

COACH TRANSPORT TO AND FROM CAMBRIDGE

To: **Cambridge City Joint Area Committee**

Date: **20th January 2015**

From: **Joseph Whelan, Head of Passenger Transport Services**

Electoral division(s): **Market**

Forward Plan ref: **N/a** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To update Members on the issue of Coach travel into an out of Cambridge.**

Recommendation: **To note that a strategic review will be taking place of the future role of coach travel to serve an expanding city.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>	
Name:	Joseph Whelan
Post:	Head of Passenger Transport Services
Email:	Joseph.whelan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 715585

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In September 2014, the Cambridge City Joint Area Committee considered a report on the coach parking and passenger facilities in Parkside, Cambridge. The report was for information and comment and not for a decision.
- 1.2 The report noted the changes in traffic management that have taken place in the city centre over the past 10 years including the moving of the coach parking and waiting facilities to Parkside. There is an outstanding matter of a time-limited planning permission for the kiosk currently used by National Express staff that is located on Parkside adjacent to the coach bays and shelters. The original grant of that planning permission required a review to be undertaken of coach facilities in the City.
- 1.3 The report to CJAC in September 2014 set down a number of things that have changed since the kiosk was installed. The redevelopment at Cambridge railway station that provided a much improved public transport interchange for bus and rail passengers presented an opportunity for coach operators to move their operating hub to Cambridge railway station. However operators wish to remain in a more central location in the city and have chosen not to make use of the improved facilities at the railway station.
- 1.4 A range of views were expressed and comments made at the meeting in September. In summary, the consensus at the September meeting was that CJAC are strongly of the view that a strategic review of coach travel into and out of Cambridge is required and that the location for a coach 'hub' is examined as part of this review.

2. MAIN ISSUES

Strategic Review of Coach Travel in Cambridge

- 2.1 The County Council will be letting a 'Cambridge Capacity and Access Study' contract shortly. This is part of the City Deal work programme. The role of coach travel in moving residents, workers and visitors into and out of Cambridge now and in the future will be examined. This work will also examine the necessity, or otherwise, of coach services to access the city centre and provide information on a suitable location for a coach hub.
- 2.2 The strategic review will be managed through the City Deal work programme that has its own governance arrangements.

Changes to facilities and infrastructure

- 2.3 Any future process that would be followed to implement changes to passenger facilities is the same whether those are at Parkside or a different location.
- 2.4 Proposals that include permanent new structures such as waiting areas or toilets (not just bus shelters) would require planning permission. The planning application would be considered by Cambridge City Council. The process would include formal consultation and pre-application discussions. The general public including those living near the location of any changes would be encouraged to participate in the discussion.

- 2.5 If new facilities were to be provided elsewhere then the relocating of the coach hub would be deemed a strategic project. It is likely that changes to existing Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) would be required. This process would be managed by the County Council through its Traffic Management Service and through the County Council's Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee.

Source Documents
Report to and minutes of Cambridge City Joint Area Committee, 23 September 2014
Location
www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=946