







<b>Title of Meeting:</b>	Suffolk Enhanced Partnership Board Meeting
<b>Purpose or Mandate:</b>	A collaborative approach to improving passenger transport
<b>Date:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
<b>Place:</b>	Teams Meeting
<b>Time:</b>	1000 - 1100
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p>           Cllr Alexander Nicoll – Chair (AN) – SCC            Simon Barnett (SB) – SCC            Tim Stephenson (TS) – SCC            Paul Horne – SCC            Mark Nicholas (MN) – SCC            Justin Wythe – Ipswich Buses            Martyn Simonds – Simonds            David Munson – Mulleys            Andrew Pursey – Borderbus            Gavin Smith – Go East Anglia            Charlton Thornhill – Stagecoach            Paul Martin (PM) – First            Peter Nathaniel - Vectare            Davina Langley – Go East Anglia            Rob Crawford – Coach Services            Dan Bassett (DB) – Ipswich Buses         </p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<p>           Emma Forde - SCC            Bill Hiron - Stephensons            Rick Martin – Coach Services         </p>
<b>Minute taker:</b>	Robert Kemp

Agenda item	Description	Information/Reports/Comments
1.	BSIP+ Update	<p>SB –</p>   <div data-bbox="517 338 1369 792" style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">BSIP 2 Delivery</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">February 2024 Update</p> </div>   <div data-bbox="517 866 1369 1319" style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Stabilising the Network payments</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 annual baseline commercial bus network estimated to be 11.6 million km.</li> <li>• The base funding allocation was calculated using the proportion of the total commercial km an individual operator ran.</li> <li>• Operators were required through a Memorandum of Understanding to meet a series of commitments including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• retain their baseline commercial bus network throughout the 2023/2024 financial year.</li> <li>• continue to work with SCC in delivering the objectives and obligations as outlined in the Suffolk Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Currently 7 of our 14 bus operators identified as eligible for the Stabilising the Network payments have finalised their agreements.</li> <li>• We are reviewing the feasibility of repeating this allocation when the 2024/2025 funding award is received.</li> </ul> </div>   <div data-bbox="517 1400 1369 1852" style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Pipeline of bus priority schemes</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In consultation with operators four corridors and 3 “last mile enhancements” have now progressed to detailed design. The four corridors in Ipswich are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norwich Road</li> <li>• London Road</li> <li>• Felixstowe Road</li> <li>• Woodbridge Road</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The three last mile enhancements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs Head Street</li> <li>• Eagle Street</li> <li>• Warwick Road</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </div>

## Stakeholder led schemes

- Over 60 schemes & services suggested by operators and community groups
- Of those being presented to the Enhanced Partnership Board for inclusion in the Suffolk Enhanced Partnership scheme :
  - 46% were local bus operator led;
  - 15% were District or Parish Council led;
  - 39% were joint bids between councils and operators
- Community led flexible style services specifically designed to support rural village connections to larger settlements accounted for 16% of submissions being taken forward.
- Inception meetings with all stakeholder held January 2024 – no fatal flaws in schemes being proposed
- To note: current proposal is to continue to fund schemes using second year (2024/2025) of BSIP 2 funding when received
- **ACTION: EP Board to agree to include the BSIP 2 service improvements as a variation to the current EP Scheme**

