

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 17 April 2018



Subject: Essex County Council (Passenger Transport) - Scrutiny of External Organisation

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee consider and agree the scope of external scrutiny of the Passenger Transport services of Essex County Council, in respect of the support of local bus services operating in the Epping Forest District.

1. (Director of Governance) As members will recall, the Committee has expressed a desire to undertake external scrutiny of the Passenger Transport services of Essex County Council, in respect of the support of local bus services operating in the Epping Forest District. Such external scrutiny activity is included within the work programme for the Committee for the current municipal year.
2. An invitation has been extended to Councillor R. Gooding, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, to attend the meeting of the Committee to be held on 5 June 2018, to respond to the concerns of members in respect of the following overarching themes of local bus service support:
 - (a) future changes to local bus services that serve residents of the Epping Forest District;
 - (b) the financial and other constraints affecting the support of local bus services; and
 - (c) future funding arrangements for local bus services that serve the District.
3. Essex County Council has confirmed that Councillor Gooding and appropriate officers of the Passenger Transport Team will attend the meeting.
4. In accordance with the procedure previously agreed, the Committee is therefore asked to consider and agree the scope of such external scrutiny of the passenger transport support services of Essex County Council. Any matters identified by the Committee will be notified to Councillor Gooding as the emphasis for such external scrutiny, in order to ensure that maximum value can be derived from this scrutiny activity.
5. The identification of additional lines of questioning to be raised with the County Council will also be sought from members through the Council Bulletin.

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 responsibility. 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 bus service provision will be identified at this meeting.

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.