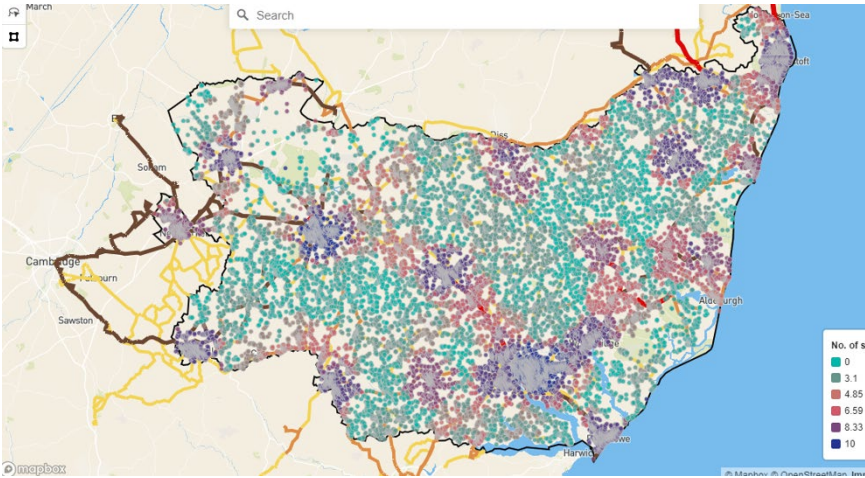


Title of Meeting:	Suffolk Enhanced Partnership Forum
Purpose or Mandate:	A collaborative approach to improving passenger transport
Date:	16 th May 2023
Place:	Teams Meeting
Time:	10:00 – 12:00
Attendees:	<p> Tim Stephenson (TS) – SCC Paul Horne (PH) – SCC James Wright (JW) – Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council Jayne Munson – Mulleys Mark House – Go East Anglia Linda McCord (LMc) – Transport Focus Justin Wythe – Ipswich Buses Paul Martin (PM) – First Martyn Washbourne – Norfolk CC Oliver Howarth – Camb & Peterborough CA John Russell - DVSA Alan Neville (AN) – Greater Anglia Barry Pope - DVSA Andrew Pursey – Borderbus Lewis Boudville – East Suffolk Council Dan Johnson (DJ) – Transport East Douglas Cook – SCC Traffic Signals Mark Wedgwood – SCC Highways Rick Martin – Coach Services Sam Guiver – SCC Highways Network Assurance Katherine Davies (KD) – Babergh/Mid Suffolk District Council Daniel Bassett – Ipswich Buses Michael Newsham – Ipswich Borough Council Sara Noonan – West Suffolk Council </p>
Apologies:	<p> Douglas Gray - HACT Bill Hiron – Stephensons Calum Poole - SCC </p>
Minute taker:	Robert Kemp

Agenda item	Description	Information/Reports/Comments
1.	Introductions/ Apologies	<p>Introductions from new members of the group: Mark House – Go East Anglia Daniel Bassett – Ipswich Buses</p> <p>Apologies – as above</p>
2.	DfT Visit	<p>TS – day was split into 2 sessions.</p> <p>AM session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our BSIP a run through the updated BSIP (as per our recent addendum/update to DfT) 2. Our Vision how the various strands of “transport” link in our approach; BSIP, Active Travel, Local Transport Plan. We see these as “one travel entity” 3. Our EP how the EP functions. Who attends, what sub-groups do we support? 4. Our achievements (without BSIP funding) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bus priority b. New traffic signals policy c. Passenger Charter d. Partnership with Transport Focus and marketing in general e. BRT case study f. Greener buses (First bus introducing 17 new/greener buses in Suffolk) 5. Our Future Projects and Ambitions (If we had funding) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Travel Hubs b. Transport Heat Mapping c. Bus Ticketing <p>TS – DfT were very complimentary about the BSIP update and our achievements so far. They were pleased to see that we’d done some things ourselves with no funding as well as the £2.8m of pipeline schemes that we could do if we had some money. They commented that the EP and various forums that we have are very good and in advance of other LA’s. We’ve been asked to help other authorities setting theirs up.</p> <p>PM session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operators – an “unedited” view from two EP partners and major operators First Buses and Stephenson’s of Essex. They will discuss BSIP, BRG and the £2 fare and the complexity of operating in a rural environment 2. Transport East discussing transport in a regional context, particular focus on rural issues and promoting the centre of excellence. 3. Community Transport and DRT Provider we have asked CATS who operate community transport in East Suffolk/Suffolk

