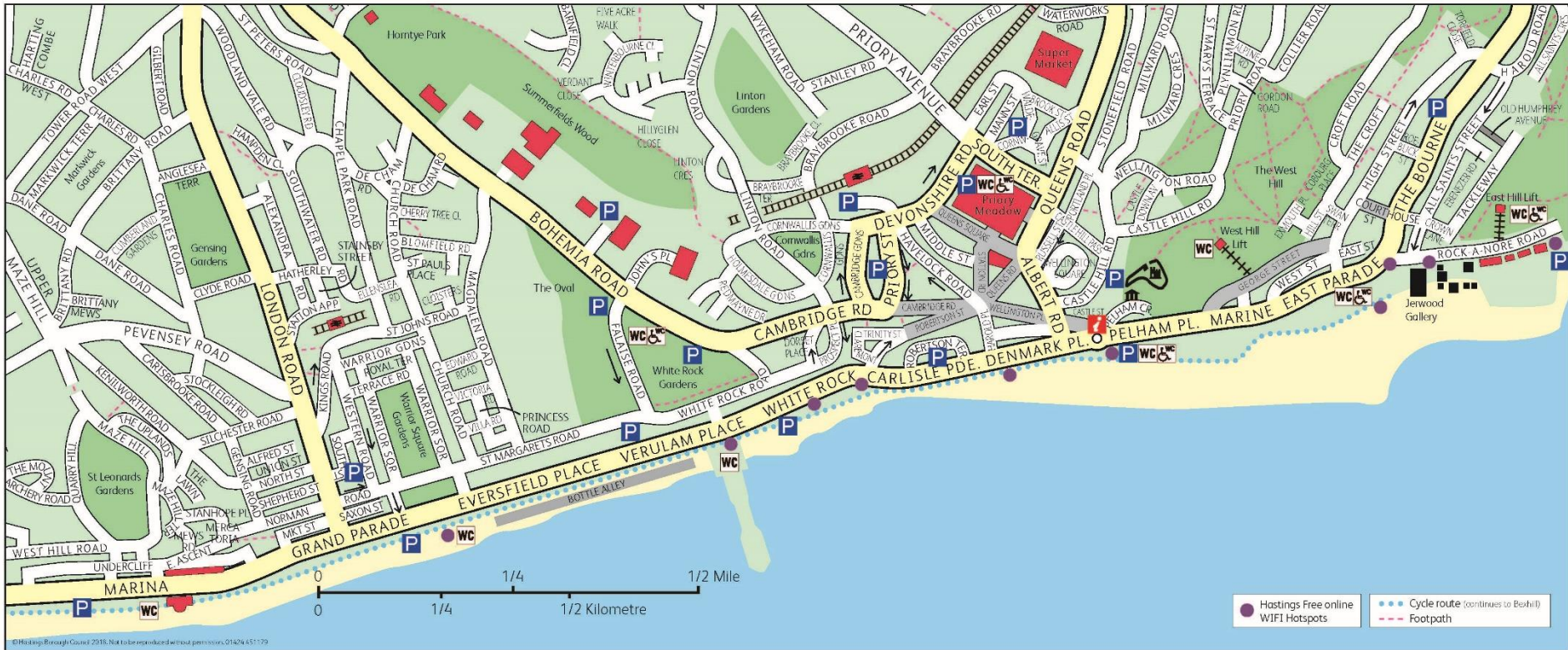




Solving the seafront problem in Hastings





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Problem

- Seafront 3 miles/5km long
- Concentration of visitor activity at eastern end in Old Town
- Re-opening of pier in 2016 after 10 year closure helped, but western end of seafront still very quiet
- Main A259 south coast trunk road runs along seafront
- No single bus route along seafront – every journey involves a change of bus
- Traditional buses cannot turn in Old Town – no space/turning facility
- Perceived lack of connectivity to railway stations

Solution

An east/west dedicated public transport link running the whole length of the seafront

Ideally, it would:-

- Be covered, so available all year round
- Be sustainably powered (battery, hydrogen?) and not require expensive/unsightly infrastructure
- Be fully accessible, and carry wheelchairs, pushchairs and bikes
- Have cabs at each end, so no need to turn vehicle
- Be one person operated
- Be able to drive on the pavement

Challenges:-

- The vehicle as described currently doesn't exist, but similar ones do
- Need feasibility study to check on pavement structures and loading ability
- Need detailed business case
- Pros/cons of serving the two main railway stations

How did DESTI-SMART help?

- Learn from best practice elsewhere
- Help with technology issues
(batteries/hydrogen/???)
- Funding for feasibility study
- Funding for business case

Feasibility Study

Hastings Seafront Feasibility Mobility Study:
Strategic Outline Business Case



Hastings Borough Council
Our ref: 20612702
Client ref: 206150

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Six options, three shortlisted(*)

- Route 66+*
- Narrow body mini bus
- Bi-directional bus
- Mini 'tram'*
- Autonomous pods*
- Extending miniature railway

Route 66+ preferred option

- Relatively straightforward option
- Requires c£500 000 capital investment for infrastructure changes
- Requires procurement of sustainable vehicles (but available ‘off the shelf’)

Next steps

Funding required, c£1m – c£1.5m in total capital spend

Money short post-Covid but continuing to lobby

Optimistic we will achieve our objective within five years

In addition :- active travel

- Supporting the transport authority in consulting on and implementing a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan across Hastings
- Developing a GPS app to self-guide visitors around Hastings

Thank You!!!

- We couldn't have got this far without DESTI-SMART!!!