



Cambridge Area Bus Users

Working for bus passengers in and around Cambridge

**Cambridge Area Bus Users Executive Committee Meeting with Mayor James Palmer
of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Tuesday, 7 August 2018**

We conveyed to Palmer:

- We will not allow Cambridge Area Bus Users to be lined up in opposition to the CAM metro.
- We are pro- bus user, not anti- anything, particularly other modes of public transport. However, the longer-term potential excellence of the CAM metro must not be allowed to become the enemy of more immediate improvement to bus services.
- Buses have a similar attribute to that well-advertised beer: they reach parts which other transport modes cannot.

Mayor Palmer conveyed to us that:

- his vision is for integrated transport, with many – though not all – bus routes running to rail/metro stations;
- agreed with us that timings of infrequent bus services to railway stations need to take proper account of rail timetables;
- ticketing should be cross-operator and multi-modal;
- he is not anti-bus;
- he is concerned about cuts to bus services but is also concerned lest subsidies fail to result in improved services and has acted in the short-term to preserve some routes;
- he regards Stagecoach as an ‘aggressive’ operator;
- the review (undertaken by SYSTRA) is essential as he has never run a transport network;
- he has considerable devolved powers, and ‘will consider’ using franchising.

Now, whilst this may all appear a bit nebulous, it does, I think, suggest that Palmer's thinking is emerging on as he confronts the realities of his devolved responsibilities.

Palmer also mused about whether holders of concessionary passes would be willing to pay a small charge for services.