

Chairman's Foreword

Welcome to the December edition of the CIVINET UK & Ireland Newsletter which brings you all the latest news and information from around the network.

Firstly, I'd like to extend our thanks to the Minister of State for Transport, Baroness Kramer who kindly agreed to be the keynote speaker at our Autumn event. Thanks must also go to our other speakers who helped make the event a real success. We've got an event report below. A quick plug for our next event next April in Belfast – on the theme of cycling.

At the recent event, we asked the delegates what they'd like to see in this newsletter – and no surprise the top request was information on funding and (a bit more surprisingly) procurement. So, we've included some information about free support and advice for local authorities buying vehicles (which you may like to pass

along to your procurement or fleet colleagues), and we plan a comprehensive look at funding possibilities – both in the UK and Europe in our next issue.

Next news of a brand new member for CIVINET – the London Borough of Haringey. In this issue, they are featured in our regular Member Spotlight. We hear about their Personalised Travel Planning project aiming at Crouch End residents on page 4. And we also have two returning members – Bournemouth Council, and Republic of Ireland consultancy, Interactions. Welcome to all of you.

We've also recently welcomed a new contact from the DfT as one of our observers – Ben Ridehalgh, who is head of projects and programmes at the Sustainable Accessible Travel team. We'd like to say thank you to his colleague Joe Finlay who has contributed hugely over the past couple of years, but has now moved on into another role.

As you might imagine, when we first met, we took the opportunity to tackle Ben over a few issues!! One of them was whether LSTF funding could be used for CIVINET membership subscriptions. Ben took time to consult with his colleagues and replied that the validity of using DfT funding for any memberships of organisations are a matter

for the local authority to decide. Although DfT's grant award letters do not drill down to this level of detail, keeping within the spirit of the original terms of grant the Department has always stated that any costs associated directly with delivery and implementation of LSTF projects can normally be reimbursed by LSTF grant. It is therefore up to local authority auditors to determine whether the services offered by CIVINET are legitimate costs of the scheme.

Something to bear in mind when speaking to colleagues in other local authorities, and especially now you could qualify for 10% reduction in next year's membership fees. (See story on page 4)

And another new observer has also joined us from Transport Scotland – read on for more about that, and the rest of this jam-packed issue!

Mike Kirby

Chair of CIVINET UK & Ireland Network and Director of Transport and Environment, Lancashire County Council



Ministerial highlight at September event



Our Autumn event welcomed Minister of State for Transport Baroness Kramer as our keynote speaker. Held at the DfT, the theme of the day was Integrating sustainable transport with other policies such as health, air quality, social inclusion and regeneration.

In her speech Baroness Kramer acknowledged this was something "we do need to get better at", outlining why sustainable transport is important, and how it

needs to be part of the solution across policy areas including boosting economic growth, reducing childhood obesity or cutting damaging air pollution.

The Minister also addressed the concern that some of us share about capital funding being part of the Local Growth Fund, but found reassurance that with the first round of bidding now complete, there was actually more money allocated to sustainable transport projects than there would have been under the LSTF by itself. She recognised however that there is still work to be done in some areas to sell the concept of sustainable transport to LEPS!

She went on to praise forums like CIVINET saying, "Successful innovation rarely happens in a vacuum... (but) when we share experiences, learn from one another and are able to put things into practice." Summing up, she said, "We want to see local government actively take the lead, with the power to act and the ability to make a difference."

More than 40 delegates heard from experts in public health, social inclusion, regeneration/economic development, climate change and

air quality with case studies from Haringey, Southend, Cardiff and Krakow. European Commission officer Isabelle Maës also gave an update on the always important issue of potential EU funding opportunities.

After the event, we asked the delegates what they would take away – Answers ranged from, "Need to be brave to make decisions to bring about change" to "Stop thinking in silos".

CIVINET UK & Ireland Chair, Mike Kirby said,

"It was fantastic to put together such a thought-provoking event. We were delighted to welcome the Minister and I believe she gave us encouragement to aim to put sustainable transport on every agenda."



■ Round the UK

One of the CIVINET Management Committee key tasks for 2014/15 is to focus more on sharing sustainable transport policies and practice right across Ireland and the UK – including Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland:

In **Wales**, the landmark **Active Travel Act** is the biggest thing right now in sustainable mobility. The Act makes it a legal requirement for local authorities in Wales to map and create fully integrated transport networks that consider the needs of walkers and cyclists. By connecting key sites such as workplaces, hospitals, schools and shopping areas with traffic free routes and cycle lanes, it hopes to encourage people to rely less on their cars when making short journeys.

CIVINET attended the recent Active Travel Conference in Cardiff, which focused on the benefits of getting more children and young people walking and cycling and how to achieve this. Participants heard from the Children's Commissioner and the Welsh Ministers for Education and Skill and for Economy, Science and Transport. These were supported with presentations and case studies from a wide range of practitioners including the Association of Bikeability Schemes, Gwynedd Council, Sustrans, Living Streets and Youth Cymru.



Presentations can be downloaded from [HERE](#)

In **Scotland** Transport Scotland have just joined CIVINET as an observer on the Management Committee. They are represented by Neil Langhorn, head of the sustainable & active transport team, which are responsible for:

- **Cycling and Active Travel** including the recently published Active Travel Vision, oversight of delivery of the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland and funding of a range of capital and revenue projects delivered by organisations including Sustrans and Cycling Scotland.

