

CONSULTATION ON REVIEW OF THE DECISION TO REMOVE ALL SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICE FUNDING

Cambridgeshire County Council wants to hear your views on changes and reductions being proposed to bus services which are supported by financial contributions from Council funds.

Why we are contacting you

The majority of bus services in Cambridgeshire (about 80%) are provided by commercial operators without subsidy. However, the County Council subsidises some bus services which bus operators are unable to operate on a commercial basis. In the future, this may not be possible due to reduced overall grants to councils from Government and increased costs of services. The County Council needs to make savings of around £540 million over the next five years and some of these savings have to come from the transport budget.

The County Council's Cabinet has agreed that a review of last year's budget decision to cut the £2.7 million that is currently spent on subsidising bus journeys in Cambridgeshire over the next four years should take place. This review is being carried out as part of this year's budget planning process, ensuring that we consult widely, seek views on not only the principle of making the cuts but also on the impact of specific route changes. We are also looking back at the routes that have already been cut, gathering feedback on how this has impacted communities in these areas.

Alongside this work, we are working hard with operators, community transport providers, local councils and businesses to see if we can find alternative and viable ways of meeting the transport needs of communities as much as possible and looking for other alternative solutions to help reduce the impact of these changes. This is through a project called Cambridgeshire Future Transport. This aims to look at innovative ways of providing transport and to focus this more on community and local needs. This could be through the expansion of community transport or developing completely new forms of demand-led transport.

Your views are an important part of this process to help us decide on how we implement the financial savings and where possible find local solutions.

We welcome your comments

The County Council welcomes any comments you may have about the above proposals. A questionnaire is available on the following link: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/busreview

If you do not have access to this online questionnaire, paper copies are available by contacting us using one of the following means

By email bus.tenders@cambridgeshire.gov.uk, **By telephone** 0345 045 0675

By post Cambridgeshire County Council, CC1301, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP

The closing date for the questionnaire is **16:00 on Friday 9th December 2011.**

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor Mac McGuire,
Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community Engagement**