Introduction

This report gives an overview of the highlights of Cambridgeshire's Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme during 2012/13.

Background

In May 2012 Cambridgeshire County was awarded £5m from the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) to be spent on a programme of sustainable transport improvements between 2012 and 2015.

Cambridgeshire's LSTF programme includes a range of projects which target commuter journeys in two critically important economic corridors in Cambridgeshire: Alconbury/ Huntingdon to Cambridge and Ely to Cambridge. These LSTF projects aim to help improve connectivity in the corridors, reduce congestion, and make healthier and lower carbon travel options more attractive.

The LSTF area is shown by the map at the back of this document.

Cambridgeshire's LSTF programme is divided into three programme areas. These are:

- Improving links to transport interchanges and corridors
- Improving links to employment areas
- Targeted marketing and information

Cambridgeshire's LSTF bid was led by the County Council but with input and support from a wide range of partners. Partners such as Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and Huntingdonshire District Council, are represented on the LSTF Officer steering group, which meets once a quarter. Train Operating Companies Greater Anglia and First Capital Connect also sit on the LSTF Programme Board.

LSTF year 1 – key achievements

Work quickly got underway once the funding was finalised in May 2012. Firstly on planning and design, then on procurement and allocation of staff to projects. By the end of 2012 we were able to start progressing delivery in each of the three programme areas.
Programme area 1: Improving links to transport interchanges and corridors

Better night time riding

Solar powered catseyes were installed along an 11 mile stretch of the Busway route between Cambridge and St Ives, helping to improve night-time cycling conditions. As the route is relatively straight, the decision was taken to space these at 24 metre intervals, rather than at 18 metre intervals used in other projects. This has proved effective and provided a cost saving.

Improvements for pedestrians and cyclists

New pedestrian and cycle routes were provided or improved at key locations in the LSTF corridors. For example, routes between a residential area in Trumpington and the Busway, and from Addenbrooke’s Hospital to Cambridge Railway Station were resurfaced, to make them much more walking and cycling friendly. An improved route linking villages in the Huntingdon to Cambridge corridor, known locally as the Thicket Path, was also part-funded by LSTF. On the Busway itself, staggered barriers were added to improve safety for pedestrians.

Preparatory activities for match-funded projects (these are non-LSTF funded projects which Cambridgeshire County Council will be delivering as part of the local contribution to Cambridgeshire’s LSTF programme) also took place. This included undertaking detailed design work for projects to improve roundabouts for cyclists on busy routes in the LSTF area including the Perne Road/Radegund Road roundabout and the B1049/A14 Histon roundabout. In addition, design work started for improving cycle routes at Downham’s Lane in Cambridge, and linking the villages of Wymondham and Hartford.

New and improved cycle parking including CCTV cameras and covered stands, went in at various locations, including Cambridge and Waterbeach Rail Stations, and at Madingley, Trumpington and Swavesey Park & Ride sites. New seating was also provided in response to local requests.
**Improved cycle parking**

At Cambridge Rail Station, users were asked to test four different types of double height cycle racks. The results of the trial will inform the choice of rack to be used in a new 3000 space cycle park being provided at Cambridge Rail Station as part of the station redevelopment.

**Improved information for travellers**

For commuters in Ely, improved information about combining bus and rail travel was made available, with different leaflets targeting commuters in particular areas of Ely. Improvements to the Ely Station area will take place in later years of the LSTF programme, including the provision of a new ‘cycle hub’.

**EV charging points**

Electric vehicle charging points were installed at key employment and at Park & Ride sites, allowing users to continue their journeys on the Park & Ride services.
Programme area 2:
Improving links to employment sites

Support for local businesses

During 2012/13 the Travel for Work Partnership team expanded in order to provide targeted support for businesses in the LSTF area to implement workplace travel plans, improve facilities and run events. Match-funded grants were offered to employers generating over £45,000 of investment in sustainable travel by local employers. The team undertook campaigns (for example to promote the county’s carsharing website) and was successful in achieving media coverage for much of this work.

Preparatory work was also undertaken to develop an ‘electric bike loan scheme’ which will allow employers in the LSTF area to trial the use of these bikes as pool bikes, before they decide whether to invest in their own equipment.

Active travel to school

School travel plans for three schools in the LSTF area were completely reviewed and the schools now have travel plans which have been accredited through the ‘STARS’ (Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition for Schools) scheme. All three schools have had additional scooter storage units installed and have produced leaflets about travelling to school for new pupils and their families.

