

Central Bedfordshire Council

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20th August 2015

JEANS WAY BUS STOP

Advising Officer: Marcel Coiffait, Director of Community Services
marcel.coiffait@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Steve Lakin, Principal Highways Officer
steve.lakin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Purpose of this report:

To report the results of the consultation on the provision of a new busway stop to the rear of properties at Jeans Way in Dunstable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the positive result of the recent public consultation and give its approval to the construction of a new stop on the Luton and Dunstable guided busway at Jeans Way in Dunstable.

Background

1. On 3 July 2014 Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough Councils were advised that their joint bid for Local Growth Funding (LGF) to enhance the busway corridor had been successful. The bid, submitted under the title 'Smarter Routes to Employment', committed both authorities to the delivery of a suite of improvements to the busway including the provision of new bus stops. Implementation of the improvements has commenced with the majority of the works on track to be completed by the autumn of 2015.
2. The South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), as coordinators of the LGF programme, were advised that a final decision on the construction of a new bus stop at Jeans Way in Dunstable would

be taken by Central Bedfordshire Council members following a public consultation exercise.

3. The consultation was undertaken during May and June 2015. Some 490 households in reasonably close proximity to the proposed new stop received a questionnaire to complete and an invitation to attend a public meeting on 26th June 2015. The questionnaire was simultaneously made available on line. Some 282 people completed questionnaires with a strong response from residents of Jeans Way.

Consultation Outcome

4. Over 71% of the respondents to the consultation welcomed the provision of a stop at Jeans Way. This positive balance was also reflected among the 44 local residents who attended the public meeting. A breakdown of the results against each of the consultation questions is provided at Appendix A.
5. In their responses residents raised a number of issues and concerns about the new stop, most particularly the risk that it would serve to attract people to the area to 'park and ride'. A summary of the issues raised through the consultation and comments as to their salience and mitigation is provided at Appendix B. For example, at the public meeting a commitment was made to actively monitor the impact of the stop on the demand for on-street parking within the locality and to introduce measures if these were required.
6. The three companies who operate services on Busway have expressed their support for the new stop. The Wildlife Trust, who are the stewards of Blows Downs, were also consulted and raised no objection.

Council Priorities

7. The Local Growth Funded investment in the busway corridor supports the council's priority of improving transport infrastructure.

Legal Implications

8. The stop will be constructed on land in the ownership of Luton Borough Council.
9. Central Bedfordshire's Planning department have advised that, as the works do not extend beyond the Limits of Deviation, planning permission is not a requirement.

Financial Implications

10. The construction cost of the stop is estimated to be £182,000. These costs will be met from the Local Growth Fund allocation.

11. The maintenance of the stop will be funded from existing budgets, the cost of which is shared between the two authorities.

Equalities Implications

12. The provision of the stop is part of a programme of works to improve the accessibility of the busway corridor. The stop itself utilises a design that has been subject to detailed usability assessment and mirrors other stops along the busway corridor.

Risks

13. There is a risk that the provision of the bus stop will adversely impact on the local community for example by attracting additional on-street parking in the vicinity. This risk has been mitigated by considering how the reasonable concerns of local residents can be addressed, for example by the introduction of appropriate parking restrictions on Jeans Way.

Conclusion and next Steps

14. Subject to the Committee's approval, construction of the new stop is scheduled will commence in September 2015 with works taking around four weeks.

Appendices

A: Consultation Results Summary

B: Consultation Issues Summary