

Title of Meeting:	Suffolk Enhanced Partnership Councillor Group
Purpose or Mandate:	A collaborative approach to improving passenger transport
Date:	5 th April 2023
Place:	Teams Meeting
Time:	14:00 – 15:30
Attendees:	<p>Cllr Alexander Nicoll (AN) – Suffolk CC - Chair Simon Barnett (SB) – Suffolk CC Cllr Sandy Martin (SN) – Suffolk CC Cllr Jessica Fleming (JF) – Suffolk CC Graeme Mateer (GM) – Suffolk CC Calum Poole (CP) – Suffolk CC Cllr Suzie Morley – Mid Suffolk DC Cllr Andrew Stringer (AS) – Suffolk CC</p>
Apologies:	<p>Cllr Norman Brooks – East Suffolk DC Cllr Philip Smart – Ipswich BC</p>
Minute taker:	Robert Kemp

Agenda item	Description	Information/Reports/Comments
1.	Matters Arising	<p>SB – most matters arising will be covered in this meeting. Other policy matters which were wider highway issues such as when to give buses higher priority over other traffic eg should Yarmouth Road be used.</p> <p>SM – right hand turn on Fore Street for buses only – can ANPR cameras be used. West End Road onto Yarmouth Road being used to hold traffic – but not a bus related issue.</p> <p>CP – this is included as part of the monitoring plan to see what the impact is and amend the scheme accordingly. Fore Street is technically difficult site for ANPR. Have consulted on options for bus lane or traffic enforcement. Notified by DfT that applications for obtaining enforcement powers will be October.</p> <p>JF – is this part of the traffic signal policy?</p> <p>CP – yes, this has been drafted. It was an obligation of the EP and has been shared with operators and the signals team for comments. Have also had meetings with First bus.</p> <p>AN – if separate meetings with operators have taken place these should be reported back to the EP board and/or Cllr group meetings so everyone is aware and it's a transparent process before anything is set in place.</p> <p>CP – will share draft policy after this meeting (emailed on 6.4.23). Comments are welcome and will be considered but would need to work at pace on this.</p> <p>AN – include to what extent operator participation and timetable for plans.</p>
2.	DfT Visit	<p>SB - Officers are visiting on 2nd May 2023. They're currently visiting all Authorities that have received BSIP funding. Suffolk is the first Authority being visited of those that did not receive any funding.</p> <p>AN – one of the reasons for their visit was a strongly worded letter from Cllr Nicoll and Cllr Smith to DfT. Councillors have not been invited to attend the meeting due to the elections and to allow for more technical discussions between officers and DfT.</p> <p>SB – Simon, Tim, Graeme and Calum will be attending the meeting.</p>

		<p>AN – Suffolk has been successful in getting funding for Active Travel which DfT should be made aware of as this must join up with funding for buses.</p> <p>SM – have not heard any reasons why we didn't get any funding. Worth asking so we know what they're looking for.</p> <p>SB – apologies if this hasn't been communicated at this meeting. Reasons were partly because there was not enough money to go around. Main issue was that the focus changed to schemes all ready to go and building on other funding given out such as to Norfolk and Cornwall.</p> <p>AN – it's a case of we can feel hard done by and not anything against our bid.</p> <p>JF – there is an urban bias built into the scoring by DfT as in the LCWIP. Projects might not shift the numbers but doesn't mean it isn't needed.</p> <p>GM – with Active Travel funding Districts are not able to apply, only the local authorities can. In round 4 of funding we received £7.8m. Successful in active travel and EV funding which reinforces that these all need to be linked. This will be pointed out to DfT.</p> <p>AN - follow up letter to DfT is required about linking funding.</p>
3.	EP Scheme Updates	<p>CP – West End Road scheme was postponed due to bad weather. Currently trying to secure a new date. Traffic Signal Policy has already been covered. Bus Rapid Transit study was completed earlier in the year and shared. Have had some comments back which we are going through to see if any outcomes can be improved.</p> <p>AN – there were some discussions on locations. Any new candidates offered by operators?</p> <p>CP – good coverage of Ipswich through the QBP. Challenging in other areas getting engagement with operators. Looking at BODS data which they all provide for journey times/reliability to make our own decisions.</p> <p>AN – if any help is needed via County or District Councillors please advise.</p> <p>SM – was Haverhill to Bury St Edmunds put forward? It's the largest settlement in Suffolk with no rail station. Buses are slow and erratic.</p>

		<p>CP – yes, looked at this in the BRT study. Social value was factored in on this as there wasn't necessarily the demand.</p> <p>AN – have Essex and Norfolk been looking at this or any other EP's in the Eastern region?</p> <p>CP – have not looked into this.</p> <p>SB – part of the issue with the Haverhill to Bury St Edmunds route is the mix of the commercial market and use of our funds. There is a demand for a better service but not enough for Stephensons to put something on. They have to go via the villages to gain passengers but this makes the route longer. Have had discussions with West Suffolk about putting some cash in upfront but no one wants to take the risk.</p> <p>AN - any update on the Comms/Marketing post and ticketing?</p> <p>SB – the job description for the Comms/Marketing person is with HR to finalise. This will be a 2 year post and likely to be an internal secondment.</p> <p>AN – Mark Langford should be involved and work with the new Comms/Marketing person.</p> <p>SB – finalising the multi-operator ticketing has been delayed (apologies). Time is needed to finish off the agreement. The aim is to implement on 1 July if the £2 fare cap is not extended again.</p> <p>AN – we must promote this.</p> <p>AS – as part of the comms is the website. Connecting Communities are refusing routes. Do we keep data for Connecting Communities refusals?</p> <p>SB – we do get refusal data and will find out and report back.</p> <p>AS – this month from those that have contacted him there have been 100% refusals.</p> <p>SB – this shouldn't happen and would be interested to know why. Will be built into new contract.</p>
4.	Passenger Survey Update	SB – Trying to get surveyors to speak to people who don't use the bus.

		<p>SM – more useful to get comments from those that don't use the bus. Need the survey to ask passengers about the last journey they did not via bus and why.</p> <p>SB – this can be visited on the next wave of the survey.</p>
5.	AOB	<p>JF – how long are routes on a tightrope going to keep going?</p> <p>SB – funding for our contracts remains the same. DfT funding ends in June although they have asked what will happen in Suffolk when the funding runs out.</p> <p>AN – worth making the point to DfT about their comms as previously we found out about funding first through the local newspaper.</p>
6.	Date of Next Meeting	7 th June 2023 at 1400