		<p>Coastal area, plus some DRT and local transport services to come along and have a chat.</p> <p>TS – operators were given the opportunity to speak to DfT about barriers to operating at the moment, how funding works for them, how the extension of the BRG funding which has happened 3 times now doesn't allow them to plan ahead as they're only 12 week blocks. Not allowing concessionary travel on Community Transport operations was also discussed.</p>
3.	Heat Mapping	<p>TS – interactive tool whereby every household in Suffolk is measured to its nearest goods/service etc. Those areas in green are those with no access.</p>  <p>TS – previously and traditionally it has always been that we take the bus to the people. It's very difficult for commercial operations to go to places with low passenger numbers. The idea now is to take the people to the bus. If we go to a community, look at a service such as DRT/Community Car share/taxi-bus and run them into a travel hub to connect with the main service. This supports the network and brings new passengers to the service. DfT were very enthused by this idea.</p> <p>JW – encouraged by this. Potential link to work with the Community Partnership. Have spoken to the East Suffolk partner and 1-2 willing communities are needed to engage with. Mid Suffolk and East Suffolk are now Green Party orientated and maybe more focused on public transport than other parties so there are potential opportunities.</p> <p>TS – District Councils do have funding for community projects. Katch for example is now run by East Suffolk and links villages to the train station.</p> <p>KD (via Teams chat) - Certainly opportunities in Mid Suffolk, and funding, we just need to get a bit of a steer on investment from our new administration but we will keep you all posted. There will be a focus on electric or greener fuel vehicles.</p>

		<p>TS (via Teams chat) - that is encouraging, we would love the chance to discuss that with you.</p> <p>DJ (via Teams chat) - many thanks for this, this is really good to see. Transport East would be keen to help support this and link up with our Rural Centre of Excellence work.</p> <p>PM (via Teams chat) - More than happy to be involved in that conversation too.</p> <p>LMc – pleased to hear about DfT’s visit. First results of the passenger survey are coming through and will update at next meeting. Will look to see if there are some examples of best practice of community projects around the country that could be shared.</p>
4.	BRT/Traffic Signal Policy/MTE	<p>PH – it was a BSIP objective to look at BRT. WSP were employed to carry out the study which has now finished. Due to the low population density it was identified that a traditional BRT scheme wouldn’t work for Suffolk. This is not being progressed any further at the moment. Moving Traffic Enforcement (MTE) is in the final stages to go to DfT. It now has approval from Suffolk Police and will be considered by DfT at the next round of bids in October. This is for the trial sites only.</p> <p>JW – will October be the first chance to enforce?</p> <p>PH – DfT will come back to us by October so unlikely to have the powers until next year. It is a request for civil enforcement, the police have the power to enforce now.</p> <p>JW – there is a lack of enforcement by the police in the town with some officers not even knowing the law.</p> <p>PH – the Traffic Signal Policy is in the final draft and will be published soon. It will identify the prioritisation of traffic at signals. Each set of signals has different demands but there is general guidance to follow.</p> <p>PH – the West End Road, Ipswich scheme to put in a bus lane now has a revised date of w/c 3rd July.</p> <p>PM – good that DfT can see that schemes are being delivered with no funding.</p>
5.	AOB	<p>TS – for the future of transport funding we need to look at transport holistically. There is no difference between BSIP, active travel and the local transport plan.</p> <p>We need to convince DfT that Suffolk is a good place to invest. There are LA’s that are unable to spend their funding money and may have to return it.</p> <p>TS – future structure of this group (and others). If SCC provide the admin side could the group provide the Chair?</p>

		<p>LMc – currently chair Norfolk’s EP and would chair this group if helpful?</p> <p>AN (via Teams chat) - We have our Greater Anglia Integrated Transport meeting on Weds. 7th June @ 1000. Please let me know if you can attend. we need more bus operators ! Please reply to alan.neville@greateranglia.co.uk</p> <p>TS – we now have a Community Rail Partnership Officer as part of the team.</p> <p>JW – issues with route 66. Concerns from residents as to whether they’re running along Penzance Road or diverting. The route also operates sometimes with buses that can’t use the busway as the new buses were not fitted with guidewheels.</p> <p>PM – not aware of the day to day operational issues but can take this away from the meeting to look into.</p>
6.	Date of Next Meeting	18 th July at 1000