

Appendix A

Passenger Transport Strategy.

Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee Member Update

This paper sets out the updated position in respect of the Passenger Transport Strategy. It should be acknowledged that for the various work streams we are only part way through gathering evidence and information to help inform the strategy. We are not yet in a position to translate the responses and evidence we have received into actions and solutions or finalise the savings that any changes would produce

Background

Central Bedfordshire Council does not have a Passenger Transport Strategy.

The aim of the Passenger Transport Strategy (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 Strategy 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.

The Strategy 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

Scope of the Strategy

Subsidised Public Transport

Concessionary Fares

Community Transport

Home to School Transport – Safe Walking Routes

Fleet Services and Operations

Work stream updates:

1. Subsidised Public Transport

On the 5th April 2016 Executive gave permission for a public consultation to take place regarding proposals for subsidising public bus routes, use and renewal of concessionary passes and funding for dial ride providers.

The twelve week consultation was undertaken between the 19th April 2016 and the 12th July 2016

A telephone survey of residents in Central Bedfordshire is being undertaken to provide a benchmark of the general population.

There were 1,526 responses to the public consultation. 541 were returned in paper form with 985 completed on line.

A resident's telephone survey is being undertaken and will be completed on the 15th August 2016. This will establish a bench mark for the general population of Central Bedfordshire.

There are efficiencies of £ 470k in the MTFP associated with work streams 1, 2 and 3

2. Concessionary Fares

The time of use and method of renewal in relation to concessionary bus passes is part of the consultations set out at 1.

3. Community Transport

Funding options for community transport providers is part of the consultation process set out at 1. Meetings have ben held with the operators and market research has been undertaken with users

4. Home to School Transport Safe Walking Routes

The Passenger Transport Strategy Board Member Reference Group has agreed the priorities and criteria for undertaking walking assessments to see if they are available

There are efficiencies of £573k in the MTFP associated with this work stream

5. Fleet Services and Operations.

The Central Bedfordshire Council Fleet policy is out for consultation with the various directorates. The closing dates for responses is Friday 15th September 2016

Benchmarking of fleet routes has been undertaken to look where routes can be combined or removed depending on the client requirements. This is being undertaken in consultation with colleagues from Social Care Health and Housing and is also taking into consideration the current consultation being undertaken in relation to the Council's day setting offer.

There are efficiencies of £ 117k in the MTFP associated with this work stream

Next Steps

Once all of the responses and evidence gathered has been analysed we will then be in a position to consider options to inform the strategy

