



Essex County Council

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

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|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:30 | Thursday, 17 October 2019 | Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH |
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For information about the meeting please ask for:

Lisa Siggins, Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 033301 34594

Email: democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

| | | Pages |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 4 - 4 |
| 2 | Minutes To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019. | 5 - 7 |
| 3 | Questions from the Public A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting. On arrival, and before the start of the meeting, please register with the Democratic Services Officer. | |
| 4 | Review of the Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014) Members to receive report (PSEG/17/19) and a presentation from Cllr Tony Ball, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Richard Greaves, Chief Planning Officer (County Planning and Major Development). | 8 - 16 |

- 5 Concessionary Fares and Park and Ride Services 17 - 28**
Members to receive report (PSEG/18/19) and a presentation from Cllr Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and Helen Morris, Head of the Integrated Passenger Transport Unit.
- 6 Date of Next Meeting**
To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 28 November 2019, in Committee Room 1, County Hall.
- 7 Urgent Business**
To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

- 8 Urgent Exempt Business**
To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

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Agenda item 1

Committee: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Peter Randall, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership

(Quorum: 5)

Councillor I Grundy
Councillor B Aspinell
Councillor T Cutmore
Councillor A Erskine
Councillor I Henderson
Councillor S Hillier
Councillor P Honeywood
Councillor D Kendall
Councillor B Massey
Councillor R Moore
Councillor C Pond
Councillor R Pratt
Councillor W Schmitt
Councillor C Weston

Chairman

Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 26 September 2019

Present:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Councillor I Grundy (Chairman) | Councillor B Massey |
| Councillor B Aspinell | Councillor D Kendall |
| Councillor T Cutmore | Councillor R Moore |
| Councillor A Erskine | Councillor R Pratt |
| Councillor S Hillier | Councillor W Schmitt |
| Councillor I Henderson | Councillor C Weston |
| Councillor P Honeywood | |

- 1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**
The report of the Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that

1. The membership of the Committee was unchanged since the last meeting;
2. Councillor C Pond had sent his apologies.

- 2 Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 8 August were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

- 3 Questions from the Public**
There were none.

- 4 SELEP – PSEG update**
Members received report (**PSEG/15/19**) and presentations from Dominic Collins, Director Economic Development & Localities, Adam Bryan, SELEP Chief Executive Officer, and Dawn Redpath Head of Economic Growth. The presentations formed appendix A to report PSEG/15/19

The purpose of the presentations was to provide an update on the work of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), as well as an outline of new legislation affecting the SELEP. Members were also given an overview of Essex County Council's role in relation to SELEP.

Members discussed with officers the federalised system through which the SELEP currently operates, and the measures, boards and processes built into the system to ensure accountability. Members also noted the ongoing corporate redesign process to further localise accountability processes.

It was noted that ECC is represented on the SELEP board by Cllr Kevin Bentley, with policy input also provided by Cllr Tony Ball.

Following the presentations, members were invited to ask questions and the areas raised included:

- Skills strategy – members stressed the importance of skills advice in schools throughout the County
- Criteria for LEP funding – the involvement of the Essex Federated Board, publication on the SELEP website, final decisions made by the Accountability Board.
- The different types of funding available – Dominic Collins agreed to circulate a list of capital programme projects to the Committee
- Essex Local Industrial Strategy aligned to SELEP- Members requested that the strategy come to PSEG with time for committee members to provide input.
- The route to funding – on a basic level, members wanted to understand better how an application moves through the accountability and award process, and how to track it. Members were signposted to the pages on the SELEP and ECC website where the information can be found.
- Members raised concerns around the funding corridors outlined in the presentation. Particularly the absence of areas of outer and rural Chelmsford set to be impacted by major developments over the next five years.

ACTION – members requested a further conversation around skills and opportunity funding.

ACTION – members requested early scrutiny of the Essex Local Industrial Strategy.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their contribution.

5 Grass Verge Maintenance

Members received report **(PSEG/16/19)** a presentation from Peter Massie, Head of Essex Highways Commissioning and David Forkin, Head of Maintenance and Operations, Essex Highways. The presentation formed appendix B to report PSEG/16/19.

Officers also discussed current pilots in operation throughout the County and across the country, particularly focussing on examples from Braintree and Rotherham.

Following the presentation, members were invited to ask questions and the areas raised included:

- Normal cutting regime- in the majority of Districts within ECC, cuttings are undertaken by the District Councils and in practice this

occurs more often than where cuttings are carried out by ECC. ECC only provides funding to district councils for a maximum of two cuts, if any more are carried out (which they frequently are, for aesthetic purposes) then these are paid for by district councils.

- Maintenance responsibilities of grass verges – there is no specific budgets for defects and would depend on priority and on budgets available.
- Enforcement – where damage is carried out by builders/contractors enforcement is often very difficult. Members felt this should be dealt with by attaching conditions to planning permissions granted.
- Relationship with district councils – officers discussed the autonomy allowed by district councils who operate cutting regimes on behalf of ECC. It was noted that it would be difficult to mandate a specific cutting regime to each of the districts, but perhaps providing information around a more ecologically friendly cutting regime could be distributed.
- Complaints data – Members discussed complaints from local residents around poorly maintained verges.

ACTION – Officers to link in with Plantlife UK, an organisation with a great deal of expertise in ecologically sustainable grass verge maintenance. Following this, a conversation with the cabinet member should take place to determine whether further action is required.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their contribution.

6 Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next Committee meeting will be on Thursday, 17th October 2019.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12.55pm

Chairman

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Report title: Review of the Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014) | | AGENDA ITEM 4(PSEG/17/19) |
| Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee | | |
| Report author: Richard Greaves, Chief Planning Officer (County and Major Development). | | |
| Date: 17/10/19 | | For: Discussion |
| Enquiries to: richard.greaves@essex.gov.uk | | |
| County Divisions affected: All Essex | | |

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Committee on progress with emerging work assessing the effectiveness of the [Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014](#) (the Plan) following the decision of the Cabinet Member to commence the work (see Appendix A). Draft work is taking place on the scope of a proposed Review of the Plan that also considers the policies of the Plan and whether any changes are likely to be needed. Under the Duty to Cooperate¹, engagement on the scope of the proposed Review is continuing to taking place.
- 1.2 It is anticipated that a decision will be sought by the Council (Cabinet), in November 2019, to proceed to a formal Review of the Minerals Local Plan. This will also include an update of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, in accordance with statutory procedures. Work continues examining the effectiveness of the policies of the Plan and, at this stage, it is considered that changes to the Plan are needed.

2. Background

- 2.1 The County Council has a statutory requirement and responsibility to plan for future minerals supply and to determine minerals planning applications. Minerals underpin our entire way of life and support our plan-led growth agenda, in being able to create great places for people. Minerals provide the construction materials we need to build the new homes, our places of work, our transport infrastructure and essential services such as health, education and recreational facilities. Minerals and aggregates are essential to energy generation, agriculture, manufacturing and many other businesses. In short, we could not maintain our current way of life without them. We also have additional very important development and infrastructure projects to deliver in the next decade, not least the emerging Garden Communities, Lower Thames Crossing and a proposed new nuclear power station at Bradwell.
- 2.2 However, minerals are a finite natural resource and can only be worked - extracted from the ground - where they are found. It is vital we only extract

¹ Localism Act 2011 (Part 6, Chapter 1, Section 110)

what is needed and make best use of them to secure their long-term availability and conservation.

