
TITLE: BUS SERVICES AND CYCLING AND WALKING ROUTES PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Committee: Finance and Assets Committee

Date: 6th February 2020

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[U172]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To consider the draft Bus Services and Cycling and Walking Routes Consultation questionnaire for approval as a document for public consultation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the draft Bus Services and Cycling and Walking Routes Consultation questionnaire at Appendix 1 be approved as a document for public consultation, subject to any minor editorial changes agreed by the Chairman.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 The Council is planning to carry out a consultation exercise to identify key bus services and cycling and walking routes for local residents. The focus of the consultation is on journeys to:

- Work
- College or higher education
- Doctors/healthcare services
- Shopping
- Public transport services
- Council offices or other public services
- Sports and entertainment facilities
- Visit family and friends

3.2 The aim of the consultation is:

- To identify bus routes that are viable, or can become viable over a period of time, and to seek funding for a trial period to allow routes to become established and self-financing.
- To identify key cycling and walking routes and seek funding to deliver these.

3.3 The East Cambs Bus Services Review Member Working Party, established by this Committee in September, District Councillors and the East Cambridgeshire Access Group have commented on the draft questionnaire.

4.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The consultation period will run for six weeks, from Monday 9th March 2020 – Sunday 19th April 2020. Responses will be collected via a questionnaire, a draft of which can be found at Appendix 1. This questionnaire will be delivered to every home in the district by Royal Mail during the week commencing 9th March 2020.
- 4.2 Completed questionnaires can be returned to the District Council offices in Ely or placed in a drop box. The locations of the drop boxes can be found on page 2 of the draft questionnaire. Some venues are still to be confirmed and an update will be given at the meeting.
- 4.3 The questionnaire will also be available online via the Council's website. The online version will be presented at the meeting.
- 4.4 Other consultation activities proposed include:
- Councillor led resident's meetings
 - Information boards at local libraries
 - Engagement with stakeholders via email or meetings if required.
- 4.5 Stakeholders include Parish Councils, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council Passenger Transport Team, local bus service providers (they may be able to amend existing routes to incorporate our proposals), Cambridgeshire County Council Cycling Projects Team, local walking and cycling groups, East Cambridgeshire Access Group, schools and large local businesses/shops.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The costs of the consultation will be met using existing budgets.
- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required at this stage. Recommendations arising from the Review may require an Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) to be completed.
- 5.3 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) completed. In summary, the CIA concluded as follows:

Although there will be a small carbon impact as a result of printing paper copies of the questionnaire and some additional staff travel relating to the consultation, the Bus Services Review and the Cycling and Walking Strategy work will, it is intended, ultimately result in a significant reduction in carbon emissions through the provision of an increase in options for sustainable travel.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1: Draft Bus Services and Cycling and Walking Routes Consultation questionnaire.

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
None	Room 13, The Grange, Ely	Sally Bonnett Infrastructure and Strategy Manager (01353) 616451 Sally.bonnett@eastcambs.gov.uk