

# People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Dorset County Council**



Date of Meeting	9 January 2019
Officer	Service Director, Environment, Infrastructure and Economy
<b>Subject of Report</b>	<b>Integrated Transport Review Update</b>
Executive Summary	<p>On 26 July 2017 a report was presented to the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the role of community transport with a reduced public and schools transport budget. The committee requested that the findings in the report be presented on an inquiry day, similar to that of the previous community transport review day in 2014. The inquiry day was later expanded to include all travel to give a holistic view of travel in Dorset.</p> <p>This inquiry day was held on 26 February 2018 and attended by operators, councillors, officers, community groups, charities, community interest companies, transport action groups, health services and market influencers.</p> <p>The day looked at <b>Starting Well</b> with school travel, <b>Living Well</b> with public and community travel, <b>Living Better</b> on how to prepare for later living and finally looking at the <b>Next Steps</b> of integration with health provision. The sessions were followed with questions to gauge the groups desired outcomes from travel, to ensure the approach within the Passenger Transport Strategy and since the last review is correct.</p> <p>On 4 July 2018 a report was presented to the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee requesting the committee to consider the report and support the approach taken by Dorset Travel to continue to support the Passenger Transport Strategy.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>There are no specific EQIA issues arising from the scoping report, but any arising in the future will be addressed.</p>

	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>The report is based on evidence of previous Scrutiny Committee reports and the Integrated Transport Review Day held on 26 February 2018.</p> <hr/> <p>Budget:</p> <p>No implication.</p> <hr/> <p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:</p> <p>Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk: LOW</p> <p><i>(i.e. reflecting the recommendations in this report and mitigating actions proposed)</i></p> <hr/> <p>Outcomes:</p> <p>N/A</p> <hr/> <p>Other Implications:</p> <p>None</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>The committee is asked to consider the update report and to continue to support the approach being taken by Dorset Travel.</p>
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<p>The changes since 2014 have addressed the holistic transport review needs and Dorset Travel is now progressing the further integration of travel across Dorset.</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report on Integrated Transport Review, 4 July 2018</li> <li>- Briefing Note on Community Transport, 26 June 2017</li> </ul>
<p>Officer Contact</p>	<p>Name: Gordon Sneddon Tel: 01305 228653 Email: g.r.sneddon@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 On 26 June 2017 the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a briefing report on Community Transport. As a result, the Committee agreed that a review be undertaken by way of an inquiry day. However, at a later meeting between the Lead Member, supporting councillors and officers it was agreed that the inquiry day should be extended to incorporate all modes of transport; not just community transport.
- 1.2 As a result, the Integrated Transport Review Day was held on 26 February 2018. Key stakeholders for transport attended including representatives from parish, town, borough and district councils, Transport Actions Groups, community transport schemes and public transport operators.
- 1.3 The purpose of the review was to look at all aspects of transport services in Dorset, listen to the views of people at the forefront of these services and discuss possible solutions for the future.
- 1.4 The programme was split into four themed sessions:
- **Starting Well** - Mainstream School and Special Educational Needs
  - **Living Well** - Public Transport and Community Transport
  - **Living Better** - Transformation Programme
  - **Next Steps** - Integrated Transport Planning and learning from others
- 1.5 A report was presented to the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 July 2018. The report outlined the speaker presentations and what was discussed at the Integrated Transport Review Day.

2. **Progress since People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 July 2018**

- 2.1 The progress made since the report to the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4 July 2018 regarding the Integrated Transport Review is as follows:

3. **Donation of Vehicles**

- 3.1 Dorset Travel donated a surplus vehicle to Beaminster Town Council to start the CB3 community transport Saturday service on 23 June 2018. Service CB3 links Bridport and Crewkerne, including Beaminster and the surrounding parishes en route. This service is run by volunteers to keep the costs low. Dorset Travel's Training Officer trained the volunteers on driver awareness, free of charge.
- 3.2 A surplus Dorset Travel vehicle was also donated to Yeovil College to allow their students who are Dorset residents to travel to and from Yeovil College. This College service fills a gap left for Dorset students as a result of recent timetable changes to local public bus services. This service started on 12 November 2018. Yeovil College are responsible for organising the transport, legal documentation and maintenance of the vehicle.

4. **Community Transport Grants**

- 4.1 Dorset Travel met with Sherborne Transport Committee Group, local residents, councillors and NORDCAT in August 2018. The group felt that a Monday service was needed to fill a gap left by the recent deregistration of a local public bus service,

especially for the West End of Sherborne. Following this meeting, Sherborne Town Council was awarded a Community Transport Grant to cover 50% of the shortfall in fares during the trial service that started on 29 October 2018.

