

<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	8	
<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>Date:</b>	26 February 2024	
<b>Report Title:</b>	FDC Transport Policy	

**Cover sheet:**

**1 Purpose / Summary**

- 1.1 This report relates to the development of a Fenland Transport Policy. It is seeking support on the principle of writing a draft strategy and agreement to bringing a draft document of this nature back to Cabinet for approval in future. Members are requested to:
- Approve the development of a draft transport policy that will come back to Cabinet for discussion and adoption during financial year 2024/25.

**2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 In recent years significant transport work has been undertaken by the Local Transport Authority (CPCA) and the Local Highway Authority (CCC) on transport issues in Fenland. FDC has worked in partnership with both authorities and other stakeholder organisations to ensure the maximum benefits are achieved for Fenland. We will continue to take forward such approaches in future as we are committed to progressing transport improvements and addressing the infrastructure and service deficit that exists in Fenland.
- 2.2 In March 2023 a new CCC Fenland Transport Strategy was approved and in November 2023, the new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) was adopted. These documents set out substantial plans for transport for Fenland.
- 2.3 In October 2023, FDC Council debated and approved two motions concerning transport. These focused on the emerging LTCP and a war on motorists. Full council support for the adoption of these motions demonstrates that in some situations FDC has a different view about the approach needed for transport issues in Fenland.
- 2.4 An FDC transport policy is not intended to rewrite or challenge the above-mentioned policies. There are significant areas of these plans where FDC is in complete agreement. The proposed FDC approach is intended to add clarity to the Fenland position in areas where there are differences of approach.
- 2.5 It is considered that FDC needs a stronger voice on transport issues that is distinctive to the district, which reflects the current local transport situation and infrastructure availability and ensures that FDC can deliver its business plan more effectively.

- 2.6 FDC also has current adopted transport policies. The Fenland Rail Development Strategy (2012) and the Fenland Walking, Cycling and Mobility Aid Strategy (2022). A Fenland transport policy can help to strengthen the position of these strategies giving them an additional policy basis. The proposed new policy is not intended to replace or rewrite these strategies. There will also be the opportunity to add further strategies in future should they be needed.
- 2.7 The addition of a proposed policy is to provide clarity on FDC transport position and to give a formal policy basis in areas where FDC believes that a different approach is needed in Fenland. The Council also wants to add additional weight to future consultations and discussions that will take place with our partners and stakeholders about transport.
- 2.8 Should Cabinet be minded to approve this paper, a draft FDC transport policy will be developed and brought back to Cabinet for discussion and approval. The process to establish a draft transport policy document to be available for consideration and adoption during financial year 2024/25.

### 3 Recommendations

3.1 Members are requested to:

- Approve the development of a draft transport policy that will come back to Cabinet for discussion and adoption during financial year 2024/25.

Wards Affected	All FDC wards
Forward Plan Reference	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Seaton - Portfolio Holder for Transport, Heritage, and Culture
Report Originator(s)	Wendy Otter (Transport Development Manager)
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## Background Papers

FDC Full Council – 2 October 2023. Motion 1 by Cllr Nawaz CPCA and CCC war on Motorists  
[MOTION 1.pdf \(fenland.gov.uk\)](#)

FDC Full Council – 2 October 2023. Motion 3 by Cllr Christy. CPCA Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP)  
[MOTION 3.pdf \(fenland.gov.uk\)](#)

FDC Fenland Rail Development Strategy 2012 – 2031 Adoption (April 2012)  
[Meeting of Cabinet on Thursday, 19th April, 2012, 4.00 pm - Fenland District Council](#)

FDC Walking, Cycling and Mobility Aid Strategy (2022)  
[Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 3rd October, 2022, 2.00 pm - Fenland District Council](#)

CPCA Transport and Infrastructure Committee – 17 November 2023  
[CMIS > Meetings](#)

CCC – Highways and Transport Committee – March 2023 – Adoption of Fenland Transport Strategy  
[Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

## Report:

### **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In recent years significant transport work has been undertaken by the Local Transport Authority (CPCA) and the Local Highway Authority (CCC) on transport issues in Fenland. FDC has worked in partnership with both authorities and other stakeholder organisations to ensure the maximum benefits are achieved for Fenland. We will continue to take forward such approaches in future as we are committed to progressing transport improvements and addressing the infrastructure and service deficit that exists in Fenland.
- 1.2 In March 2023 a new CCC Fenland Transport Strategy was approved and in November 2023, the new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) was adopted. These documents set out substantial plans for transport for Fenland.
- 1.3 In October 2023, FDC Council debated and approved two motions concerning transport. These focused on the emerging LTCP and a war on motorists. Full council support for the adoption of these motions demonstrates that in some situations FDC has a different view about the approach needed for transport issues in Fenland.

