

7 November 2024

Public Transport Working Group Notes

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks and Graham Parker. Non-Councillor member John Sillett

In Attendance: Karen Chapman (OPR Consultancy) and Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk & Planning Assistant)

With the public transport survey completed, the Working Group needed to consider what actions could be taken with the survey used to evidence the need for improvement in public transport in Lowestoft.

The Working Group first reviewed the Suffolk County Council (SCC) Local Transport Plan 2025-2040, as a transport authority it was a statutory requirement for SCC to produce a transport plan. This was currently a consultation draft and responses from interested parties needed to be received by 25 November 2024. The plan provided a long-term vision and a set of objectives to inform policy and Local Planning Authorities on local plans for growth and development.

The consultation required participants to review the different sections of the plan and prioritise the actions within.

SCC had also produced a consultation draft Lowestoft Area Transport Plan (one of fifteen area plans). This plan had five objectives specific to Lowestoft: enabling active travel as a default choice, improving bus reliability, improving integration, maximising and supporting town centre economies. This consultation deadline was also 25 November.

The public transport survey was reviewed and it was noted the main issue raised was the infrequency and lack of reliability with buses (which could be used as evidence for the Lowestoft Area Transport Plan). The survey had a good response rate and based on the data it was concluded residents were keen to see the bus services expanded.

Karen informed the Working Group of a reserve list of public transport-related proposals that had been received when SCC were last given access to funding for public transport. One proposal from an individual on that list requested a bus service that runs from Pakefield to Pleasurewood Hills. Karen suggested LTC write to SCC and endorse that application as the proposals on the reserve list may be more likely to be considered with the next round of funding.

It was agreed to public the survey results after they had been received by the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee.

Both the Local Transport Plan 2025-2040 and the Lowestoft Area Transport Plan would be brought to the relevant Committee to agree on the consultation response.

For the Lowestoft Area Transport Plan the public transport survey would be linked in the response. A cover letter would also be attached addressed to Chris Chambers (SCC Cabinet Member for Transport) to notify him of LTC's response and the public transport survey, notifying him LTC is keen to work with him to improve public transport in the area. The letter would also highlight LTC's support of the Pakefield to Pleasurewood Hills application on the SCC reserve list.