

Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Transport Links for Rural Villages in Forest Heath	
Report No:	OAS/FH/16/013	
Report to and date:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9 June 2016
Chairman of the Committee:	Simon Cole Chairman of the Committee Tel: 07974 443762 Email: simon.cole@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) Tel: 01638 719729 Email: Christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	<p>To look at the disjointed and unpredictable way of public transport connections in Forest Heath, particularly the case of Red Lodge.</p> <p>The Suffolk County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport (Councillor James Finch) and Phil Magill, Passenger Transport Operations Manager have been invited to the meeting on 9 June 2016 to aid the Committee's discussions.</p>	
Recommendation:	Members of the Committee to ask questions of the Suffolk County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport on public transport connections in Forest Heath.	
Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
Consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	

Alternative option(s):		• N/A	
Implications:			
Are there any financial implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Are there any staffing implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Are there any ICT implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Are there any legal and/or policy implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Are there any equality implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	Low/Medium/ High*		Low/Medium/ High*
None			
Ward(s) affected:		All	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		OAS FH 16 002 - Appendix 2A - Lack of Integrated Transport	
Documents attached:		None	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Committee at its meeting held on 14 January 2016, received a Work Programme Suggestion from Councillor Lance Stanbury regarding rural transport. The Committee was advised that residents in his ward of Red Lodge did not use public transport as it was not convenient. Public transport across the District was not joined up and Councillor Stanbury wished to get the various providers together to discuss how transport could be more integrated.
- 1.1.2 The Committee felt it needed to gain a better understanding of the transport issues in Forest Heath, such as the co-ordination of public transport (buses and trains) and the weight of traffic in Forest Heath.
- 1.1.3 The Committee acknowledged that the District Council was not the responsible authority for transport and suggested before contacting the various bus and rail operators that Suffolk County Council (SCC) be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to listen to the Committee's concerns regarding transport issues in Red Lodge and to answer questions from the Committee.
- 1.1.4 The Committee on 14 January 2016, resolved to include the issue in its work programme and to invite the Suffolk County Council (SCC) Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport to a future meeting of the Committee.

1.2 Proposals

- 1.2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee ask questions of the Suffolk County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport on public transport connections in Forest Heath.