## Stakeholder led schemes

Ref	Lead Applicant	Type	Summary	Communities Supported	Reasoning
7	Lavenham PC	Service improvement	Extend Chambers 753 to evenings/Sundays.	Sudbury, Long Melford, Acton, Great Waldingfield, Lavenham, Alpheton, Stanningfield, Great Whelmeitham, Sicklesmere, Bury St Edmunds	Scheme supported by operator as well as Parish Councils with good evidence for ongoing viability (linked to scheme reference 12)
8	Lavenham PC	Service improvement	Duplicate bus or extra service(s) staggered in morning peak on Chambers 753 to avoid overcrowding on AM journey to Bury St Edmunds/West Suffolk College.	Sudbury, Long Melford, Acton, Great Waldingfield, Lavenham, Alpheton, Stanningfield, Great Whelmeitham, Sicklesmere, Bury St Edmunds	To be considered as part of Scheme reference 12
9	Lavenham PC	Service improvement	Re-route Chambers 753 to serve Sudbury Health Centre or retime to better facilitate connections.	Sudbury, Long Melford, Acton, Great Waldingfield, Lavenham, Alpheton, Stanningfield, Great Whelmeitham, Sicklesmere, Bury St Edmunds	To be considered as part of Scheme reference 12
11	Stephensons	Service changes	Service 14/15: reroute to form a more direct end to end service, serve West Suffolk Hospital and increase frequency	Haverhill, Little Wratting, Kedington, Great Wratting, Stradishall, Wickhambrook, Depden, Chedburgh, Chevington, Horringer, Bury St Edmunds	Scheme addresses ambition to improve access to health care facilities
12	Go Ahead	Service improvement	753 Sudbury - Bury St Edmunds: addition of Mon - Sat Evening and Sunday journeys	Sudbury, Long Melford, Acton, Great Waldingfield, Lavenham, Alpheton, Stanningfield, Great Whelmeitham, Sicklesmere, Bury St Edmunds	Scheme supported by operator as well as Parish Councils with good evidence for ongoing viability
15	Go Ahead	Service improvement	84 Sudbury - Colchester: additional Mon - Sat journeys via villages	Sudbury, Great Cornard, Newton Green, Assington, Leavenheath, Stoke by Nayland, Nayland (Great Horkeley, Colchester)	Scheme supported by operator as well as Parish Councils with good evidence for ongoing viability
19	Vertas	Service improvement	Continue operation of Beyton/Thurston/Elmswell/Woolpit taxis with additional journey opportunities	Beyton, Thurston, Elmswell, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds	Pilot of scheme has proven popular, scope for future expansion
22	BorderBus	Service improvement	521 Saxmundham to Aldeburgh: enhance frequency to hourly Mon-Sat and add earlier/later journeys	Halesworth, Bramfield, Darsham, Yoxford, Belsale, Saxmundham, Benhall, Stensfield, Friston, Knodshill, Leiston, Aldringham, Thorpeness, Aldeburgh	Good evidence of longer term viability within existing SCC contract

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25	Ipswich Buses & Bramford PC	New service	New service from Bramford to Ipswich	Bramford, Sproughton, Ipswich	Good evidence of longer term viability, additional support funding available from housing developer
29	Rickingham PC	Service improvement	304: Retime 1550 to leave West Suffolk College later and thus fit better with student finish times	Bury St Edmunds, Fornham St Martin, Great Barton, Inworth, Bardwell, Stanton, Hepworth, Wattsfield, Hinderclay, Rickingham, Botesdale, Redgrave, Worham, Palgrave, Diss	Change to single journey should be achievable by operator
38	Thurston, Beyton, Elmswell, Woolpit PCs	Service improvement	Continue operation of Beyton/Thurston/Elmswell/Woolpit taxis with additional journey opportunities	Beyton, Thurston, Elmswell, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds	Pilot of scheme has proven popular, scope for future expansion
39	First	New service	Create new 87 service linking Stowupland, Cedars Park and Stowmarket.	New: Stowupland, Stowmarket.	Good evidence of longer term viability, significant housing growth in area since previous services withdrawn
43	East Suffolk	Service improvement	Enhance Buzabout service north of Lowestoft following East Suffolk-funded pilot.	Bundeston, Somerleyton, Lound, Gunton St Peter's, Lowestoft	Pilot of scheme has proven popular, scope for future expansion
46	Monks Eleigh PC	New service	Brett Valley villages - DRT to connect with commercial routes in Hadleigh and Lavenham for onward travel.	Hitcham, Bildeston, Thorpe Morieux, Monks Eleigh, Brent Eleigh, Grotton, Kersey, Little Waldingfield, Wattham, Great Brickett, Lindsey, Edwardstone, Milders, Kettlebaston, Nedging with Naughton	Innovative solution to current capacity issues on existing services
52	Mendlesham Parish Council	New service	Stowmarket village connections: provide Mon-Sat journeys to Stowmarket from assorted neighbouring parishes.	Mendlesham, Gillingham, Finningham, Wickham Skeith, Stowupland, Stowmarket	Good evidence of demand and future viability, potential to expand to cover other villages

SB – we will not get 2024/25 funding until after 12<sup>th</sup> June which is the date set by DfT for Suffolk to have submitted its updated BSIP.

