

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 20th September 2006

**Report Title** Bus Rapid Transit Project “Sprint” - Outcome of Public Consultation and Next Steps

**Summary** A public consultation has recently taken place on the Bus Rapid Transit “Sprint” proposals for Nuneaton and Bedworth. The report details the outcome of the public consultation and recommends the next steps to be taken.

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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** Yes/No

**Background Papers** None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees  Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee  
24th May 2006
- Local Member(s)  .....  
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members  Councillor B Longden
- Cabinet Member  Councillor M Heatley – for information  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  I Marriott – comments incorporated.
- Finance  .....

- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION                      YES/NO**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  Date to be agreed.
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee -  
28th September 2006**

**Bus Rapid Transit Project “Sprint” - Outcome of Public  
Consultation and Next Steps**

**Report of the Strategic Director for  
Environment and Economy**

**Recommendation**

That the Area Committee supports the principle of:-

1. Running “Sprint” to Nuneaton and Bedworth on existing roads and requests that Officers investigate in detail the costs and benefits of “Sprint” running on public roads to Nuneaton and Bedworth.
2. Completing the Bedworth “Diamond” road junction as part of the “Sprint” scheme.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Warwickshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) recognises the need for a step change in the quality and quantity of public transport provision in the “North - South” travel corridor from Leamington Spa to Nuneaton via Coventry.
- 1.2 The LTP recognises Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as a partial solution to the requirement for a step change in public transport provision. The BRT proposal for the corridor has been branded as “Sprint”.
- 1.3 The “Sprint” scheme has been planned to provide a dedicated high quality bus service from Nuneaton and Bedworth to Coventry City Centre, Warwick University and Kenilworth.
- 1.4 At the Area Committee meeting on 24th May 2006 it was resolved that the Area Committee would participate in the public consultation on a specific proposal for “Sprint”. The Area Committee expressed its concern over the provision of bus priority measures in Nuneaton and Bedworth and expressed strong reservations about the possible use by “Sprint” of the pedestrianised area of Nuneaton town centre. Members also expressed support for work being undertaken by officers to promote the Nuneaton to Coventry Rail line. These views were communicated to officers at Coventry City Council and Centro.

- 1.5 The public consultation exercise took place during July. The consultation included a public exhibitions at Bedworth Civic Hall on 7th July between 11am and 8pm and a similar exhibition in Nuneaton town centre on Saturday 8th July between 10am and 4pm. The public were also invited to comment by telephone and e-mail.
- 1.6 A similar report is being considered by Warwick Area Committee in respect of consultation outcomes and the future of the “Sprint” proposals in Kenilworth.

## **2. Outcome of Public Consultation**

- 2.1 The key findings of the public consultation are :-
- (i) 486 people responded to the consultation, of these 65% supported the principle of the scheme;
  - (ii) Of the 79 respondents from Nuneaton and Bedworth postcodes, 57 (80%) supported the principle of “Sprint”;
  - (iii) Of the 61 respondents from Nuneaton postcodes no support was expressed for the route through the pedestrianised area of Nuneaton;
  - (iv) Of the 144 respondents who expressed a view on routes in the Bermuda Park area 72 supported (50%) the routeing of “Sprint” directly along the A444 whilst 51 respondents (35%) supported “Sprint” being routed through the Bermuda Park development;
  - (v) 58 respondents made unprompted statements of support for the County Council’s work to increase the rail services in the corridor
- 2.2 The occupants of a residential property in Bedworth that would be required to be purchased for the scheme to complete the Bedworth “Diamond” have lodged an objection to the purchase of their property.
- 2.3 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council have expressed support for the principles of the scheme and agreed with the County Council’s efforts to promote the Nuneaton to Coventry rail line.

## **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1 Given the results of the public consultation, the Area Committee’s reservations about the provision of priority measures for “Sprint” in Nuneaton and Bedworth, the inability of the scheme to penetrate fully the town centre of Nuneaton it is proposed that the most suitable option for “Sprint” in Nuneaton and Bedworth would be to operate to Nuneaton and Bedworth using the existing road network.
- 3.2 The operation of “Sprint” to Bedworth could be achieved without the completion of the Bedworth “Diamond” which would require the provision of additional slip-roads from the A444 to Newtown Road, however, in order for maximum benefit to be obtained by concentrating “Sprint” services at one bus stop on each side of the A444 the missing slip-roads would need to constructed.

- 3.3 A decision to run on existing roads would allow an extension to Nuneaton and Bedworth to form part of a joint Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council bid for Central Government funding that is to be made at the end of this year.
- 3.4 Initial consideration by Coventry City Council of running "Sprint" on the existing roads to Nuneaton has shown that the scheme would bring benefits to Warwickshire residents in Nuneaton and Bedworth by offering faster journeys to key destinations in the North - South corridor. Other benefits would include the use of the priority measures (by Sprint and existing bus services) that Coventry City Council propose to install within the City boundary to reduce public transport journey times between Nuneaton, Bedworth and Coventry.
- 3.5 There are a number of unresolved issues in the work done to date and in order for the County Council to be assured that the proposal to run on street to Nuneaton and Bedworth is of benefit to Warwickshire residents Officers are commissioning a detailed review of the work undertaken by Coventry City Council that produced the "Sprint" scheme concept.
- 3.6 This review will include evaluation of the effect of "Sprint" on existing bus services, examination of how the scheme would be operated and a detailed examination of the initial work on running "Sprint" on existing roads to Nuneaton and Bedworth.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 It is recommended that "Sprint" is developed further by proposing that it run on existing roads to Nuneaton.
- 4.2 It is recommended that a detailed examination of the costs and benefits of the work undertaken by Coventry City Council and an evaluation of the proposal to run on existing roads to Nuneaton and Bedworth be undertaken in order to inform whether this be included in a funding bid to Central Government.
- 4.3 It is recommended that the principle of completing the Bedworth "Diamond" has merit and should be included as part of the "Sprint" scheme.

JOHN DEEGAN  
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Warwick,

8th September 2006