

# Uttlesford District Council Meeting

## 8 October 2024

### Responses to Written Questions to Members of the Executive and Committee Chairs

Published on 7 October 2024

1. **By Councillor Moran to Councillor Neil Reeve – Chair of the Investment Board and Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Climate Change:**

“We note that the investment board has not met this last quarter nor published a quarterly report. When can we expect the board to meet and a report covering all investments to be published?”

**Response from Councillor Neil Reeve:**

“I can confirm that the next Investment Board has been scheduled for 17 October 2024 and papers will be published later this week.”

2. **By Councillor Moran to Councillor Neil Reeve – Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Climate Change:**

“We note that UDC along with other levels of local government contributed financially to the e-bike scheme currently running in Saffron Walden, which I support fully. Can you inform us:

- **How much UDC contributed and how much percentage wise was that was of the contributions from local government?”**

**Response from Councillor Reeve:**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>DEFRA Grant/Budget allocated</b>	<b>UDC Contribution</b>
E Bike Hire Network	£64, 000	None

“For information the total DEFRA grant award and UDC match funding breakdown is as follows:

- Total DEFRA Air Quality Grant Award (all work packages): £517,124.00

- Total UDC Match Funding: £130, 709.00”

- **“Were any KPIs set to measure the success of the scheme”?**

**Response from Councillor Reeve:**

“A monitoring and evaluation plan was agreed with DEFRA as part of the grant submission. Reports are submitted quarterly to DEFRA to enable them to track the Council progress in the delivery of all project activities. This includes monitoring and evaluation data such as: public perception surveys determining people’s understanding, response and engagement with active measures to reduce pollution levels; before and after feedback surveys; take up and use of initiatives and schemes.”

- **“An update on the usage figures for the scheme, including the e-cargo bikes?”**

**Response from Councillor Reeve:**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Bikes available</b>	<b>Usage at 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>
App Bike Network (on-street hire)	20 E Bikes 15 Conventional Bikes	1500 total hires 339 members
Community Cargo Bike (on street)	E Cargo ‘Our Bike’	19 bookings. 63 Members 112 km travelled in total

- **“An indication as to whether the scheme is seen to currently be a success?”**

**Response from Councillor Reeve:**

“From usage data and survey feedback received to date the App Bike Network has had good uptake (av. 1.5 hires per bike/per day), and overall feedback from users has been very positive.

The most popular journey is from Saffron Walden Town to Audley End Rail Station. Alongside commuting, survey feedback also shows popular uses are for exercise, leisure and shopping.

As we are now at 6months since schemes launched in the town, we are undertaking a series of reviews with our bike scheme operators, in addition to a review with Collaborative Mobility UK who are the leading charity building

research/evidence on bike share schemes nationally. CoMoUk have reflected that the on-street App Bike Network has made a great start, and view 1.5 hires per bike/per day as very positive, as the benchmark for schemes is 2 hires per bike/per day.

We will be looking at several areas to make improvements and discussing options with our scheme operators - including flexing fleet between the schemes, increased rebalancing, pricing, and other promotional packages.”

**3. By Councillor Barker to Councillor Hargreaves – Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Economy:**

“Please provide the breakdown of the following by individual UDC controlled Car Park (including Waitrose):

- Income in April, May, June, July August 2023; the projected income when the budget was set for April May June July August 2024; actual income in April, May, June, July, and August 2024.

This should be set out in the form of a table for ease of understanding.”

**Response from Councillor Hargreaves:**

“Please see the information and tables set-out in the document attached.”