

**COMMUNITY TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN - UPDATE**

*To:* **Audit & Accounts Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **24<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

*From:* **Duncan Wilkinson, Chief Internal Auditor**

*Purpose:* **To provide the Committee with an update on progress with the Community Transport Action Plan, following the previous update to Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

**To highlight matters arising as part of the implementation of these actions, and invite the views of Committee members.**

*Recommendation:* **Audit & Accounts Committee is requested to note the progress with the Action Plan and confirm that they agree for the action outlined at Section 3.2 to be closed.**

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## **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 There was a major review of Community Transport in Cambridgeshire, culminating in the public meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2018. A twelve-page Action Plan, presented by the Chief Executive, was reviewed in detail. Additional actions were agreed during the meeting, and these have been added to a final full action plan.
- 1.2 During the meeting it was agreed that Audit & Accounts Committee would maintain oversight of the implementation of recommendations, to ensure they are carried out as planned. The most recent update on Action Plan progress was brought to the meeting of the Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

## **CURRENT PROGRESS**

- 2.1 A copy of the Action Plan, showing only actions which were not marked as 'complete' at the previous Committee meeting, is provided at Appendix 1. In this document, the numbering of actions has been retained from the original full Action Plan, to ensure continuity.
- 2.2 Of the 7 actions which had not been completed at the time of the previous meeting:
  - 1 is an ongoing action, with no expected end date (14%)
  - 2 actions have been marked as completed (29%)
  - 4 remain in progress (57%)
- 2.3 Committee is requested to note the progress with implementation of the Action Plan.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

Key areas for the Committee to be aware of are highlighted below.

### **Reclamation of Funding:**

PKF were commissioned to provide an independent estimate of the extent to which public funding subsidised the growth of the Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT), Huntingdonshire Association for Community Transport (HACT) and Ely & Soham Association for Community Transport (ESACT) (FH&E) commercial fleet, to provide a basis for recovery action to be taken by the Council, in line with the request from the Audit & Accounts Committee. This report has been shared with senior management and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Audit & Accounts Committee. It had previously been anticipated that this report could be shared in full with the Audit & Accounts Committee at the current meeting.

However, negotiations with FH&E regarding the reclamation of public funding have progressed more slowly than expected. Negotiations are being led by the Council's Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Place and Economy, with the Chairman of Audit & Accounts.

### 3.2 Annual Review of Community Transport Grant Outcomes and Benefits:

One of the actions arising from the audit was the need for an annual review of outcomes and benefits from community transport grant awards to be conducted by the Transport service and reported to Economy & Environment Committee.

The service has stated that they are only six months into the new grant agreements and therefore annual information is not available. It is also noted that Community Transport is now a Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority responsibility. In 2019/20, the Combined Authority agreed a set level of funding for the provision of Community Transport and delegated responsibility for day-to-day provision back to the County Council. It is proposed therefore that as long as the function is undertaken on behalf of the Combined Authority, this is reported to the Committee, but should the Combined Authority take on delivery of the function, then the action would be closed.

### 3.3 Member Consideration of Community Transport Provision:

A further action from the audit was for “Member consideration of how best to provide community transport services to be deferred until all possibilities including the Mayor's Bus review, could be taken into consideration”.

As the Combined Authority work on the Bus Review has not yet concluded, it is proposed at this time that consideration should be deferred until that position is clear.

Source Documents	Location
Community Transport Action Plan	Internal Audit Octagon 1, Shire Hall, Cambridge