

---

**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE BUS SERVICES REVIEW**

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Author: Infrastructure and Strategy Manager

[V]

---

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To approve the New Bus Services for East Cambridgeshire document for submission to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and agree to amend the terms of reference for the East Cambs Bus Services Review Working Party to incorporate the cycling and walking strategy work.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are requested to:

- i) Note the minutes of the meetings of the East Cambs Bus Services Review Working Party held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2002 and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- ii) Approve the draft New Bus Services for East Cambridgeshire, attached as Appendix 2 to this report, for submission to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) (with any minor editorial or presentation improvements delegated to officers, in consultation with the Chairman of Finance & Assets Committee, prior to submission).
- iii) Approve the amendment to the Terms of Reference for the East Cambs Bus Services Review Working Party, attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council received 1,458 responses to the bus services questionnaire which formed part of the public consultation held earlier this year, in addition to comments received by email and via the Climate Change Ideas Forum.

3.2 578 of these are from those who never use a bus. The main reasons given for this were because either service too infrequent, there is no service or car is more convenient or quicker. The questionnaire asked about changes to existing services and the most requested change was a more frequent service.

3.3 383 new services were suggested, the top ten most requested were:

- Burwell to Cambridge
- Ely to Cambridge
- Burwell to Ely

- Isleham to Ely
  - Bottisham to Cambridge
  - Isleham to Newmarket
  - Haddenham to Cambridge
  - Isleham to Cambridge
  - Littleport to Ely
  - Newmarket to Cambridge
- 3.4 Some of these suggestions, for example, Burwell to Cambridge and Ely to Cambridge already exist as services, but people were requesting services at different times during the day and evening, Sunday services and direct routes to Cambridge and destinations in Cambridge.
- 3.5 Many of the suggested routes were a section of a longer route corridor:
- A10 – Littleport - Ely - Cambridge
  - Ely – Isleham - Newmarket
  - Ely - Burwell - Cambridge
  - Bottisham- Cambridge
  - Ely – Sutton - Cambridge
- 3.6 The New Bus Service Proposals for East Cambridgeshire document (Appendix 2) contains maps that illustrate the consultation responses and the demand for new routes and services.
- 3.7 A Member Seminar was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to consider the Council's ask to the (CPCA) for new bus services to serve East Cambridgeshire. Councillors received the feedback from the bus services public consultation and had the opportunity to discuss the proposals to be presented to the CPCA. The feedback from the Members Seminar has been incorporated into the draft the submission document.
- 4.0 CONCLUSIONS
- 4.1 The Council is seeking funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to trial new bus services across East Cambridgeshire to allow them to become established and viable.
- 4.2 The draft New Bus Service Proposals for East Cambridgeshire document at appendix 2 sets out a series of proposed bus service improvements, which are a combination of new scheduled services, improvements to existing services and demand responsive transport services (DRT). These will deliver improved connectivity to transport interchanges and corridors e.g. railway stations and the Busway, improve links to employment areas, local shops and services and support better connected communities.
- 4.3 The document suggests a number of potential new services aimed at filling in the gaps in provision identified via the consultation. These will be based on the

Ely Zipper model and well as being frequent, these services will also need to operate to regular clock face timetables to encourage use.

- 4.4 ECDC would like to work with the CPCA to trial earlier and later buses and Sunday services, particularly to/from Cambridge, to increase the frequency of services that do not currently provide an hourly service, for example the Stagecoach 39 service, and to provide additional services for villages that do not have a daily bus service.
- 4.5 The Council also requests that the Combined Authority considers trialling demand responsive transport (DRT) solutions in providing bus services in East Cambridgeshire, to complement the existing dial-a-ride services. Areas where DRT could be trialled include:
- In the south of the district to provide a better alternative to the existing one journey a day services.
  - In the Isleham area as an alternative to scheduled services to Soham, Newmarket and Ely.
  - In the Littleport area to enable those living in the outlying hamlets of Black Horse Drove, Brandon Creek, Little Ouse and Redmere to access the shops and services in Littleport and to connect to public transport services.
- 4.6 The document also recognises that in order for these new services to be successful and move towards financial viability, people need to know they exist and accurate, real time information about the vehicle location and arrival time needs to be provided. A targeted marketing and information campaign will be required to create trust in the services and encourage people to use them.

#### Bus Services Review Working Party Terms of Reference

- 4.7 It has been suggested by the COVID-19 Member Working Party that the terms of reference for the Bus Services Review Working Party be amended to include the Cycling and Walking Strategy work, so that Members can play a key role in guiding and shaping this work.
- 4.8 If approved, the working party, previously the Bus Services Review Working Party will be renamed 'Bus, Cycle, Walk Working Party' and will assist officers in prioritising key strategic routes and identifying potential funding/delivery mechanisms. The proposed revised terms of reference are attached at Appendix 3.

#### 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.
- 5.3 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required.

## 6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1: Notes of Working Party Meetings held on 8 October and 12 November 2020
- Appendix 2: Draft New Bus Service Proposals for East Cambridgeshire document (printed separately)
- Appendix 3: Revised Terms of Reference for the Bus, Cycle, Walk Working Party

---

<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
Bus Services Questionnaire Responses Report.	Room 13 The Grange, Ely	Sally Bonnett Infrastructure and Strategy Manager (01353) 616451 <a href="mailto:sally.bonnett@eastcamb.gov.uk">sally.bonnett@eastcamb.gov.uk</a>