

Visioning an active and low carbon transport future for Yeovil

A series of workshops were set up over a day-long event with stakeholders who were encouraged to think outside the box to vision a sustainable transport future for Yeovil. Eight projects were produced all of which create and sustain a vibrant local low carbon economy and support a healthy community.

The Department of Health South West, part of Government Office South West (GOSW), appointed the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Policy to undertake this project to assist Yeovil on its journey from a largely car-based community to one where walking and cycling are the norm.

Proposals were costed as 15 year improvement programmes with £50m of funding provided from the strategic regional transport allocations. The proposals sought to support health, inclusion and the local economy across the whole town. £50m is less than many of the competing road scheme proposals which just ‘improve’ a few kilometres of road, shaving a few minutes off motorist journey times and encouraging more cars onto our roads.

Forty stakeholders attended a scoping event which generated the following key projects that could enable Yeovil’s sustainable transport vision:

- Winning hearts and minds - an attitudinal and behavioural project to ensure that a greater proportion of trips are made using active travel rather than by using a car. *Years 1-10.*
- Park and Ride, cycling and walking. Project to reduce car congestion in the town and release land currently used for car parking in central areas. *Years 2 and 3.*
- Supporting pedestrians and cycling by ensuring that all elements of a community, such as its employment, retail, education, health care and recreation facilities, are accessible to everyone by foot, cycle and public transport). *Years 3-15.*
- Figure of 8 bus route to provide accessibility within the town without the need for a car. *Years 2 and 3.*
- Really green corridors: a project to increase the appeal of walking and cycling by providing an environment that is attractive, safe, and connected to nature. *Years 3-15.*
- Improvements to Lysander Road: a project to achieve a better balance between car drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and public transport on a main route into town. *Years 3 and 4.*
- Removing the ‘bridge too far’ and Queens Boulevard



improvements: a project to secure a more efficient pedestrian and cyclist friendly road crossing over the A30, thereby providing improved access between Huish and the town centre. *Years 4 and 5.*

- Employee parking: a project to encourage employees to use alternative modes of travel as opposed to the car when travelling to work. *Years 1-4.*

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