

16 January 2024



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Freedom of Information request - ref CA274 – Internal Review

Thank you for your request for an internal review received on 26 December 2023. The response is given below:

Request

Please could I request a copy of any reports, studies, presentations, documents, meeting minutes and details of work items with consultants published in 2023 relating to existing and proposed DRT services run by, or run in conjunction with, the CPCA.

I would expect this information to cover:

1. The existing Ting service and in particular the recommendation to retain and refocus the service, the underlying information used to make this recommendation, and the nature of that refocusing stated as "a focus on the more rural communities which are not serviced by other routes."
2. The proposed Fenland, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire DRT services.
3. The CPCA's recent stated list of potential benefits for DRT: Flexibility and Convenience; Improved Accessibility; Cost-Efficiency; Reduced Congestion and Emissions; Tailored Services for Specific Groups; Technology Integration; Adaptability to Changing Urban Dynamics; Reduced Need for Personal Vehicle Ownership.
4. A comparison with alternatives such as timetabled services, and semi-flexible services.

Please could you also provide the plan of work to develop the pilots including timescales and reports which are expected to be produced, and details any work which will be done by consultants.

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If a document or part of a document would require significant redaction please just list the document and the reason why the redaction is required, as I appreciate redaction is time consuming and I do not want to create unnecessary work.

Response

No reports, studies, presentations, documents with consultants relating to existing and proposed DRT services run by, or run in conjunction with, the CPCA have been published in 2023.

The published agendas, minutes, papers for all CPCA Board meetings can be found on the website: [CMIS > Meetings](#)

DRT was discussed at the Transport & Infrastructure Committee 13 September 2023
Item 8 Bus Network Review – Initial Recommendations - Item 2.12 – 2.18
Link to paper - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

Internal Review

Request

I looked at the DRT discussion in September 2023 and included the following mentioning reviews, research and assessments which had been carried out.


"In parallel to the Bus Network Review, a review of Demand Response Transport (DRT), as a way to complement scheduled bus services, has been undertaken. The review of DRT highlights that the DRT approach can be suitable for providing connections to some communities and that there is scope to trial a further four pilots in the CPCA area. The suggested pilot areas are: Wittering area, Wisbech area, East Cambridgeshire and Longstanton. Each of the four trial areas have been estimated to cost £300k per trial per year, based on using two vehicles. The option to introduce a new subsidised service, whether that be scheduled or demand responsive should be taken as part of the bus network review."

and

"To support decision on the pilot DRT services, each will be assessed against the metrics used for the bus network review. This assessment will be undertaken ahead of the final recommendations on the bus review and presented to members of the Committee and CPCA Board in November for consideration."

and

"CPCA has undertaken research to examine the Future Role of DRT in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The research was commissioned to examine the application of Demand Responsive Transport across the UK and provide an understanding of applicability to the



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Combined Authority area within the short (less than two years), medium (two to five years) and long term (10 to 20 years)."

and

" CPCA officers have undertaken an initial review of the Ting service which is operating in Huntingdonshire."

This seems completely at odds with your statement that "No reports, studies, presentations, documents with consultants relating to existing and proposed DRT services run by, or run in conjunction with, the CPCA have been published in 2023." You have also made no mention of my request for information about the pilots, or information about the stated potential benefits of DRT.

Please can you explain this discrepancy and provide any missing information not only in relation to the reviews, research and assessments mentioned in the four paragraphs from the September meeting quoted above, but also any others relating to my original request.

Response

The request asked for published documents. At the time of responding to the request, there were no published documents. However, the requested documents have now been published and are being discussed at the Transport Committee on 17 January 2024. Below is a link to Transport Committee agenda and papers:

[CMIS > Meetings](#)

Item 6 Bus Strategy Update

Appendix A: Bus Network Review Service Summary

Appendix B: Future Role of DRT in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Appendix C: Ting Assessment Report

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, or via their website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely



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