

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE FUTURE TRANSPORT INITIATIVE
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being))**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 12th July 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered the report by the Head of Planning Services on the Cambridgeshire future transport initiative. This report summarises the Panel's discussions.

2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 The Panel has reviewed proposals for alternative ways of meeting county-wide transport needs following an announcement by the County Council that all public transport subsidies across Cambridgeshire would end by April 2015. A broad agreement has been reached amongst those partners involved in the delivery of passenger transport to work collaboratively in order to investigate what wider community benefits could be achieved through a more efficient, effective and co-ordinated approach by working across organisational boundaries, joining up resources, priorities, people and journeys, together with transport operators. The work is being overseen by a cross-authority member led Governance group comprising the County Council, NHS Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Acre with representation from Huntingdonshire District Council and support from consultants.
- 2.2 Members have discussed the implications for the Council, which currently supports comprehensive and highly regarded community transport based services across the District within a budget of £83.5k per annum. Under the new arrangements from 2012/13 onwards this budget would be aligned with other partners as part of the wider scheme objectives. Whilst members expressed their support for moves to create a more efficient service they were keen to support the requirement that the Council's engagement and the eventual outcomes align with the community objectives contained within the Council Plan. The Panel has stressed the importance of safeguarding the Council's interests in community transport which often provides a lifeline to rural communities and was keen to highlight the need to guarantee added value and robustness to the service before Council funds are committed.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is requested to take into consideration the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) as set out above when considering this item.

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