

Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Transport Links for Rural Villages in Forest Heath	
Report No:	OAS/FH/16/028	
Report to and date:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 October 2016
Chairman of the Committee:	Simon Cole Chairman of the Committee Tel: 07974 443762 Email: simon.cole@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Portfolio Holder:	Lance Stanbury Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth Tel: 07970 947704 Email: lance.stanbury@forest-heath.gov.uk	
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Purpose of report:	<p>This is the second in a series of meetings looking at the disjointed and unpredictable way of public transport connections in Forest Heath, particularly in the case of Red Lodge.</p> <p>For this meeting, four public transport operators have been invited to the meeting to discuss the rural transport services they provide; and their integration in Red Lodge, and to listen to the Committee's concerns.</p>	
Recommendations:	<p>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee questions the public transport operators on public transport connections in Forest Heath. 2) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves to decide the next steps. 	

Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>		<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation:		• N/A	
Alternative option(s):		• N/A	
Implications:			
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<i>Are there any equality implications? 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 associated with this report.			
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:		Appendix 1 – Responses received from public transport providers	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendations

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. The Council is eager to see improvements in the quality and integration of the rural transport system serving its District in general.
- 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 Meeting 1 – Suffolk County Council

- 1.2.1 On the 9 June 2016, the Committee heard from Mr Phill Magill (Passenger and Transport Operations Manager) from Suffolk County Council (SCC).
- 1.2.2 Discussions took place on the need for synchronising the busses and trains to improve the economic development of the area and what surveys SCC carried out to monitor the transport market.

1.3 Meeting 2 - Public Transport Providers

- 1.3.1 The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in consultation with Councillor Lance Stanbury Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth selected four public transport providers (Abellio Greater Anglia; Coach Services Limited; Mulleys Motorways Limited and Stephensons of Essex), to invite to the Committee's Extraordinary meeting on 20 October 2016.
- 1.3.2 The aim of the meeting is to hear from the transport providers regarding the rural transport services they provide; their integration in Red Lodge, and for the Committee to discuss its concerns.
- 1.3.3 In advance of the meeting, each of the four providers were invited to respond to a series of questions, and responses are attached at **Appendix 1**.

1.4 Proposal

- 1.4.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee ask questions of the transport provider(s) on rural public transport connections in Forest Heath.