- 2.3 The Essex Minerals Local Plan was adopted in July 2014 and provides planning policies for minerals development in Essex until 2029. It sets a policy framework within which the best possible use of mineral resources, mainly sand and gravel in Essex, is achieved. It also allocates sites for future mineral extraction and associated development. The Plan contains policies promoting recycling and secondary processing, the safeguarding of resources and facilities, and high quality site restoration, all in the pursuit of sustainable development.
- 2.4 Having been adopted 5 years ago, the effectiveness of the policies of the Plan are required to be formally reviewed. A Review of Local Plan is a legal requirement. Regulations state that in respect of a Local Plan, the Review (defined as a decision whether or not to revise the Plan) must be completed every five years, starting from the date of adoption of the Local Plan.

3. Summary of issues

- 3.1 Draft scoping work is being carried out and has reached a stage where it is possible to conclude that the Plan would benefit from formal changes. At this early stage, prior to any formal consultation², the proposed scope of the Review does not indicate there is a need to allocate any additional sites in the Plan for future mineral extraction.

Legislative Context

- 3.2 Paragraph 33 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) states (inter-alia) that

“Policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be Reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary. Reviews should be completed no later than five years from the adoption date of a plan and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy.”

- 3.3 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) sets out what is required from such a Review:

“Reviewing a plan means undertaking an assessment to determine whether the policies need updating, which should include consideration of any changes to local circumstances and national policy. A local planning authority should consider in particular any necessary changes to policies which address their strategic priorities.” (Reference ID: 61-042-20180913).

² The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/contents/made>

- 3.4 Following the assessment, ECC (as Minerals Planning Authority) must conclude either that:
- The policies of the Plan do not need updating and publish its reasons for this decision, or;
 - that one or more policies need updating and update its Development Scheme to set out the timetable for the proposed revisions to the Plan.
- 3.5 The assessment of the Plan has now reached a stage where options can be drawn prior to carrying out statutory consultation. Notwithstanding any future consultation feedback, it is considered that, in the five years since the Plan's adoption, there is a requirement to Review and amend a number of policies and associated supporting text of the Plan.

4. Update of current issues

- 4.1 Work on assessing the policies of the Plan has been continuing considering the scope of the Review, with officer-level input from a number of bodies including district/borough/city partners. At this stage it is not considered that 'new' sites are required. The work is continuing to be refined and the Plan is thereafter proposed to be Reviewed in accordance with the following timetable.

DRAFT Timetable including key milestones (taken from revised draft development scheme).

| | <u>Key Stages</u> | <u>Minerals Local Plan Review</u> |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Initial scoping (incl. engagement) | September 2019 – May 2020 |
| 2. | Cabinet approval to commence Review | November 2019 |
| 3. | Preparation of draft Reg 18 Plan (inc. SA scoping etc) | December 2019 – April 2020 |
| 4. | Public and Stakeholder Consultation (Reg 18 – Preferred Approach)) | May – June 2020 |
| 5. | Processing and analysis of representations | June – July 2020 |
| 6. | Consultation Feedback to Political Leadership Team/Scrutiny Committee | July 2020 |
| 7. | Necessary Changes (Inc. further DTC) | August – October 2020 |
| 8. | Public and Stakeholder Consultation (Reg 19) | October – November 2020 |
| 9. | Cabinet approval for Publication and Submission of Plan | January 2021 |
| 10. | Submission to Planning Inspectorate (Regulation 22) | February 2021 |
| 11. | Preparation of evidence for Examination | February - May 2021 |
| 12. | Examination in Public | June 2021 |
| 13. | Inspector's Report | August 2021 |
| 14. | Formal adoption | Full Council October 2021 |

- 4.2 Whilst it is intended to seek approval (in November 2019), to formally commence the Review the County Council, as Mineral Planning Authority, is required to carry out continued ongoing and active engagement with its partners and prescribed bodies. As such, continuous and active engagement will take place in tandem with the above timetable. It may be that the scope of the Review, or indeed the draft findings of Review, change through such engagement. Feedback from consultation will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee in due course.

5. Next Steps

- 5.2 Should the Council sanction a formal Review, the Plan will be subject to the consultation procedures dictated in planning legislation³ and the Council's [Statement of Community Involvement](#).
- 5.3 A further iteration of the Plan would then be published for consultation and comments taken account of as appropriate. This consultation would be for 6 weeks.
- 5.4 Responses to this consultation would then be considered and a revised Plan prepared to be submitted for the Secretary of State in due course who may request that the Plan is tested through an 'Examination in Public' and potentially be further modified prior it being able to be adopted.
- 5.5 Active engagement will continue in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate⁴, including continued dialogue with our District/City/Borough Council partners.

³ Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 & The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

⁴ Localism Act 2011 (Part 6, Chapter 1, Section 110)

Forward Plan reference number: FP/140/05/18

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| Report title: Review of the Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014 | |
| Report to: Councillor Gagan Mohindra - Cabinet Member for Economic Development | |
| Report author: Mark Carroll, Executive Director, Economy, Localities & Public Health | |
| Date: 29 May 2018 | For: Decision |
| Enquiries to: Richard Greaves, Planning Manager richard.greaves@essex.gov.uk 03330 136817 | |
| County Divisions affected: All Essex | |

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet Member's approval to commence an assessment of the effectiveness Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014 (the Plan). The assessment will consider the effectiveness of the policies of the Plan and whether any changes are needed.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That an assessment of the effectiveness of the policies of the Essex Minerals Local Plan is commenced on the basis set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report with a view to it being completed in Spring 2019.

3. Summary of issue

- 3.1 The current [Essex Minerals Local Plan](#) was adopted on 8 July 2014.
- 3.2 The Plan provides planning policies for minerals development in Essex until 2029. In particular, it gives certainty as to the location of future minerals development. The Plan includes mechanisms aimed at reducing the demand for primary mineral use, recycling more aggregate and safeguarding mineral resources, reserves and important facilities.
- 3.3 The Essex Minerals Local Plan includes the following:
- The Minerals Core Strategy, setting out the long-term direction for minerals development and the plan to deliver this strategy;
 - Development Management Policies for minerals planning;
 - Strategic Site Allocations and safeguarding for mineral extraction, transshipment facilities and other related activities; and
 - The Policies Map.
- 3.4 The law changed⁵ on 6 April 2018, requiring a Local Planning Authority to complete a Review of a local plan within 5 years of the date of adoption of the

⁵ [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2017](#)

Plan. The Essex Minerals Local Plan was formally adopted in July 2014. To comply with legislation, an assessment (Review) of the Plan must be completed by July 2019.

