

Community Transport Sub Committee Minutes

15 11 22

In attendance:

Cllr Janet Jackson

Cllr Ruth Thompson

Cllr Neil Puttick

Apologies:

Cllr David Edwardes

Cllr Alift Harewood

1. Chair's Welcome

Cllr Janet Jackson welcomed the group.

2. Update on actions from previous meeting:

- In principle the TC can contract a bus service. The TC would have to go through the procurement process and the contractors would be responsible for all the correct permits etc.
Councillors have been seeking feedback from residents about the introduction of a possible bus service and feedback has been negative at this moment. It is also worth noting that the bus fare caps have come in which may encourage people to use the buses provided by CEC.
- Ls met with Simon Finnie of ECT, who runs community transport on Cheshire West and Chester and who also has years of experience in commercial bus transport. The following for keys points of the meeting are:
 - Their bus service is subsidised by CWAC- morning and early evening take adult services people to day services. Other users can pay £5 per journey to go anywhere across the county. They have to be more than 80, unable to use public transport, have memory problems and/ or difficulty walking. They have to pre book the journey.
 - Social value part here is the key, to combat loneliness and isolation, plus they will be joining in with the warm places schemes.
 - They also run services in Ealing and Dorset which are registered bus services with traffic commissioner, section 22 all no profit,
 - CEC run a similar service called Flexilink transport
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport/flexible_transport_services/cheshire-east-flexible-transport-service.aspx
 - Key difference is that the CEC is much smaller.
 - In terms of £100,000 it is not large enough to run a commercial service.
 - The key to running a commercial service is to do so in an area that has no services. This is mainly rural areas.
 - There are also issues with doing a bus service where there is already a bus service as we would be competing with a commercial bus service where a large amount of people are entitled to free bus services.
- Also, possible transport to our events, LS looked into a bus to go round the town and bring people to events but there was no interest from the companies she contacted.

Therefore, suggestions are:

To consider funding CEC to increase Flexilink transport.

This was discussed by the group, however the preferred option is to promote the current flexilink service.

Discussions with actions:

- Promote flexi transport and bus capped fares with campaigns, informing residents of the semantics and educating them about what is out there already, e.g how far you can go etc. Promote to people that there is a regular efficient bus service. AS to create a campaign.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-bus-fare-cap-across-england-to-save-passengers-money>
- Macc events are the place to promote all the transport available all ready, along with the Macc Updates and other promotional materials, add bus/flexi transport in Macc updates on possibly on website.
- Explore if a free bus day (like the free car park day) would be viable though CEC and Arriva. This is to drive behavioral change and encourage those people who don't use buses to try using a bus for the day.

3. Time and date of next meeting:
21st FEB 2023 5pm