had been changes in the inspection process and that this would be investigated further and changes could be included as part of the new maintenance regime.

The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport outlined the funding challenges and highlighted the asset management approach for future schemes. Members were advised that the Works Programme was the best endeavour to give an indication as to proposed future schemes whilst highlighting that any unforeseen circumstances, such as inclement weather, could have an impact on future works.

The Board was encouraged to report any concerns on the Authority's HIAMS system and was advised that engagement with members would take place in the early summer to inform a future assessment scheme.

The Board asked that their thanks and appreciation be conveyed to all officers for their positive involvement during the recent storms.

Alternative Options:

No alternative options have been considered.

DECISION: that the following be noted:-

- (1) the Highways & Transport Works Programme 2025/26 which is proposed to be delivered in the 2025/2026 budget year (attached as Appendix 1 to the report);
- (2) the longer list of schemes which are indicated for delivery over the next 3 years, although that will be subject to the availability of funding.

Reason for Decision:

- (1) The report was for information only and provided details of the proposed Highways & Transport Works Programme for 2025/26 and beyond.
- (2) The report was intended to provide details of the proposed Programme for the coming year and the following 2 years, as well as offering an opportunity for members to understand the process followed by officers in developing the overall Works Programme.

HSTB.45/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Tuesday 22 April 2025 at 2.00 pm in Conference Room A/B, Cumbria House, Botchergate, Carlisle, CA1 1RD.

The meeting finished at 3.30 pm