- 3.5 Guidance⁶ and advice has been received confirming that policies should be Reviewed to assess whether they need revising at least once every 5 years. Whilst the production of the Council's [Annual Monitoring Report](#) goes some way in examining whether the objectives of minerals (and waste) policies are being achieved, to date a comprehensive assessment of the performance of the Minerals Local Plan has not been carried out.
- 3.6 In order for the Minerals Local Plan Review to commence, it is important to establish the basis for the Review. Guidance indicates that Reviewing a plan means undertaking an assessment to determine whether the policies need revising, which should include consideration of any changes to local circumstances and national policy.
- 3.7 On completion of the Review, we will need to decide either that:
- The policies of the Minerals Local Plan do not need revising, and that ECC subsequently publishes its reasons for this decision or:
 - That one or more policies of the Plan need revising and that the [Minerals and Waste Development Scheme](#) is updated setting out the proposed timetable for the revision(s) to the Plan.
- 3.8 If necessary, ECC will then need to follow the relevant Regulations and update the Plan.
- 3.9 The Minerals Local Plan currently supports a number of the Council's strategic priorities, including helping secure sustainable development and protecting the environment, as well as supplying the essential materials to facilitate growing communities, employment opportunities and new homes in Essex.
- 3.10 In carrying out the Review, it may be necessary for discrete and selective consultation, however, should the conclusion of the Review recommend that a full or partial revision to the Plan is required, then comprehensive consultation and engagement will be required under the terms of the relevant Regulations⁷ and the Council's [Statement of Community Involvement](#).

4. Options

- 4.1 The preferred option is to carry out the Review, commencing late summer 2018, to allow sufficient time to complete the exercise before the July 2019 deadline.
- 4.2 An option could be to delay the Review; however, this may not allow enough time to ensure completion before July 2019. Clearly if a Review was not

⁶ [Draft Plan Review guidance - NPPG](#)

⁷ Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

carried out and completed before July 2019, then the Council would not be in conformity with the relevant legislation and intervention measures could be taken by central government to remove the Plan taking responsibility from the County Council. Reputational damage to the authority would also be sustained.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 As stated, there are a number of reasons why the Council is required to assess the existing Minerals Local Plan. The main reasons are to ensure that the minerals planning policy framework in the county remains up to date, reflects the most recent policy and guidance, and takes account of new information and changing circumstances. This is so that appropriate guidance can be given to the minerals industry and local communities – particularly with regard to where minerals development should take place in Essex to meet future demand.
- 5.2 Any proposed amendment to the plan, following the Review, must follow the prescribed stages of plan production as set out in relevant planning Acts and the appropriate regulations; the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 5.3 It is anticipated that the assessment will be commenced once the requested decision herewith is taken, in accordance with the indicative timetable:

| | | |
|----|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Assessment Commenced | October 2018 |
| 2. | Recommendation(s) | May 2019 |

6. Issues for consideration

- 6.1 At this stage, pending the outcome of the assessment, it is not certain whether the policies of the Plan will need to be wholly or partially amended or amendment of the Plan is not considered necessary. This said, the assessment of the Plan will need to consider the strategic approach for minerals planning in Essex and whether this is still fit for purpose. Furthermore, the performance of the policies of the Plan will also need to be examined. The main issues which need to be assessed are likely to include:

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|----|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Plan period | In accordance with paragraph 157 of the NPPF which states, <i>“Local Plans should be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer-term requirements, and be kept up to date”</i> . The Review will need to consider whether the period of the plan remains adequate. |
| 2. | Adequacy of mineral supply | Using the results of the Local Aggregate Assessment and other information to consider whether the Plan continues to provide for a steady and adequate supply of aggregate and whether additional provision of aggregates may be needed to support projected growth and infrastructure requirements in Essex and beyond, including supporting London’s requirements and consider whether a split (sharp sand/building sand) landbank may be required and the contribution wharf capacity makes towards the county’s needs. |

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| 3. | Strategy | Exploring whether the spatial vision and the Plans strategic aims and objectives remains current and applicable for future years. |
| 4. | Minerals Safeguarding | Whether minerals safeguarding policy is working as anticipated to ensure valuable mineral resources are not being needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development and that transshipment sites, such as wharves and railheads, are being protected to ensure supply. |
| 5. | Restoration | Whether the Plan's restoration policy is performing well and especially whether the ambition to create 200ha of net-gain in biodiversity habitat creation is being achieved. |
| 6. | Policies used to determine applications | A Review of the adopted policies is required taking into account the findings of the Annual Monitoring reports. |

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The resource costs for the Review will be predominately staff resource costs which are anticipated to be met from within the existing budget and through the existing Service Level Agreement the Planning Service has with the Council's Place Services team.
- 7.2 Depending on the conclusion of the Review, which may lead to either a partial or full revision of the Plan, resource may be needed from existing budget or a business case put forward for additional funding. Such projected costs are unknown at this stage.

8 Legal implications

- 8.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 permit the Council to take this approach. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 require the Review is completed with 5 years of the Plan's adoption. The recommendation to commence a Review is lawful.
- 8.2 As set out elsewhere in the report there is a significant risk involved if the Council does not carry out the Review of the Plan by July 2019.

9. Equality and Diversity implications

- 9.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

9.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a). An equality impact assessment is attached at Appendix 1.

9.3 The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

10. List of appendices

10.1 Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment.

11. List of Background papers

- Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014)
- The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
- Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017

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| I approve the above recommendations set out above for the reasons set out in the report. | Date |
| Councillor Gagan Mohindra - Cabinet Member for Economic Development | 11 June 2018 |

In consultation with:

| Role | Date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Mark Carroll, Executive Director, Economy, Localities & Public Health | 31 May 2018 |
| Executive Director for Corporate and Customer Services (S151 Officer) | 29 May 2018 |
| Margaret Lee | |
| Director, Legal and Assurance (Monitoring Officer) | 29 May 2018 |
| Paul Turner | |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Report title: Concessionary Fares and Park and Ride Services | | AGENDA ITEM 5(PSEG/18/19) |
| Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee | | |
| Report author: Helen Morris, Head of the Integrated Passenger Transport Unit | | |
| Date: 17/10/19 | | For: Discussion |
| Enquiries to: Helen.Morris@essex.gov.uk | | |
| County Divisions affected: All Essex | | |

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update the Committee on findings following consultation on changes to concessionary fares on Park and Ride Services. A summary of consultation responses can be found in appendix A.

2. Background

- 2.1. The requirement set out in the Transport Act 2000 and Concessionary Travel Act 2007 is that Essex County Council must provide passes valid for journeys run between 09:30AM and 11:00PM Monday to Friday and all day on weekends and bank holidays. This is called the “statutory offer”. Essex County Council currently uses its discretionary powers under the Acts to offer pass holders travel from 09:00 to Midnight Monday to Friday. This was not proposed for change in the consultation.
- 2.2. Essex County Council is also required to leave bus operators no better nor no worse off than had the concessionary travel scheme existed. It does this by reimbursing the bus operators.
- 2.3. Essex County Council also allows passes to be used on the three County Council operated Park and Ride schemes at Sandon and Chelmer Valley in Chelmsford and at the Colchester Park and Ride Scheme. These include the Broomfield Hospital shuttle bus service from the Chelmer Valley site. The extension of the scheme to allow pass holders to use Park and Ride schemes is estimated to cost taxpayers around £470,000 a year. It is this provision for concessionary travel on Park and Ride services that was the subject of the consultation.
- 2.4. This year ECC will spend £18.1m per year of taxpayers’ money reimbursing operators for accepting bus passes. Under the law, ECC has to leave them no better or worse off than they would have been if the scheme did not exist.