- 4.2 Sherborne Town Council has also applied for a Community Transport Grant to contribute towards a vehicle so that NORDCAT can provide regular, daily community transport services to Sherborne and the surrounding areas. In addition to the 50% match funding from Sherborne Town Council, they have liaised with West Dorset District Council and the neighbouring parish councils to raise sufficient funds for a pre-owned accessible 16-seater minibus.
- 4.3 Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride applied for a Community Transport Grant to enable the scheme to develop a sustainable model. This will involve various methods, including a review of the fare structure and marketing to grow the services in Dorset to enable long-term sustainability. The DCC Communications Team has also offered to help Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride to publicise their scheme.

## 5. **New Transport Action Group**

- 5.1 A Blandford and Rural Areas Transport Action Group (BRATAG) is to be established. Dorset Travel met with local town, parish and community transport representatives to explore setting up a Transport Action Group for the area. The next meeting is in January to focus on the terms of reference and group structure.

## 6. **Work with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)**

- 6.1 Dorset Travel officers attended an Engagement Meeting hosted by the CCG in July 2018. CCG's aim is to join up healthcare and transport to improve accessibility for all. The Service Director, Environment, Infrastructure and Economy was a speaker at this meeting together with a speaker from the CCG. Discussion sessions were then held on what's working well now, what could be improved, what services should be included in an integrated transport system, what are the likely barriers and what the Dorset transport model could look like. The CCG received a good volume of insight from the event with the sharing of ideas, expertise and experiences. They are in the process of analysing and will keep all informed on the progress of this project.
- 6.2 Dorset Travel has been working with the CCG on the North Dorset Integrated Transport Pilot Project. Accessibility audits and patient surveys are to be carried out at 14 GP practice sites in North Dorset and 3 community hospital sites. These are due to be completed by the end of 2018. Paper copies of the local Area Community Transport Directories and electronic links to the main Directory on dorsetforyou have been distributed to all North Dorset surgeries with plans to roll out to all Dorset surgeries.
- 6.3 Liaison is taking place with Patient Participation Groups and Community Transport Operators (NORDCAT and Dorset Community Transport) to coincide passengers' medical appointments and clinics with the timings of their trips.

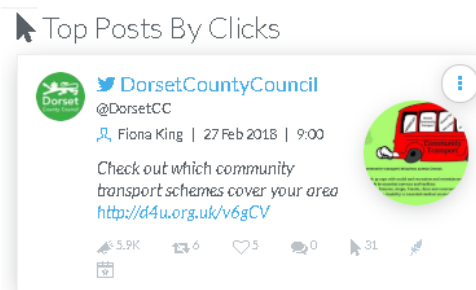
## 7. **New Volunteer Car Scheme**

- 7.1 A volunteer car scheme (Stalbridge NeighbourCar) is being set up and is due to be up and running by December 2018. There are 12 volunteer drivers in total. This new scheme coincides with the closure of Stalbridge Surgery at the end of 2018 and will enable Stalbridge residents who do not have access to transport to travel to their alternative GP surgery.

## 8. Communications

8.1 Dorset Travel has continued to work with the Communications Team to promote community transport on social media. Since the Integrated Transport Review event on 26 February until 23 November 2018, on Facebook there have been:

- Number of posts/ads on Community Transport - 11
- Number of people that clicked through via these posts/ads to dorsetforyou - 82
- Reach (maximum number of people that could potentially see the post) - 8.3k
- Number of inbound messages received from the public as a result of the post/ad - 5



On Twitter there have been:

- Number of posts/ads on Community Transport - 10
- Number of people that clicked through via these posts/ads to dorsetforyou - 112
- Reach (maximum number of people that could potentially see the post) - 47.5k



8.2 Three press releases were sent out regarding:

- Beaminster Country Cars - praise for local community transport scheme.
- CB3 - start of Bridport to Crewkerne Saturday service run by Beaminster Town Council and volunteers.
- Sherborne Monday service operated by NORDCAT and supported by Sherborne Town Council.

8.3 Community transport has now featured in the last 10 consecutive editions of Your Dorset. The most recent were:

- The Winter 2018 edition had articles about the Sherborne Monday service and the CB3 Bridport to Crewkerne Saturday Service.
- The Summer 2018 publication had an article about the A-line Taxis shared taxi service for Martinstown.
- Spring 2018 featured the Southill community bus in Weymouth.

**Matthew Piles**  
**Service Director**  
**Environment, Infrastructure and Economy**  
December 2018