

Notes of meeting

Title of Meeting:	Suffolk Enhanced Partnership Cllr Group meeting 2
Purpose or Mandate:	Update on the Enhanced Partnership consultation for Councillor Group
Date:	21 June 2022
Place:	Teams conference call
Times:	14:00 – 15:00
Attended:	Cllr Alexander Nicoll (SCC), chair Simon Barnett (SCC) Cllr Alison Cackett (ESC) Cllr Jessica Fleming (SCC) Paul Horne (SCC) Cllr Sandy Martin (SCC) Cllr Graham Newman (SCC) Calum Poole (SCC) Cllr Phil Smart (IBC) Timothy Stephenson (SCC) Cllr Andrew Stringer (SCC)
Minute-taker:	P Horne
Distribution List:	As per meeting invitation

Item No.	Item Description	Relevant business considered, facts noted, the decision taken and its rationale
1.	Welcome	Welcome and introductions from Cllr Nicoll
2.	EP meetings since March	The meeting structure has been established and the latest meetings have taken place as detailed below Board 25/5/22 Forum 15/6/22 Passenger Interest working group 1/6/22 Community Transport working group 20/4/22 The bus operator working group has yet to meet, S Barnett to continue to encourage this to take place. Notes of the meetings published on https://www.suffolkonboard.com/buses/suffolk-enhanced-partnership/
3.	EP established	The DfT acknowledged the Suffolk EP on 12/5/22

4.	EP schemes obligations	Obligation tracker is being developed to review the EP scheme obligations, to document the progress against the objectives and the deadlines as set in the EP documentation.
	Infrastructure	<p>S Barnett. While budget is limited it is important that the roadside facilities are audited, and repair/refurbishments identified for future funding opportunities. At the Passenger Interest working group there were expressions of interest in assisting with the audit. S Barnett to provide a pro forma for this audit data capture.</p> <p>Cllr Smart highlighted the potential of commercially provided shelters at locations with significant footfall. S Barnett has a meeting scheduled to discuss the potential to expand the commercial shelters beyond the current locations.</p> <p>Cllrs Martin and Cackett requested information on bus stop locations for additional local audit initiatives. ACTION 2/ 1 S Barnett to provide stop data and pro forma for local audits</p>

Bus Priority	<p>A technical note on the bus priority interventions as identified by bus operators and other stakeholders, is being produced as input into area workshops with operators and district/borough officers.</p> <p>Cllr Cackett referenced her work with ESTA to discuss direct Halesworth – Norwich service. S Barnett also in discussions with ESTA, First and BorderBus.</p> <p>Cllr Smart highlighted the mutual benefits of improving urban bus priority for both urban and rural services. With many rural services benefit from improved running times to their destinations in the urban centres.</p> <p>C Poole described the work to improve bus priority through signal controlled junctions, with the initial focus on Norwich Road in Ipswich. This priority needs to consider and balance the impact on all traffic to avoid detrimental impact on pedestrian and cycle movements.</p> <p>C Poole explained the bus priority sub-group area workshops will include the mapping of potential interventions with bus frequencies and general traffic congestion. This will allow proposals to be assessed for their impact and value for money.[post meeting – workshop scheduled for 12/7/22]</p> <p>Cllr Martin commented on the history of producing plans which did not have support nor funding.</p> <p>C Poole aware of the need to ensure co-benefits with active travel and working collaboratively with Districts/Boroughs to identify most effective proposals for decarbonisation and sustainable transport.</p> <p>Cllr Nicoll, the Enhanced Partnership sets the expectation for bus improvements and to promote these in future planning and funding bids.</p> <p>Cllr Stringer supported the work to prepare plans for future funding opportunities, but also the need to work with planning authorities to generate new routes/services.</p> <p>Cllr Smart commented that bus priority is also around parking enforcement. C Poole advised that SCC is progressing with an application for powers to enforce Moving Traffic Offences.</p>
Information	<p>SuffolkonBoard web page will continue to be developed to promote bus travel, timetables and journey planner.</p> <p>Cllr Nicoll stressed the need to disseminate timetable changes proactively.</p> <p>Cllr Smart proposed in the absence of paper timetables and RTPi screens greater publicity given for bus apps (e.g. buschecker)</p> <p>Cllr Newman asked of potential for small electronic screens within the display cases. S Barnett explained 5 small electronic timetables are already in service but these are expensive to purchase (details of these to be issued with notes).</p>

	Passenger Charter	S Barnett - the charter has been produced with Norfolk CC. Essex and Cambridge/Peterborough are to use this charter as their source document.
	EP Brand	<p>S Barnett – the Board sub-group established and developed proposals for a distinctive brand for use on the charter and bus promotions.</p> <p>Responses to proposal from the Passenger Interest Group and Forum were not positive.</p> <p>Cllr Martin described “branding fatigue” and suggested the SCC SuffolkonBoard branding is used.</p> <p>Cllr Stringer raised concerns that the branding proposals were not suitable for those with disability (e.g. autism).</p> <p>Cllr Nicoll not supportive of spending time/money on new EP branding if existing Suffolkonboard branding might work best.</p> <p>EP needs to focus on tangible outcomes to support and improve bus services.</p> <p>Feedback to be provided to the next Board meeting.</p>
	Socially necessary services	S Barnett looking to integrate school travel with public bus services to improve the network coverage and potentially provide new services.
	Networks Review	<p>S Barnett, working to complete the DfT pro forma for the network review by 1/7/22 deadline, to examine network situation when Covid support funding withdrawn by Government in October. Currently patronage remains down from pre Covid levels.</p> <p>Cllr Nicoll asked if commercial operators are funding marketing, S Barnett confirmed that they are.</p> <p>Cllr Martin suggested concessionary fares are a good way to generate patronage, important to consider younger traveller concessions to the capture future customers.</p> <p>T Stephenson identified a need to understand why concessionary travellers are not returning to using the bus, and how to promote bus travel.</p>
	Bus Rapid Transit	<p>C Poole, highlighted this obligation to study the potential for a bus rapid transit corridor, is there a market for such a service?</p> <p>Cllr Martin asked if the Haverhill to Cambridge corridor would form part of the study, this was confirmed.</p> <p>No other corridors were proposed in the meeting.</p>
	Engagement	<p>There will be engagement with Districts/Borough regarding the levers to promote buses, to consider and evidence the options.</p> <p>Engagement will also be improved with parish/town councils to communicate timetable changes.</p>

	Ticketing	<p>S Barnett to set up a meeting with operators to discuss multi-operator ticketing for Suffolk [post meeting, scheduled for 19/7/22]</p> <p>T Stephenson highlighted the Government focus now on improving the situation for larger numbers of people and multi-operator ticketing meets this criterion, with bus operators supportive.</p> <p>Cllr Smart emphasised that urban areas presented the best locations to impact the largest number of people.</p>
5.	AOB	T Stephenson reminded the meeting that the EP needs to have ideas developed and ready to be submitted as any further DfT fund bids are likely to have a short turn around.
6.	Contacts	<p>Web page - https://www.suffolkonboard.com/buses/suffolk-enhanced-partnership/</p> <p>Email – bus.strategy@suffolk.gov.uk</p>
7.	Future meetings	Quarterly