- 2.5. Given the financial pressures set out above, ECC developed the proposal set out below and went out to consultation in April 2019 to ask Essex residents whether taxpayers should continue to fund the non-statutory park and ride scheme concession.
- 2.6. The proposal set out in the consultation was that, from April 2020, to change from offering free travel on the Park and Ride services for people who hold the older person's bus pass, to charging a fare of £1.50. The new charge would apply at all times. Before 09:00, disability pass holders (who currently pay full fare before 09:00) will also be able to pay £1.50. Disability pass users will still be able to travel free after 09:00 on production of their pass.

Older pass holders:

| Time: | Before 9am | After 9am |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Current | Full fare | Free |
| Proposed | £1.50 | £1.50 |

Disabled pass holders:

| Time: | Before 9am | After 9am |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Current | Full fare | Free |
| Proposed | £1.50 | Free |

- 2.7. ECC have determined that the proposal will allow it to protect the most vulnerable groups and retain a concession for older people, while reducing the cost of providing the scheme.

3. Session Aims

Members are asked to discuss the findings from the consultation with officers and make recommendations regarding next steps.

Park & Ride Concessionary Bus Pass Consultation: Summary report

This report was created on Tuesday 06 August 2019 at 10:51.

The consultation ran from 08/05/2019 to 31/07/2019.

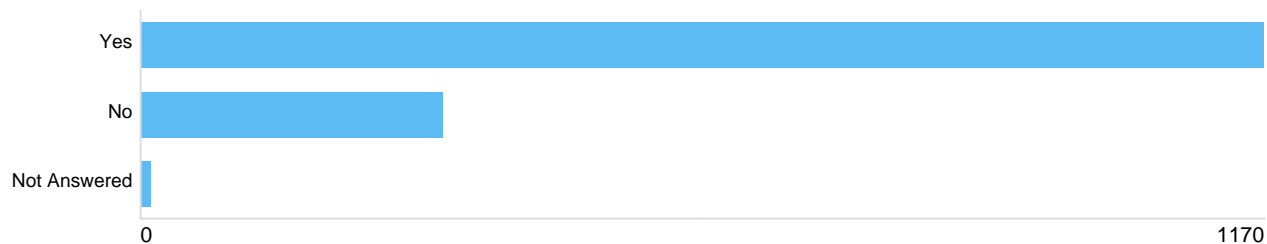
Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Question : Do you currently hold an Essex County Council bus pass? | 2 |
| Bus pass holder | 2 |
| Question : If yes, is it: | 2 |
| Type of bus pass | 2 |
| Question : Do you agree with the proposal that starting 1st April 2020 the concession offered to older people's concessionary bus pass holders using the Essex County Council's park and ride services should be a £1.50 day fare instead of free as it is at present? | 2 |
| Proposal for OP | 2 |
| Question : If yes, why? Please tick all that apply: | 3 |
| Yes reasons (OP) | 3 |
| If you selected other, please specify below: | 3 |
| Question : If no, why? Please tick all that apply: | 3 |
| No reasons OP | 3 |
| If you selected other, please specify below: | 4 |
| Question : Do you currently use an age related bus pass on Essex County Council's Park and Ride services? | 4 |
| Use of OP pass | 4 |
| Question : If yes, please tick which Park and Ride services you use: | 4 |
| P&R service used | 4 |
| Question : Would you continue to use the county council's park and ride services if you had to pay a £1.50 day fare? | 5 |
| Continue using | 5 |
| Question : If no, what will you instead of using the park and ride service? Tick all that apply: | 5 |
| Other options | 5 |
| If you selected other, please specify below | 5 |
| Question : Do you agree with this proposal? | 6 |
| £1.50 fare disability proposal | 6 |
| Question : If you do not agree, please specify why: | 6 |
| Don't agree | 6 |
| Question : Do you have other comments about this proposal and/or an alternative suggestion related to the Park & Ride? | 6 |
| Other comments/suggestions | 6 |
| Question : Your gender: | 6 |
| Gender | 6 |
| If you selected 'other', please state below | 6 |
| Question : Where in Essex do you live? | 7 |
| District | 7 |
| Question : Please tell us which age bracket you fall into: | 8 |
| Age | 8 |
| Question : Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? | 9 |
| Organisation | 9 |
| If yes, please state which organisation: | 9 |
| Question : Do you consider yourself to have a disability, and if so please tell us what type of disability you have? | 9 |
| Disability | 9 |
| Question : If you feel that your personal situation means you would be particularly adversely affected, please explain in the free text box below: | 10 |
| Personal situation | 10 |



Question : Do you currently hold an Essex County Council bus pass?

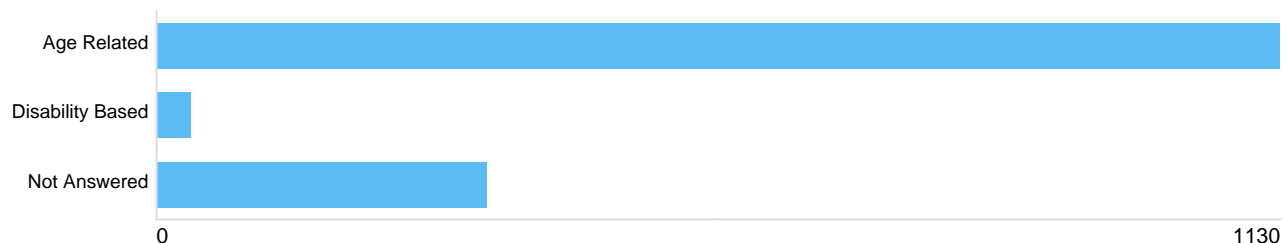
Bus pass holder



| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 1170 | 78.31% |
| No | 314 | 21.02% |
| Not Answered | 10 | 0.67% |

Question : If yes, is it:

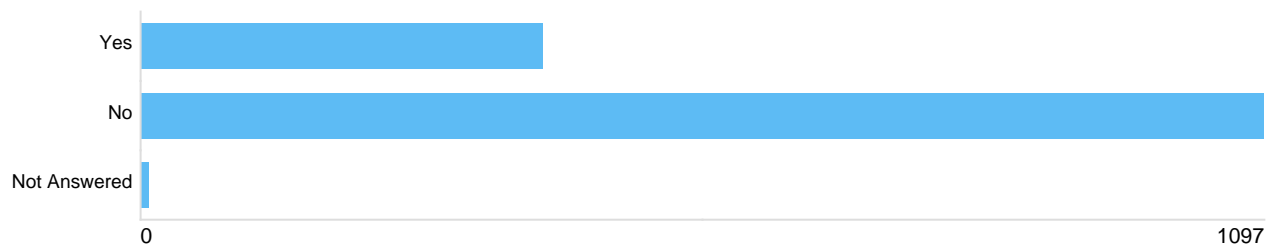
Type of bus pass



| Option | Total | Percent |
|------------------|-------|---------|
| Age Related | 1130 | 75.64% |
| Disability Based | 34 | 2.28% |
| Not Answered | 330 | 22.09% |

Question : Do you agree with the proposal that starting 1st April 2020 the concession offered to older people's concessionary bus pass holders using the Essex County Council's park and ride services should be a £1.50 day fare instead of free as it is at present?