Bus priority – would like to look at other areas than just Ipswich but haven't had much engagement so would welcome thoughts from operators.

		<p>AN – are we going to take stock of where we are 6 months down the line before spending year 2 funding?</p> <p>SB – yes, there will be regular reviews. A letter will be going out to operators regarding data returns which will help with the review process.</p> <p>Looking at the board to formally vote to move these schemes forward for delivery.</p> <p>PM – happy to supply data. Norfolk CC have 6/12 month reviews. Not appropriate for us to vote on whether other operator schemes are ok. We have to trust the scoring mechanism.</p> <p>TS – we should ratify rather than vote.</p> <p>DB – is the scoring going to be circulated?</p> <p>SB – now that the board has been advised this will be made public.</p> <p>AN – need to have confidence in the scoring mechanism and in the system. As there aren't any objections, the board can accept the schemes.</p> <p>SB – thank you to all operators who put schemes in.</p> <p>DB – interested on how items scored and what all the schemes were so we can see what potential commercial opportunities there might be.</p> <p>TS – it allows us to go back to DfT and say if we had more money, this could have been done. This includes any infrastructure requirements. 11<sup>th</sup> March DfT are visiting Suffolk Ratification of the schemes would show DfT what we've done and what we could do.</p> <p>DB – big opportunity with DfT visiting to show what could be delivered.</p> <p>SB – there were other schemes we couldn't afford such as an NHS bid for links into healthcare facilities. Will be submitting a bid for Connected Places Catapult Rural Transport Accelerator. This is kick start funding to get things up and running. Will be speaking to operators about healthcare links.</p>
2.	Light Running	<p>SB – could light running positioning journeys be made live? Would that give more options to the public? Even if it was an experiment?</p> <p>PM – operators will be looking at this anyway and if there was enough patronage, they would have done it already. Not always as straight forward as it adds time to the duty shift.</p> <p>AN – thanks to Paul Martin regarding work done with the Cllr in Melton with services.</p>

3.	Multi-operator ticketing - Project Coral	<p>SB – DfT sponsored multi-operator tap on/tap off. Met with them to see if anything for Suffolk. Has potential in the future when everyone is equipped to do it or the number of passengers that would benefit from it. Will share information going forward.</p> <p>PM – potential for interchangeable between operator services. Bus/rail could be explored for Suffolk. Should be pushed through Central Government and Transport East.</p> <p>AN – as someone who sits on various rail bodies, bus/rail is something communities think about. There is more willingness on operators behalf than Greater Anglia. Can we formalise a discussion on this.</p> <p>SB – Emma is already working towards this.</p> <p>PM – operators have been involved in meetings with GA for many years. Real time information for example at rail stations has not been reciprocated by GA.</p> <p>AN – they can do it if they want to but still should push it via the EP.</p>
4.	Devolution for Suffolk	<p>SB – discussions within SCC are still ongoing. From May 2025 Suffolk will have its directly elected leader. Devolution will bring in £500m over 30 years and provide Suffolk with additional powers.</p> <p>AN – County Deal might be a better term. There will be a consultation for the people of Suffolk.</p>
5.	AOB	<p>MN – have met with First, Stagecoach and Go Ahead prior to setting up a Marketing Forum. This has been very useful to see how we can use what SCC is good at and can help with in respect to campaigns. Any other operator marketing teams, please do get in touch.</p> <p>AN – how we share ideas, campaigns through stakeholders is important. Benefits to be taken forward through the EP.</p>
6.	Date of next meeting	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024 - 1000