

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 31 October 2017



Subject: Transport for London - Scrutiny of External Organisations

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee consider and agree the scope of further external scrutiny of Transport for London (TfL), with regard to the local bus services provided within the Epping Forest District by TfL.

1. (Director of Governance) Members will recall that representatives of Transport for London (TfL) attended the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2016, in response to the concerns of the Committee with regard to aspects of Central Line service provision and infrastructure in the Epping Forest District.
2. At its last meeting, the Committee requested that TfL be invited to attend a future meeting to respond to the concerns of members with regard to other aspects of local transport services, specifically including bus service provision by TfL within the District. It is hoped that appropriate officers of TfL will be able to attend the meeting of the Committee to be held on 9 January 2018.
3. In accordance with the procedure previously agreed by the Committee, members are therefore now asked to consider and agree the scope of such external scrutiny of local bus services and appropriate lines of questioning for TfL, in order that prior notice of the overarching themes and specific issues to be raised by members can be provided to TfL, to ensure that maximum value is derived from this external scrutiny activity.
4. Members are also asked to give direction on the preferred approach of the Committee to the format of such external scrutiny, particularly in terms of the scope of any formal presentation that may be required from TfL. The Committee should ensure that it identifies clear objectives for any such presentation.
5. There may be public interest in the Council's intended scrutiny of local bus services and infrastructure and the Committee may therefore wish to identify appropriate proactive publicity to raise awareness of the concerns of members, so as to make the process as meaningful and useful as possible.
6. As members will be aware, TfL do not provide many of the bus services currently operating within the District. Essex County Council is the appropriate passenger transport authority for services not operated by TfL.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to more effectively meet work programme requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities. Although external organisations are not generally required by legislation to attend before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is hoped that most would be willing to engage constructively with the Council's scrutiny activity when invited to do so.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

The scrutiny of a number of overarching themes and specific issues of local Central Line services and infrastructure were identified by the Committee at its meeting on 19 July 2016.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.