Proposal for OP

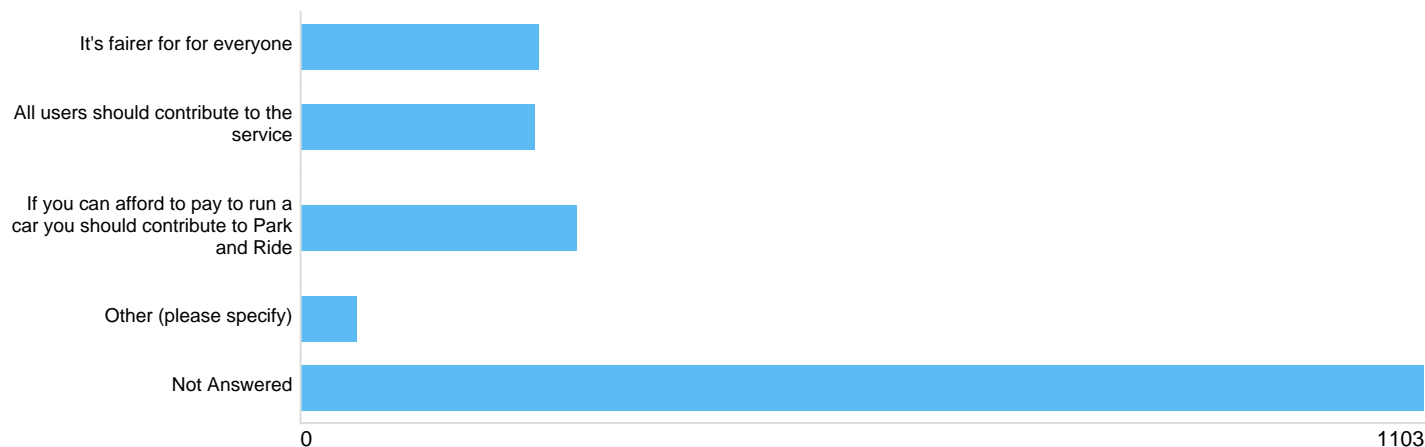




| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 391 | 26.17% |
| No | 1097 | 73.43% |
| Not Answered | 6 | 0.40% |

Question : If yes, why? Please tick all that apply:

Yes reasons (OP)



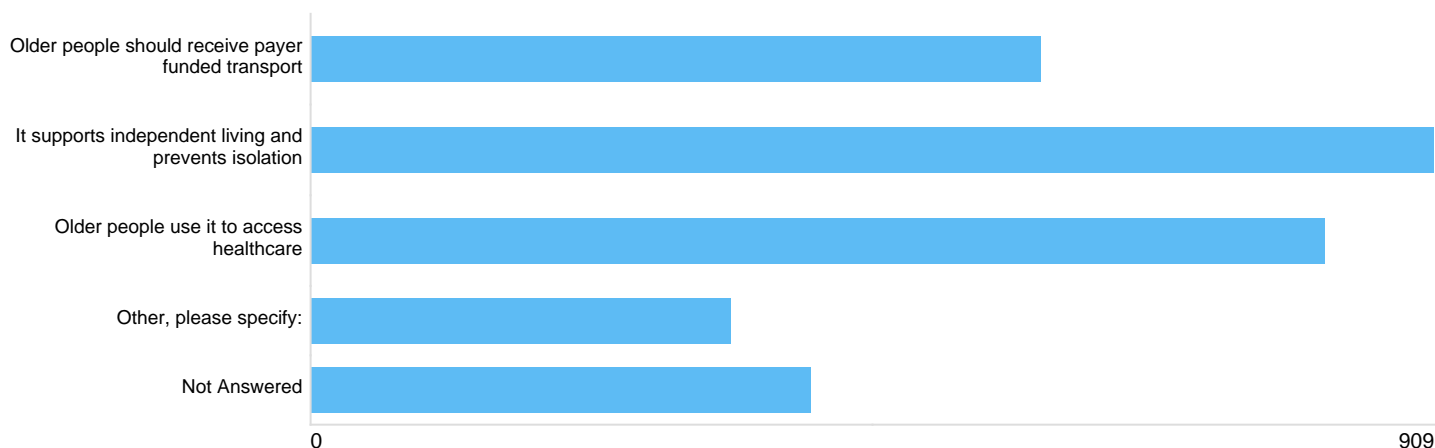
| Option | Total | Percent |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| It's fairer for for everyone | 233 | 15.60% |
| All users should contribute to the service | 229 | 15.33% |
| If you can afford to pay to run a car you should contribute to Park and Ride | 269 | 18.01% |
| Other (please specify) | 54 | 3.61% |
| Not Answered | 1103 | 73.83% |

If you selected other, please specify below:

There were **59** responses to this part of the question.

Question : If no, why? Please tick all that apply:

No reasons OP





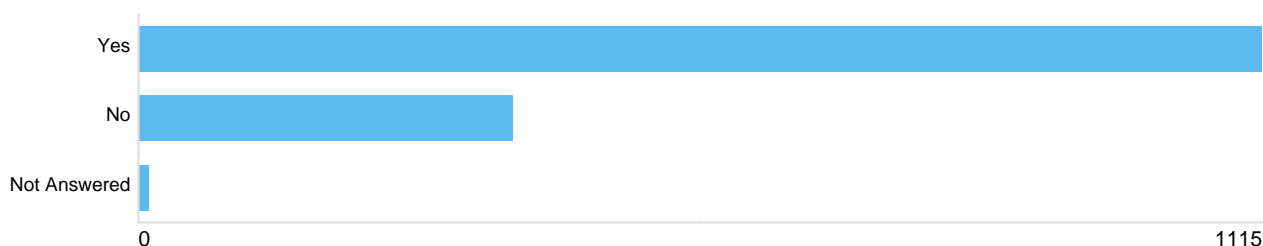
| Option | Total | Percent |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Older people should receive payer funded transport | 589 | 39.42% |
| It supports independent living and prevents isolation | 909 | 60.84% |
| Older people use it to access healthcare | 819 | 54.82% |
| Other, please specify: | 339 | 22.69% |
| Not Answered | 404 | 27.04% |

If you selected other, please specify below:

There were **381** responses to this part of the question.

Question : Do you currently use an age related bus pass on Essex County Council's Park and Ride services?

