

**DRAFT MINUTE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 11 OCTOBER 2018**

**Draft Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning Draft Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 8" is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:

- i) All current subsidised services had been extended to June 2019 to allow for the new Policy and Strategy to be in place and implemented.
- ii) Leicestershire County Council could only assess current demand for transport, as a robust evidence base was needed. When new developments were proposed there would be an assessment of passenger transport needs in relation to that development as part of the planning process.
- iii) Concerns were raised that over 77% of respondents felt the draft policy would make it harder for them to access essential services. However, it was clarified that people fundamentally agreed with the priority groupings and priority activities identified, but disagreed that an alternative solution could be anything but a bus.
- iv) Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) represented a far more cost effective solution than operating and paying for a scheduled bus, which on some occasions may carry no, or few passengers. The Council recognised more work needed to be done to promote the benefits and increase the awareness and understanding of how it works; hence £145,000 was being put into resources to help with the transition in the areas that would be affected.
- v) The draft PTPS did not consider "Leisure" as a priority journey; however this did not preclude those users from accessing such services via DRT.
- v) Currently a major piece of work was underway to refresh the County Council's Section 106 policy. The County Council had to look to the regulations governing Section 106 Developer Contributions. Where such contributions had been sought, for instance transport for a new development, if that development was then serviced by a commercial bus operator, the S106 monies would need to be refunded.

- vi) Some Bus Pass users had indicated they would be willing to pay towards their concessionary fare. However, there was no mechanism for the County Council to facilitate this. The only way for these users to contribute would be for those people to pay the full fare.

RESOLVED:

That the comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 16 October 2018, and that the Cabinet be advised that the majority of the Committee supported the draft Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy. (Members of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Group expressed concern at the level of savings required of this area of service.)