

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 10 April 2008

Subject: District Transport Survey

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Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry



Recommendation:

That the Committee note the current position of the District Transport Survey.

REPORT.

Background:

1. Last year a request was put to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the role of public transport in and around the rural locations in the District. The justification was that with the growth of commuter parking and the problems it causes residents, the Council needed to address the issues surrounding the reason commuters think that they have no alternative but to drive to the stations. Several residents had flagged up inadequate public transport issues and expressed a need for a review of the situation.

2. The Committee thought that public transport was more in the purview of the County Council than the District and as such the request should be referred to them. Following this a meeting was arranged between the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Morgan, the originator of the request, Councillor Mrs Harding, an officer from Democratic Services and the Group Manager for Passenger Transport at County, Mr John Pope. The problems of travelling on public transport around the district was discussed at length. Mr Pope recommended that more information be gathered rather than just giving unfocused complaints about travel in the district. Following this a generic survey form as obtained from the Rural Community Council of Essex who had already devised one for their own use. This was slightly altered to suit our purpose and was published in the spring edition of the Forester Magazine and simultaneously put on our website. The closing date was 31 March 2008.

Currently:

3. So far 313 paper copies have been returned to Democratic Services and 50 electronic copies, making a running total of 363. This has exceeded any expectation and it seems to have tapped into quite a local problem.

4. Once the closing date had expired the forms will be collated and the raw data submitted to County. EFDC's Forward Planning section has also expressed an interest in the results and will be supplied with a copy for their own purposes.

5. A further report updating the Committee on any progress made by County, will be brought to the Committee at a future date.