

### Open, Fairer, Greener

# North Somerset Council First and Last Mile Action Plan – Summary

Active Travel Action Plans 2023-30

One of our seven Active Travel Action Plans (ATAPs) for 2023-30 to help deliver our Active Travel Strategy's vision, to:

'Make walking and cycling the natural choice for a cleaner, healthier and more active North Somerset' **Our Vision**: This First and Last Mile Action Plan sets out North Somerset Council's approach to achieving a seamless network of inter-connected transport options within and between our towns and villages – joining the dots between transport choices such as bus, rail, walking, wheeling, cycling, micro-mobility (e-bikes, e-cargo and eventually e-scooters) to help increase bus and rail usage.





## What is the First and Last Mile concept?



The 'First/last mile' concept is simple – this is the start and end sections of a journey that can be made up of multiple transport modes. For example walking or wheeling to the train station or the bus stop is the 'first mile' or section of the journey – and then using a hire bike to get to your destination once getting off the train or the bus would be the 'last mile'.



An example of a mobility hub with multiple first/last mile options

#### **Guiding principles**

- Provide 'destination' and 'origin' transport/ mobility hubs. These will be at locations with demand, for example bus stops, railway stations, car parks or highest footfall areas, where we can help provide different options for onward journeys to and from destinations. The objective is to provide cheap, efficient and viable alternatives for travel within our towns and reduce journeys by single occupancy vehicles to and from our towns and villages.
- 2. Reduce the need to travel by car wherever possible as per the Transport User Hierarchy for North Somerset and Joint Local Transport Plan 4 for the West of England.
- 3. Increase bus and rail usage by enhancing sustainable travel options as the First/Last mile to the public transport network. This will help increase active travel and e-mobility exponentially: with walking, cycling, wheeling and micro-mobility solutions such as e-bikes, e-cargo, e-scooters.

- 4. Be guided by best practice examples and strategy such as the Future Transport Zone work within the West of England Combined Authority, South West Rural Mobility Strategy and other national and international examples. We will follow 'Collaborative Mobility UK' guidelines for mobility hubs.
- 5. Innovate: Lead by example, look for other net zero synergies, for instance projects and programmes such as the Rural England Prosperity Fund, Corporate Travel Plan, Accommodation Strategy to ensure we are leading the way when it comes to net zero solutions for first and last mile journeys.

#### **Benefits**

Smarter sustainable transport: reclaiming space for sustainable transport, reducing dominance of private cars, such as congestion, carbon emissions, air quality and social exclusion. In Vienna when planning new developments, including mobility hubs, these have led to less parking provision being required, which has led to 8.5% cost reduction for each 70m<sup>2</sup> apartment



- Convenience: seamless switches between public transport, shared mobility and active travel. In Austin, Texas where mobility hubs were introduced, walking increased by 25%.
- Plugging the gaps: 24hr availability, accessible, sustainable and cost-effective services between rail and bus can lead to significantly less reliance on car travel. In Bremen interconnected mobility hubs led to 6,000 less vehicles on the road.

(Source for all 3: COMO UK Overview, Benefits and Evidence Base)



Beryl Bikes (e-bike hire), Falmouth



#### Example scheme proposals

Below are scheme proposals that we could progress subject to funding and engagement. This isn't a list of all our scheme proposals – we want to hear what you think about the proposals listed below and any that you want for your area. We'll collect all scheme requests and use our new scoring and prioritisation process to help us prioritise the most needed and best value for money schemes across the district. This will inform our network planning for when funding becomes available.

Location	Brief issue/improvement concept	Status
Weston Central ('destination' hub)	Interlinking the bus interchange and Weston railway station with active and sustainable modes	Concept only at present
Worle Work Package ('destination' hub)	Linking Worle Terminus and High St	Concept only at present
Clevedon ('destination' hub)	Linking Clevedon Triangle, Old St, Hill Road	Concept only at present
Portishead ('destination' hub)	Linking High St, Harbour Rd, The Marina, proposed Portishead Railway Station	Concept only at present
Satellite Villages Work Packages (1 and 2)	Linking outer villages: Cleeve, Congresbury, Wrington, Yatton, Long Ashton, Banwell, Sandford, Churchill,	Concept only at present
New scheme proposals from communities and stakeholders	To be added following consultation – all proposals will be subject to review, scoring, prioritisation and funding being available	Awaiting issues/requests from our communities and stakeholders

#### Open, Fairer, Greener



#### Useful current examples

- 1. **Bristol e-scooter trial with Voi** (most successful in UK).
- 2. OV Fiets

(National bike hire rental scheme in Netherlands, linking in with the rail and bus network).

#### Challenges to delivery

- Securing sufficient funding to develop and deliver our initiatives and scheme proposals with our communities (use of a number of sources of funding mitigates this challenge).
- Ensuring correct level of resource, early engagement with procurement, and ongoing effective work with private sector – to deliver our First and Last Mile programme.

#### We want to hear from you!

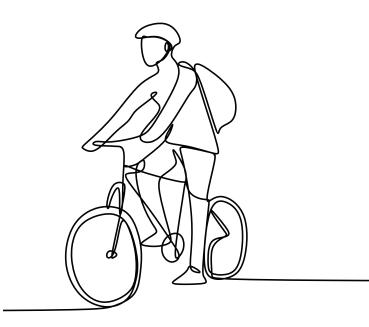
We want your ideas about active travel interventions you want in your area.

#### Residents, businesses, visitors and other

**stakeholders** – we encourage you to discuss issues local to you with your Town or Parish Council and your Elected North Somerset Councillor for your ward area.

You can also add your requests at Widen My Path.

Town and Parish Councils and North Somerset Council Elected Members – please use the Highway Improvement Request Form to submit your transport network improvement requests.





This publication is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request.

Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

For all enquiries please contact the Transport Team transport.policy@n-somerset.gov.uk