Use of OP pass



| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 1115 | 74.63% |
| No | 371 | 24.83% |
| Not Answered | 8 | 0.54% |

Question : If yes, please tick which Park and Ride services you use:

P&R service used

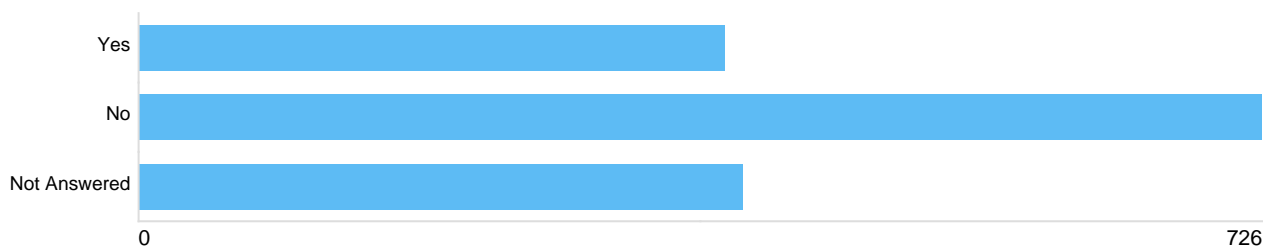




| Option | Total | Percent |
|------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Chelmsford- Sandon | 631 | 42.24% |
| Chelmsford - Chelmer Valley | 428 | 28.65% |
| Chelmsford - Broomfield Hospital Shuttle | 470 | 31.46% |
| Colchester | 325 | 21.75% |
| Not Answered | 383 | 25.64% |

Question : Would you continue to use the county council's park and ride services if you had to pay a £1.50 day fare?

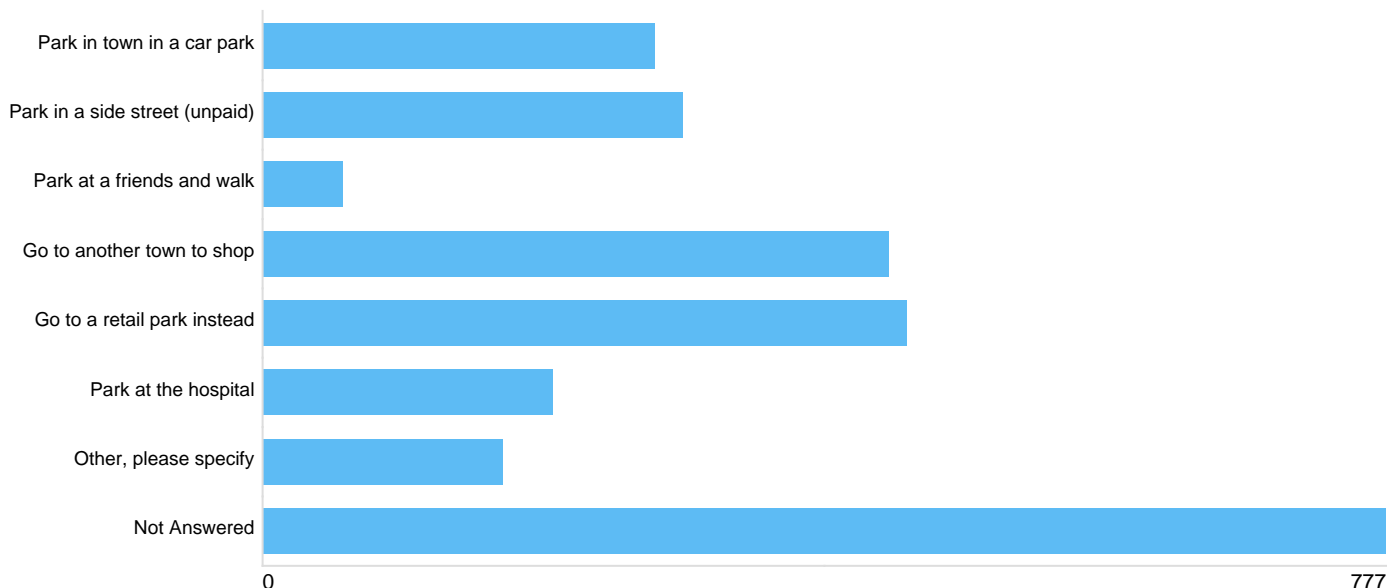
Continue using



| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 378 | 25.30% |
| No | 726 | 48.59% |
| Not Answered | 390 | 26.10% |

Question : If no, what will you instead of using the park and ride service? Tick all that apply:

Other options



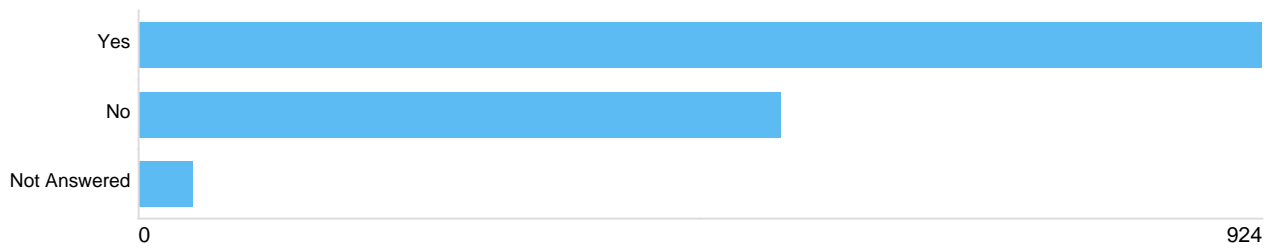
| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Park in town in a car park | 270 | 18.07% |
| Park in a side street (unpaid) | 290 | 19.41% |
| Park at a friends and walk | 54 | 3.61% |
| Go to another town to shop | 432 | 28.92% |
| Go to a retail park instead | 444 | 29.72% |
| Park at the hospital | 200 | 13.39% |
| Other, please specify | 165 | 11.04% |
| Not Answered | 777 | 52.01% |

If you selected other, please specify below



Question : Do you agree with this proposal?

£1.50 fare disability proposal



| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 924 | 61.85% |
| No | 527 | 35.27% |
| Not Answered | 43 | 2.88% |

Question : If you do not agree, please specify why:

Don't agree

There were **487** responses to this part of the question.

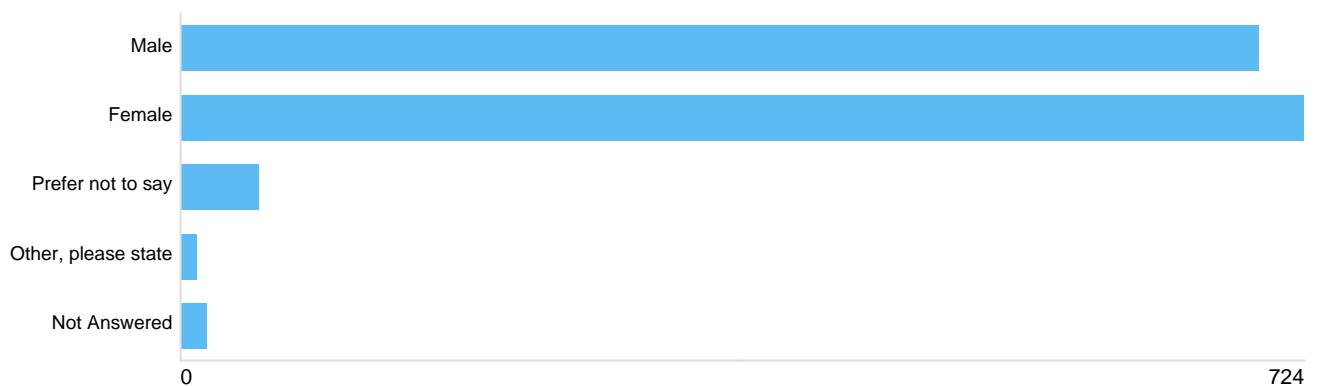
Question : Do you have other comments about this proposal and/or an alternative suggestion related to the Park & Ride?