Community cycle parking

The LSTF team worked with social enterprise ‘Park That Bike’ to provide community cycle parking at locations such as churches, community centres and small and medium sized businesses. LSTF funding was used to provide the cycle stands themselves, with the organisations funding their installation. 36 cycle stands were provided in 2012/13. Initially only ‘Sheffield’ style silver hoop cycle stands were on offer, however in response to local demand, alternatives such as planters with built in cycle stands, are now being made available.

Better routes to work

Work got underway on a new shared-use path for pedestrians and cyclists, linking two villages in the LSTF area (Milton and Landbeach) and improving access to Cambridge Research Park, an important local employment site.

Getting youngsters cycling

Bike It Officers worked with around 20 schools in the LSTF area, undertaking a range of activities including bike maintenance, themed lessons, bike rides and assemblies. Feedback from participating schools has been extremely positive. Cycle parking was provided at one of the Bike It schools in the LSTF area (Oakington Primary School), which included 10 cycle racks plus helmet lockers, and at another Cambridge school (Netherhall School) 120 covered cycle spaces have been provided for use by the school’s 6th form students.
Programme area 3:
Targeted marketing and information

New cycle maps
Incentives and resources were developed including a new cycle map for Ely, which has been published and made available online. A new cycle map for Huntingdon has been designed and is due to be published in 2013/14.

Supporting local events
Members of the LSTF team attended and arranged a number of events in the area such as the Mill Road Winter Fair and a cycle safety event at Swavesey Village College to promote sustainable modes of travel. Incentives such as slap wraps and bike seat covers were offered to participants, and proved particularly popular during the winter months. Preparatory work was undertaken for the Cambridgeshire Festival of Cycling, a series of events promoting cycling in Cambridgeshire, to encourage attendees to try out different types of bike, bring their own bike to be looked at by Dr Bike, and provide feedback on barriers to cycling in their local area. Preparatory work was undertaken for the Cycle Challenge, a workplace based challenge to encourage more people to cycle.

Employers were also supported in running their own events to promote sustainable travel. In total during 2012/13, 22 events were supported by the Travel for Work Partnership, attended by over 1450 employees. A typical example of these events was a ‘Travel to Work’ day at ARM Ltd, which included competitions, a Dr Bike stall and displays from local bike companies, as well as a Travel for Work partnership stand which was attended by over 60 employees.
Getting more people cycling
Support was provided to ‘You Can Bike Too’ which works to encourage cycling participation in all people, regardless of ability. They have a range of adapted bikes which are particularly good for nervous cyclists and people with disabilities or who are recovering from injury or illness. Two new adapted bikes, a range of accessories and equipment and a training day for new volunteers was provided to the project to enable them to run more try-out sessions.

Better bus information
Improvements to real time passenger information displays (which allow bus users to view the expected arrival time of bus services) were made to seven displays in the Cambridge to Huntingdon LSTF corridor. These improvements will result in greater efficiency and reliability.

Improved information at Park & Ride sites
Car park counters were installed at two Park & Ride sites in the Cambridge to Huntingdon LSTF corridor (Longstanton Park & Ride and St Ives Park & Ride sites) to give real time information about the availability of parking spaces. A variable messaging sign has been installed in St Ives to provide information about the transport network to motorists, so that they can make informed journey choices, for example whether to continue their journey by car or use the Park & Ride service.

Personalised travel planning
A provider was appointed to deliver a ‘Personalised Travel Planning’ project in years 2 and 3 of the LSTF programme. This means that a range of residents in Ely, Huntingdon and St Ives will be visited by ‘travel advisors’ who will be able to offer them information about journey choices available to them, and provide support for those who wish to try out healthier and lower carbon ways of travelling.

New travel website
Preparation got underway for a new travel website which will improve the transport information available to members of the public, www.smarttravelcambs.co.uk
An early version of the site is now live, with further development work planned for 2013/14.

Grant funding
In 2012/13 the Department for Transport provided a total of £1.1 million of funding towards Cambridgeshire’s LSTF programme. This was complemented by over £550,000 worth of contributions from local sources including local businesses, European funding and other Local Authority funding.

The Department for Transport has allocated a further £2.35 million of funding to Cambridgeshire’s LSTF programme in 2013/14 and £1.5 million in 2014/15.

Find out more
To find out more about Cambridgeshire County Council’s LSTF Programme, contact the Transport and Infrastructure, Policy and Funding team on transport.plan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by calling 01223 703237.