

<b>Committee</b>	Finance and Establishment
<b>Month</b>	February 2022
<b>Report Title</b>	Uttlesford Community Travel (UCT) - Update
<b>Report Author</b>	Georgia Arnold - Committee Clerk & Office Administrator
<b>Attachments</b>	None

## Summary

UCT provide to the residents of Uttlesford who find it difficult to access normal public transport, the over 60's, the disabled and those who are rurally isolated.

They have recently provided us with the following update:

*“Our doors closed in March 2020 and reopened tentatively in the August, becoming busy a few months later getting our members to their vaccine appointments. We created a temporary membership scheme to facilitate trips for non-members. This was hugely successful and a real privilege for us to be involved in the countrywide effort to get everyone jabbed. However, it has not been without its difficulties. Our buses had to be adapted with protective screens, reducing capacity from 15 seats to 4. Our hospital car service had to be halted as many of our 49 volunteers are over 70 - we transferred these journeys to our buses. Our office staff were split into two bubbles to ensure that if covid hit, one bubble the other could still operate. All of these precautions are now being lifted but, as our members are all elderly or disabled, we still have to be extremely cautious.*

*It looks like, at least for the next year, our passenger numbers will be down by a third which is understandable but does adversely affect our income.*

*On a more positive note, in late September last year, we took delivery of a new bus. A picture of which is attached. This is great, as our modern buses mean safe and reliable travel for our members. In an average year we travel 100,000 miles so we anticipate having to replace a bus every year.*

*Those members who are now back travelling with us are, once again, enjoying the freedom from isolation that many elderly and disabled feel being in a such a rural area.*

*If you would like to support our work by donating any leftover funding you have in this tax year, we would be extremely grateful.*

*We are very humbled by all the support we have received from local councils and parishes over the years - it is much appreciated.*



## Recommendation

To note the update as attached.