Other comments/suggestions

There were **842** responses to this part of the question.

Question : Your gender:

Gender



| Option | Total | Percent |
|---------------------|-------|---------|
| Male | 694 | 46.45% |
| Female | 724 | 48.46% |
| Prefer not to say | 50 | 3.35% |
| Other, please state | 10 | 0.67% |
| Not Answered | 16 | 1.07% |

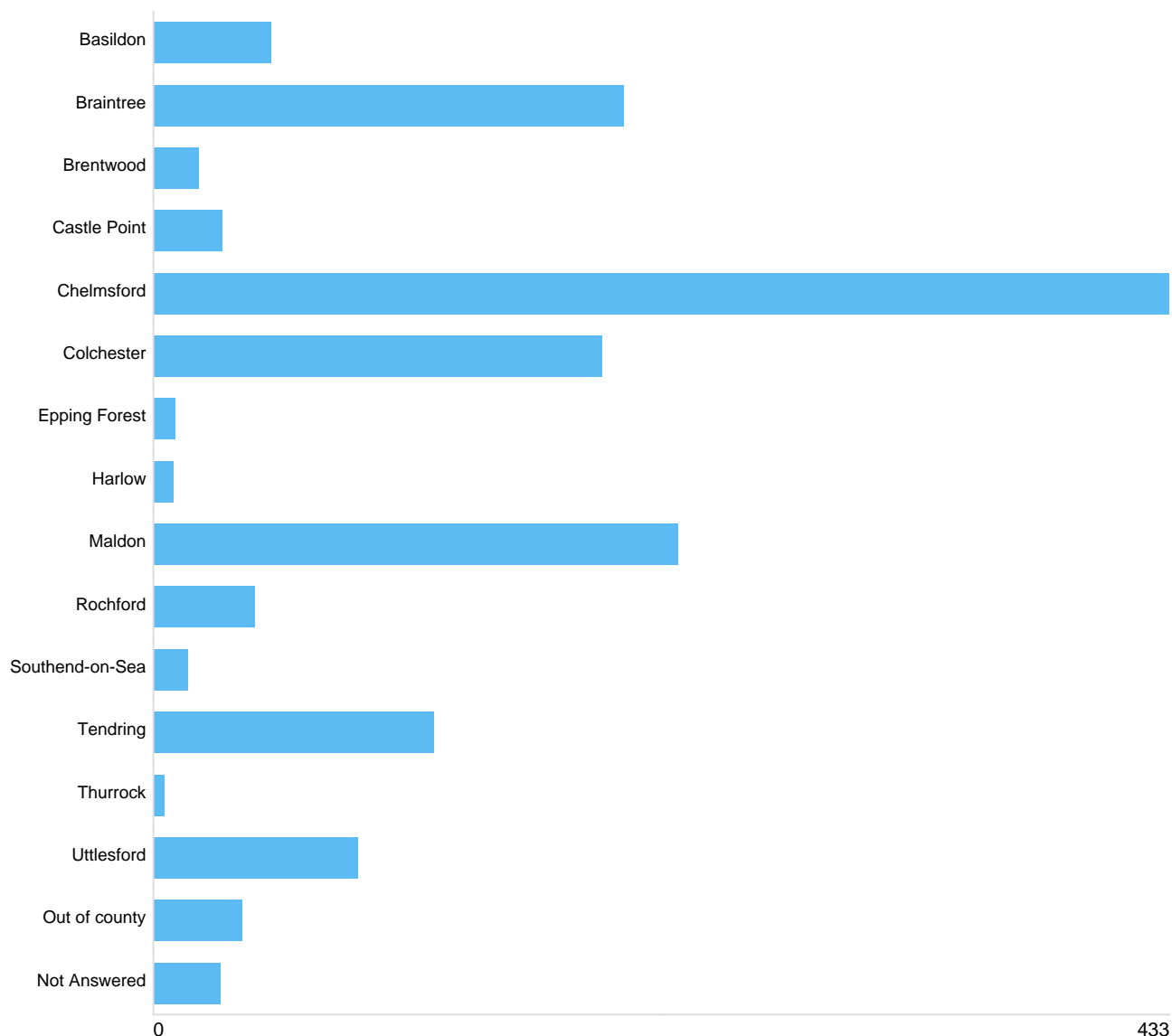
If you selected 'other', please state below

There were **11** responses to this part of the question.



Question : Where in Essex do you live?

