



Update to the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee

Title:	Travel Bucks Strategy – Update October 2013
Committee date:	6 November 2013
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Electoral divisions affected:	All

Purpose of the report

To provide the Committee with an update on each of the policies within the Travel Bucks Strategy as requested at the Committee of the 25th September 2013.

Travel Bucks Policy No. 1

Buckinghamshire County Council will work in partnership with strategic healthcare partners (e.g. NHS) to consider, at the earliest opportunity, the integration of Client Transport and Non-Emergency Patient Transport.

This was initially considered prior to the extension of the current BCC Client Transport contract with Amey plc in 2012. At this point the NHS Trust was not in a position to consider wider integration of their non-emergency transport provision and Buckinghamshire County Council has continued with the current client transport delivery model. Opportunities to deliver efficiencies through greater integration will continue to be assessed when existing contracts are reviewed.



Travel Bucks Policy No. 2

Buckinghamshire County Council will work in partnership with commercial bus operators to maintain a Core Bus Network, Core Inter-Urban services and rural Accessibility services.

This is an integral part of the Passenger Transport business plan; we work closely with bus operators to maintain the public transport network through improving patronage, increasing service reliability and promoting public transport options.

Travel Bucks Policy No. 3

Buckinghamshire County Council will work in partnership with the third sector to improve the delivery and coordination of community transport.

We work closely with Community Impact Bucks who offer advice and support to Community Transport schemes. The passenger transport team also work directly with dial-a-ride and community bus operators.

Travel Bucks Policy No. 4

Buckinghamshire County Council will work in partnership with neighbouring authorities and other transport providers to enable cross boundary travel and ensure access to key services and employment centres.

The Passenger Transport team work with all our neighbouring local authorities to maintain cross boundary bus services and seek best value via joint procurement where appropriate. Recent joint working with Hertfordshire CC and Carousel Buses has secured the future of route 336 (High Wycombe – Amersham – Watford).

Travel Bucks Policy No. 5

Buckinghamshire County Council will prioritise the public transport budget on subsidising the Core Bus Network and maintaining Rural Accessibility bus services where they continue to be viably used; in order to secure a sustainable future for public transport provision.

Public Transport contract reviews take account of these key policy aims.

Detailed assessment criteria based on a range of policy and value for money measures are used is used to assess contracts and create revised timetables which are then subject to wider consultation via members, local area forums and user groups.

Travel Bucks Policy No. 6

Buckinghamshire County Council will undertake regular reviews of higher cost bus services as part of prioritising public transport budgets to ensure value for money, taking into account local accessibility priorities.

This is carried out through annual reviews of contacted service performance through the TfB business planning process and the MTP process. This has seen significant MTP reductions being



made to the bus subsidy budget whilst still retaining a viable public transport network. Where contracted services are reviewed Local Area Forums are used as the basis for feedback and consultations.

Travel Bucks Policy No. 7

Buckinghamshire County Council will support community transport operators to develop sustainable business models by:

- *Offering business development advice and expertise.*

This is offered by Community Impact Bucks via toolkits and mentoring.

- *Supporting the preparation of funding bids for alternative income streams.*

Community Impact Bucks, bucks Community Foundation and BCC Localities team offer a range of support to assist with accessing funding.

Travel Bucks Policy No. 8

Buckinghamshire County Council will set up a finite Community Transport Challenge Fund utilising DfT funding for 2012 – 2014 to 'pump prime' community transport projects and seek to gain further funding to support community transport.

The Community Transport Challenge Fund was launched in August 2012 and £150,000 is available to support new community transport schemes. The scheme is administered by the Buckinghamshire Community Foundation and to date just over 50% of the funding has been allocated with further bids being considered later in the year.

Travel Bucks Policy No. 9

Buckinghamshire County Council will work towards developing a transport information hub which manages the coordination and communication of a range of transport services in partnership with other transport providers.

The Community Transport Hub was launched countywide in September 2012 and received 1510 calls in its first year. The hub provides advice to those unable to access mainstream passenger transport and puts those with a transport needs in touch with community transport providers who may be able to assist them. Jointly funded by TfB and the NHS Trust the hub is managed by community impact Bucks.