### **2 Development of a proposed FDC Transport Policy**

- 2.1 An FDC transport policy is not intended to rewrite or challenge the above-mentioned policies. There are significant areas of these plans where FDC is in complete agreement. The proposed FDC approach is intended to add clarity to the Fenland position in areas where there are differences of approach.
- 2.2 It is considered that FDC needs a stronger voice on transport issues that is distinctive to the district, which reflects the current local transport situation and infrastructure availability and ensures that FDC can deliver its business plan more effectively.
- 2.3 FDC also has current adopted transport policies. The Fenland Rail Development Strategy (2012) and the Fenland Walking, Cycling and Mobility Aid Strategy (2022). A Fenland transport policy can help to strengthen the position of these strategies giving them an additional policy basis. The proposed new policy is not intended to replace or rewrite these strategies. There will also be the opportunity to add further strategies in future should they be needed.
- 2.4 The addition of a proposed policy is to provide clarity on FDC transport position and to give a formal policy basis in areas where FDC believes that a different approach is needed in Fenland. The Council also wants to add additional weight to future consultations and discussions that will take place with our partners and stakeholders about transport.
- 2.5 Should Cabinet be minded to approve this paper, a draft FDC transport policy will be developed and brought back to Cabinet for discussion and approval.

The process to establish a draft transport policy document to be available for consideration and adoption during financial year 2024/25.

### **3 CONSULTATION**

3.1 Significant levels of public consultation have been undertaken in recent years about transport issues in Fenland. These consultations have been undertaken by CCC, CPCA and FDC and include more than 1,000 responses from residents and stakeholders. Based on the feedback provided FDC has a strong and significant transport evidence base from local people. The FDC transport policy will reflect this feedback.

3.2 The above-mentioned consultation responses included all modes of transport and have focused on transport policies and programmes along with actions plans and specific schemes for Fenland. The responses represent a significant time going back to 2010 and involve partnership working with CPCA and CCC. The responses include the following consultations with the adoption years for the relevant strategies and plans:

- FDC Rail Development Strategy (2010/2011)
- Chatteris Market Town Transport Strategy (2010)
- Whittlesey Market Town Transport Strategy (2012)
- Whittlesea Station Masterplan (2013)
- Manea Station Masterplan (2014)
- Wisbech Market Town Transport Strategy (2016)
- March Station Masterplan (2017)
- Fenland Transport and Access Group Transport Focus Groups (2018 and 2019)
- Local Transport Plan (first CPCA Plan) (2020)
- FDC Town and Parish Council transport and bus services consultation (2020)
- Fenland Walking, Cycling and Mobility Aid Strategy (2022)
- CCC Fenland Transport Strategy (March 2023)
- Fenland Walking, Cycling and Mobility Aid Strategy
- CPCA Bus Services Consultation (2022 and 2023)
- Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (second CPCA Plan) (Nov 2023)

### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 Alternative options have not been considered. Cambridgeshire Country Council as the Local Highway Authority and CPCA as the Local Transport Authority have programmes to develop transport proposals across all modes of transport. These strategies were adopted in 2023 and they cover all modes of transport. FDC made representations to the consultations for these documents, and we worked in partnership to develop many of the proposals included. FDC elected members are also represented on the Committees and Boards which made up part of the decision-making process for those strategies.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Legal Implications**

5.2 There are no specific legal implications with the development of an FDC transport policy. The draft proposed policy will be written in accordance with current transport legislation and guidance. It will also reflect the current sustainable transport policy in the Fenland Local Plan adopted in 2014.

### **5.3 Financial Implications**

5.4 There are no financial implications to develop a transport policy for FDC. The development of the policy document will be met from existing FDC staff time.

### **5.5 Equality Implications**

5.6 FDC has an integrated transport approach within the current adopted Fenland Local Plan (2014). This covers journeys by all modes of transport and is aimed at ensuring there are opportunities to travel for everyone no matter what their circumstances or the location of the travel needed. An FDC transport policy is intended to further support this approach and ensure equality for everyone to travel in a very rural and sparsely populated location.