



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

To: Councillor Julia Huffer Chairman, Operational Services Committee	My Ref: CllrJH/Is/memo/ElyZipper
cc: Cllr Mark Inskip (Liberal Democrat Lead Member) Cllr Paola Trimarco (Independent Lead Member) Tracy Couper Democratic Services Manager	
From: John Hill Chief Executive	Date: 30 June 2022

ACTION ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY – ELY ZIPPER BUS SERVICE

The Chief Executive is proposing to take action on the grounds of urgency (ref: Section 3 page 3(7) para 5.1) in relation to Community Transport funding for the Ely Zipper Bus Service.

Dews, the company delivering the service, contacted the Council in May 2022 highlighting that, due to increasing labour and fuel costs, without additional financial support they would terminate their contract and the Ely Zipper bus service would end after the seventy day notice period.

Dews agreed to wait until the end of June 2022 to serve notice, to enable the Council to have discussions with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) to try and secure the additional funding required.

The District Council has contacted the CPCA on several occasions requesting additional funding for the Ely Zipper to enable the service to continue until the contract end in October 2022. No support has been offered and so the decision has been taken that the Council will fund the service up to £10,400 until the end of the contract in October 2022 via the Council's Community Transport budget.

The decision has been taken on the grounds of urgency, rather than wait until the next meeting of the Operational Services Committee on 12 September 2022, to secure the continuation of the Ely Zipper bus service for residents of the villages surrounding Ely and Ely itself as well as people working at the Lancaster Way Business Park. A break in the service until it is retendered in October would also make it very difficult to reinstate the service later in the year.

Under the Constitution I am required to consult with the Chairman of Operational Services Committee prior to delegated decisions being made. I will subsequently inform the spokespersons of the Committee.

Thank you for your attention.



John Hill
Chief Executive

I agree with action under grounds of urgency as proposed.



Councillor Julia Huffer
Chairman of Operational Services Committee