District

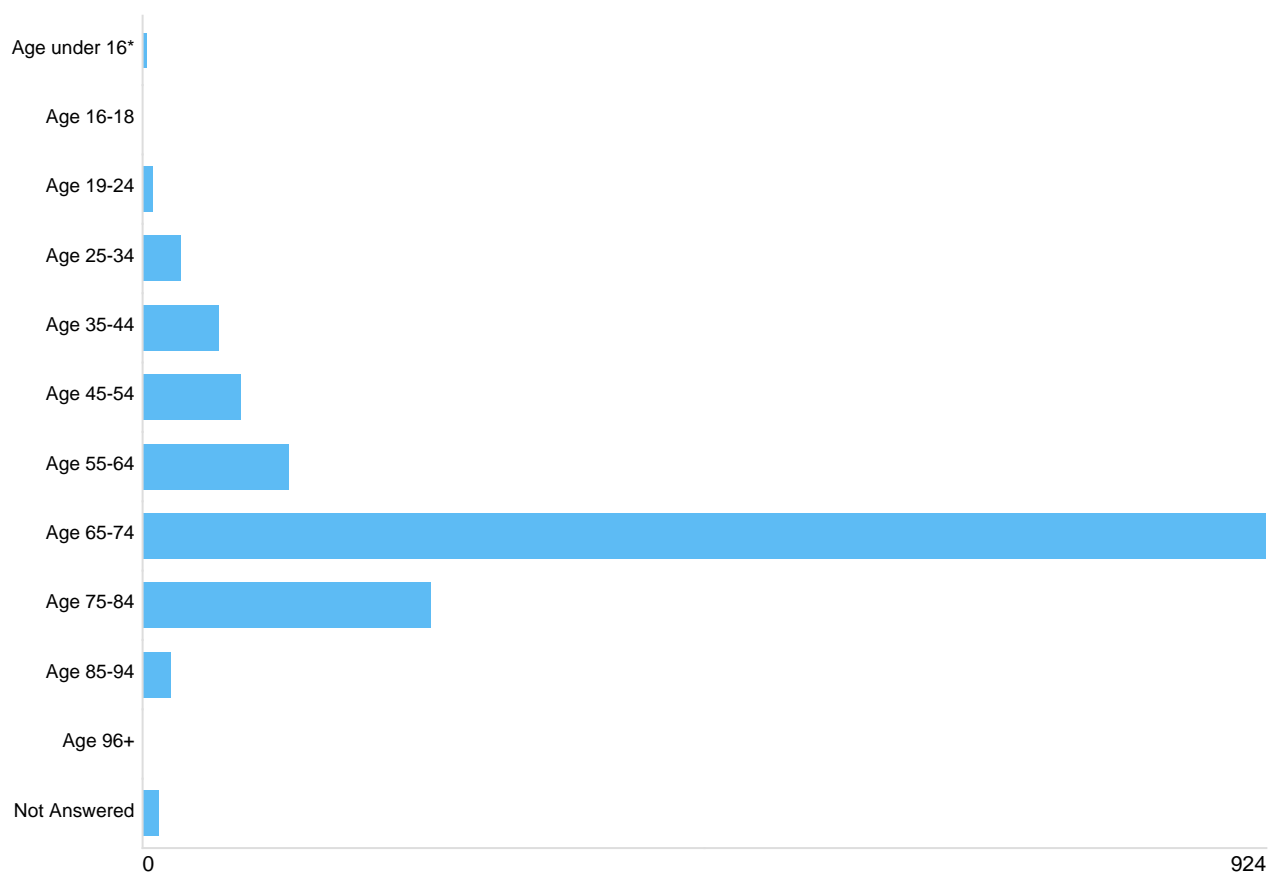




| Option | Total | Percent |
|-----------------|-------|---------|
| Basildon | 50 | 3.35% |
| Braintree | 200 | 13.39% |
| Brentwood | 19 | 1.27% |
| Castle Point | 29 | 1.94% |
| Chelmsford | 433 | 28.98% |
| Colchester | 191 | 12.78% |
| Epping Forest | 9 | 0.60% |
| Harlow | 8 | 0.54% |
| Maldon | 223 | 14.93% |
| Rochford | 43 | 2.88% |
| Southend-on-Sea | 14 | 0.94% |
| Tendring | 119 | 7.97% |
| Thurrock | 4 | 0.27% |
| Uttlesford | 87 | 5.82% |
| Out of county | 37 | 2.48% |
| Not Answered | 28 | 1.87% |

Question : Please tell us which age bracket you fall into:

Age

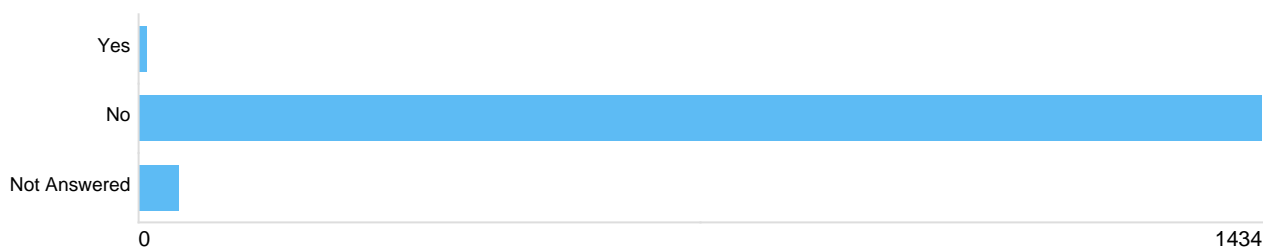




| Option | Total | Percent |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| Age under 16* | 1 | 0.07% |
| Age 16-18 | 0 | 0% |
| Age 19-24 | 8 | 0.54% |
| Age 25-34 | 31 | 2.07% |
| Age 35-44 | 61 | 4.08% |
| Age 45-54 | 79 | 5.29% |
| Age 55-64 | 119 | 7.97% |
| Age 65-74 | 924 | 61.85% |
| Age 75-84 | 236 | 15.80% |
| Age 85-94 | 22 | 1.47% |
| Age 96+ | 0 | 0% |
| Not Answered | 13 | 0.87% |

Question : Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation



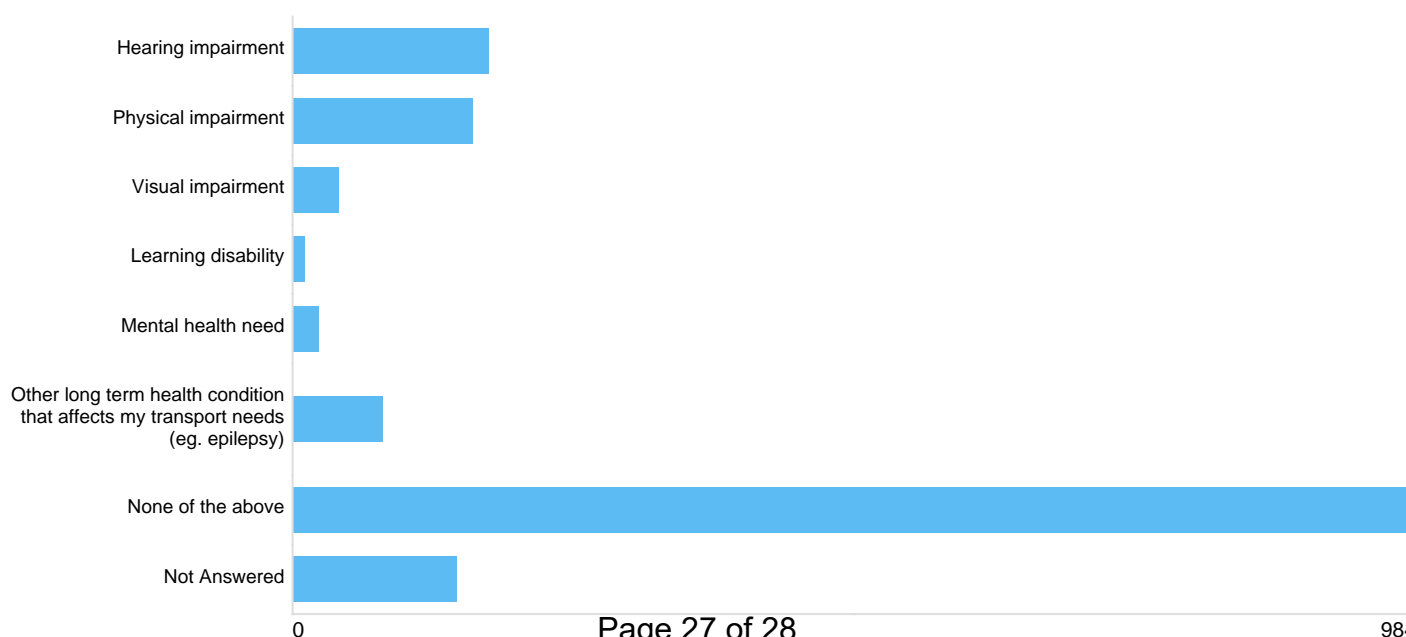
| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 10 | 0.67% |
| No | 1434 | 95.98% |
| Not Answered | 50 | 3.35% |

If yes, please state which organisation:

There were **10** responses to this part of the question.

Question : Do you consider yourself to have a disability, and if so please tell us what type of disability you have?

Disability





| Option | Total | Percent |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Hearing impairment | 170 | 11.38% |
| Physical impairment | 157 | 10.51% |
| Visual impairment | 39 | 2.61% |
| Learning disability | 10 | 0.67% |
| Mental health need | 22 | 1.47% |
| Other long term health condition that affects my transport needs (eg. epilepsy) | 78 | 5.22% |
| None of the above | 984 | 65.86% |
| Not Answered | 143 | 9.57% |

Question : If you feel that your personal situation means you would be particularly adversely affected, please explain in the free text box below:

Personal situation

There were **268** responses to this part of the question.