



## **Update Report regarding Passenger Transport Developments within Somerset**

### **Total Transport**

A large amount of work has been undertaken mapping passenger transport in Somerset. This includes front facing public transport ie public buses, taxis DRT and Community Transport as well as back office closed routes for education health and social care trips. Alongside this we have been undertaking background work on web portal design to facilitate journey planning across all of the above modes, smart application and ticketing.

We have tendered for a short term (3mth) consultancy project to undertake stakeholder engagement and produce a report and specification for us to then go to the market for the portal. Although it appears to be slow progress it is important we get this right as all links to systems and information and the right technology need to be in place to enable the correct up to date information to be in place otherwise it won't succeed. This due to be awarded next week

Alongside this we have been working with Somerset Intelligence to produce a report with detailed information on geographical population showing areas of low car use, deprivation and high use of health and social care services. The transport information on public and DRT use has also been used to reach some conclusions on social need moving forward alongside any commercial viability.

### **Smart card Development & real-time information**

There are a number of local and National developments of smartcards. Nationally the government Quango ITSO are very close to the implementation of contactless payment and smartcard both being read on one machine o the bus. This will give the travelling public much more choice of payment types.

Development is underway to implement smart application and payment for County ticket (student interoperable ticket) and park & ride services. These should be up and running by Aug/September of this year.

We have also introduced ticket machines on all of our DRT services to allow smart ticketing to be used for older people and students

Further development will commence shortly to work with operators to develop more interoperable smart tickets using the Love the Bus smartcards which can be topped up on line and used to pay for travel on bus. We would propose this maybe a solution for use in the Wincanton interchange to allow for feeder travel using Wincanton CAT and scheduled public buses.

The card will look like this...



As you will be aware we are also working on developing real-time solutions on public transport. The park & ride will be the first service to benefit but we propose to roll this out further into urban areas and also have an app linked to the web portal which individuals will be able to download to a mobile. If Wincanton is to be a transport hub it would be beneficial for Wincanton CAT to have electronic ticket machines which could then facilitate real-time links to public buses and a display board could show next bus at the interchange.

### **Developments with Health**

We continue to work with colleagues in the CCG and medical practices to develop sustainable transport solutions. Car schemes are often a good solution in urban areas where access to services is sporadic using public transport. Medical centres are now being approached to develop these schemes within the practice.

A New PTS provider has been appointed to deliver the non-emergency minibus service. We have already started to work with this provider to improve access and enable individuals to use spare seats to access other services on their routes.

### **Summary**

There are a number of projects in place which are designed to improve transport information and access for the public in the near future. In challenging financial times the amount of development is limited but with better access to information and the joining of services the vision is to provide more capacity through improved usage of existing services.

I am conscious that most of these projects are Countywide rather than relating solely to South Somerset. I would be happy to discuss further any other initiatives we could work together to deliver such as smartcards for job applicants - possibly a pilot in South Somerset?

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