

Central Bedfordshire Council

Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny

18th August 2016

Passenger Transport Strategy Consultation Response

Report of Cllr. Brian Spurr Executive Member for Community Services

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Purpose of this report

1. This report sets out the progress that has been made in relation to the work streams within the Passenger Transport Strategy

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to :

1. Note the progress made by the work streams to inform the Passenger Transport Strategy

Issues

- Central Bedfordshire Council does not have a Passenger Transport Strategy (PTS)
- A strategy is currently being developed and will be considered by Executive in October 2016 and Council in November 2016.
- There are 5 work streams within the scope of the strategy:

Subsidised Public Transport

Concessionary Fares

Community Transport

Home to School Transport – Safe Walking Routes

Fleet Services and Operations

- The briefing note attached at Appendix A sets out the progress that has been made by each of the work streams

Council Priorities

- promote health and well being and protect the vulnerable

The PTS refers to users of road based 'public' transport such as commercially operated local bus routes and community transport as well as fleet transport for the provision of home to school transport and home to day setting transport for vulnerable children and adults.

- great universal services – bins, leisure and libraries

Central Bedfordshire Council does not have a current Passenger Transport Strategy (PTS) and is therefore in the process of developing one. The aim of the PTS is to deliver transport services that are safe, effective and fit for purpose and provide a framework for decision making processes in relation to all PTS services.

The PTS will be developed alongside and sit within the Central Bedfordshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) which is also currently under review. The PTS will set out the Council's objectives for passenger transport in the Central Bedfordshire area and will be supported by relevant policies and best practice.

- value for money – freezing council tax

The PTS will put in place transparent process for the allocation of public monies to subsidise bus routes and provide funding for dial a ride schemes

Corporate Implications

Central Bedfordshire Council does not have a Passenger Transport Strategy, therefore there is no transparency in relation to how we spend public monies in relation to these services.

Legal Implications

2. None

Financial Implications

3. There are savings of £1.16 million in the MTFP associated with the PTS

Equalities Implications

4. The Equalities Impact Assessment has been started but cannot be completed until the recommendations for the Passenger Transport Strategy have been decided.

Conclusion and next Steps

5. The information gathered will be analysed and used to inform the recommendations to be made to Executive in October 2016.

Appendices

Appendix A - Passenger Transport Strategy. Sustainable Communities
Overview & Scrutiny Committee Member Update