

**Update for Community Boards:
Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) pilot scheme – Aylesbury**

Demand Responsive Transport is a flexible type of bus service that allows users to book their journeys on demand as they require it, between any two points within the operational area. This is instead of a traditionally routed and scheduled bus service but provided at fares that are in line with them.

Buckinghamshire Council were successful in submitting a bid to the Department for Transport Rural Mobility Fund (RMF) in 2020. This provides part-funding for two DRT pilot schemes which will operate for 3 years in High Wycombe and in Aylesbury. The High Wycombe scheme, known as "[Pick Me Up](#)", launched in September 2022.

The Council has recently awarded a contract to [Wemove](#), for the Aylesbury scheme. Once operational the service will drop off passengers anywhere within the coverage area, which includes Stoke Mandeville Hospital, railway stations, employment areas and Aylesbury town centre. As required, the scheme coverage area was closely defined in the grant bid to the Department for Transport, and the grant funding was awarded on this basis. This means that the area covered is unlikely to be expanded during the pilot scheme period.

The DRT schemes are new services to Buckinghamshire that are unlike anything we have operated in the past and Buckinghamshire Council is one of 15 local authorities with funding from Government to trial them. The purpose of the pilot schemes is to assess and understand whether this sort of service can affordably and sustainably link communities which are off the regular bus network together. As well as hoping to establish a sustainable service for these pilot areas going forward, there are significant learning opportunities about what does and does not work in this sector, as is the experience of the other 14 local authorities who are each running a slightly different sort of scheme.

The new Aylesbury DRT service is planned to start in late spring 2024 and will benefit residents in villages around Aylesbury, including Aston Clinton, Weston Turville, Stoke Mandeville, Weedon, Hartwell and Bishopstone, by providing a convenient and affordable travel option to supplement existing public transport services.

Further information about the Aylesbury scheme will be publicised in the coming weeks as the new contract is mobilised. Officers from the Public Transport team would be very happy to attend a future Community Board meeting to provide information and promote the new scheme as it launches.

For more information about the DRT pilot schemes in High Wycombe or Aylesbury please contact: passtrans@buckinghamshire.gov.uk