- **Travel behaviour change initiatives** including the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme, funding for the Energy Savings Trust to deliver transport advice and the Developing Car Clubs in Scotland initiative.

Neil said, "We were keen to get involved with CIVINET to ensure that we (and Scottish local authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships) could learn from effective interventions taking place in the rest of the UK and further afield in Europe, whilst also disseminating the good practice emerging in Scotland". More on Scottish initiatives next year!

On the Move... meantime CIVINET is going to Northern Ireland for our next event. Belfast is the venue for a cycling-themed event which will coincide with the launch of the city's new bike sharing scheme. We'll have an opportunity to experience this up close, look at cycling strategy in Northern Ireland, regeneration and connectivity and hear about EU funding for cycling schemes. Save the date – April 30 2015.

■ SWITCH call for follower cities

SWITCH is a new project with the main objective of reducing car traffic by switching short urban car journeys to walking and cycling. The premise behind this is that by breaking car-based routines, this will impact mode choice for short trips but also open people's minds to alternatives for longer journeys.

The project focuses on providing the core practical methodology of a personalised travel plan using insights from public health and mobility campaigning as well as the use of ICT solutions.

SWITCH is now looking for 20 follower cities can benefit from:

- two workshops with project experts and pioneer cities including Hounslow in the UK
- online expertise
- placement in one of the SWITCH - Cities

For more details, visit the SWITCH website today - www.switchtravel.eu





■ New clean vehicle procurement help for public sector fleets

A new programme of free support, advice and guidance from the EC-funded Clean Fleets project is aiming to help local authorities and public sector fleet operators to buy and lease low emission, low carbon and energy-efficient vehicles – it also explains how the EU Clean Vehicles Directive can be incorporated into tender processes.



Two project publications are being issued – the Clean Vehicle Procurement Guide and the Life Cycle Costing Tool produced in collaboration with a group of partner cities including London, Bremen, Rotterdam and Stockholm. Experienced practitioners from the participating cities are on hand to offer free individual support with tenders, providing assistance on each step of the procurement process, from market consultation and specification development to competitive tendering and contract management. For more information, visit a new online discussion forum and to download the publications, visit www.clean-fleets.eu/



■ CIVITAS-Blanca!!

For the first time ever, the CIVITAS Annual Conference was held outside Europe and took place in Casablanca, Morocco in September. This formally sealed the partnership in the urban mobility field between the CIVITAS initiative and transport project stakeholders in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED).

The highlights of this year's event included site visits across Casablanca to admire the city's progress in sustainable urban mobility – the Mayor outlined their ambition to work closer with Europe saying in his address, "I'm convinced this event will be an occasion to establish new relationships, friendships and cooperation among the various participants."

Presentations and more information can be found on the CIVITAS Forum Conference 2014 webpage – www.civitas.eu/content/civitas-forum-conference-2014



■ Spreading the word – CIVINET at Smarter Travel 2015

CIVINET UK & Ireland is an official supporter of the Smarter Travel 2015 event, which is being held in Birmingham on February 5/6. The event will review the achievements of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and consider how new technologies will shape how we travel. LSTF project officers can claim free entry to the event (maximum two per local authority) and we know that many of you will be planning on attending.

Take a look at the website (www.landor.co.uk/smartertravel/2015/home.php) for all the details, and drop in and see us on Stand 10.





Member Spotlight



Haringey Council

CIVINET UK & Ireland's newest member is the London Borough of Haringey. Smarter Travel Manager Denise Adolphe explained that Haringey Council joined CIVINET to learn about new ideas and best practice in encouraging sustainable mobility across Europe. She went on to say "We wanted to use the forum to share some of the projects delivered by our award winning team, and I was delighted to be given the opportunity to showcase our fantastic Personalised Travel Planning (PTP) Cycle project. The learnings from this are really helping us deliver our own Personal Travel Planning project in 2015."



Funded by the EU, this three year project is being delivered in five cities; London, Riga, Ljubljana, Antwerp and Burgos. In Haringey, the focus was on Crouch End residents, who were visited by Sustrans between June and September this year, offering PTP to promote sustainable travel. This involved one-to-one conversations between residents and trained Travel Advisers who emphasised cycling above other sustainable modes and provided personalised travel information and incentives. We targeted an additional 1000 members of the public to be engaged at ten events across the Borough, which would be linked in with Haringey Smarter Travel programme.

- Two Project Officers recruited
- 20 field staff recruited
- 600 invitation postcards distributed per week
- 3607 households contacted
- 2658 households interested in receiving information
- 12106 pieces of material were distributed
- 90% of materials were delivered within seven days
- 500 extra participants were engaged through events

Residents will be contacted on two further occasions by the end of the project to establish any short term change or long term modal shift.

Going Social



@CIVINET_UKI



CIVINET UK and Ireland Network

Just a reminder – CIVINET UK & Ireland is now officially on Twitter, we'll be posting about all things in sustainable mobility, so look out for us. And we're on Linked in as well.

Phone a friend? Well not quite...

But as part of the Management Committee's drive to add to the CIVINET family, we are launching a new initiative. If you introduce another organization to join CIVINET UK & Ireland, **we will discount your membership for the following year by 10%**. To make sure you don't get missed out, email us on civinet-uk-ireland@citivas.eu when your introduction applies via the normal process.

For more information about the Civinet UK & Ireland Network and how to become a member please contact Sam Jones on: +44 (0)1543 416 416 or email: civinet-uk-ireland@citivas.eu



EUROPEAN COMMISSION