# Bus Back Better Strategy Presentation to Local Councils

#  18th November 2021

Attended by Cllr Palmer (virtual)

The presentation was given via virtual means from ECC with Leah Goldwater Transport Planner and Wendy Jackson Transport officer and other members of the ITPU -integrated Passenger Transport Unit

Many Parish councillors were in attendance.

The Bus Back Better Strategy is government led and forms part of the National Bus Strategy for Bus Improvement Plan published in March 2021.

The focus is to gather High Level Statistics and views for a critical bus network and Infrastructure.

The plan is a substantial document.

‘Essex is a large area, with a complex geography and diverse communities. We will all need to work together to deliver a better, stronger bus network and reap the environmental, economic and social benefits that will flow from those improvements. A journey by bus is an investment in your community, in the environment and in your local economy’

ECC will need to develop an EP (enhanced partnership with bus operators) with a statement of intent. Draft EPP (enhanced partnership plan) what ECC can do, what Bus operators will do.

ECC will continue to undertake varying consultations and submit to the DFT (Dept for Transport) this will help in tailoring bus services accordingly.

Stage 1 Sept-Dec 2021-Audit of current bus services

Stage 2 Jan- April 2022 Analysis & Review Input most valuable

Stage 3 EP District Scheme/Proposal

Issues creating barriers

Councillors by location were given the opportunity to voice and highlight difficulties with their parishes/towns.

Cllr Palmer raised the following points

Information was not readily available – recent changes of timetabling with conflicting information from drivers.

No relevant timetables -updates not accessible to those not able to access online

The removal of stops and lack of clarification for request stops.

No early buses for commuters to town or to the hospital. Therefore, bus transport was no longer an option for many.

Economic effect on Dunmow as those who travelled for shopping and offered voluntary services would decline due to the accessibility.

Whilst the presentation was mostly informative, it was disappointing that our views and opinions have not been followed up with any feedback or action. We have still not received any slides from the presentation but please search the following for further information but be warned it’s a long document…..