

		AGENDA ITEM 7
		PSEG/25/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	26 November 2015	
LOCAL BUS CONSULTATION (Minute 7/ November 2015)		
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At its last meeting (Minute 7/ October 2015) the Committee considered a report setting out a record of the briefing it had received on the Local Bus Consultation in September 2015, and agreed the following recommendations:

1. It is recommended to the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Environment that consideration be given to:
 - Seeking feedback on bus consultations through targeted focus groups including the Young Essex Assembly,
 - seeking representation on the new Bus Strategy Forum from the Parish Forum, and Employers/ Training sector ie to reflect the needs of people relying on passenger transport to access work and training opportunities across Essex, and
 - that Councillor Simon Walsh, as Committee Chairman, and Councillor David Kendall be appointed as the Scrutiny Committee's representatives on the Bus Commissioning Strategy Board.
2. That the Committee's representatives on the Bus Commissioning Strategy Board be tasked with reporting back to the Committee as and when necessary on the development of the Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy.

The following response has been received from Councillor Hirst as the Cabinet Member with portfolio responsibility for passenger transport following the last full Council meeting in October:

'I am grateful to the Scrutiny Committee for the time they have taken to engage with the work on the bus strategy and the contribution that they have made to shaping it. I agree that the use of focus groups, including the Young Essex Assembly, is helpful in developing our proposals and I have asked the bus team to include this in the next steps of their work.

I am very happy to include representatives from the Parish Forum and employers and training stakeholders on the Bus Forum. I am also happy to invite Cllrs Walsh and Kendall on to the Bus Board.

Finally, I am happy to reassure Cllr Kendall that his points will have been reflected in our consideration. Cabinet is expecting to make final decisions on the procurement next week and if Cllr Kendall has any queries ahead of this I know that Helen Morris will be happy to discuss.'

As Councillor Hirst has agreed recommendation 1 that was referred to him, it is necessary to determine how to ensure that recommendation 2 is implemented successfully. Therefore the Chairman will liaise with colleagues on how to ensure that the Committee's representatives keep it abreast of development on the Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy.

The outcomes of the Local Bus Consultation are being considered at the Cabinet meeting on Thursday 19 November, and a copy of that report is available via the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) on the Council's website.

Action to be taken by the Committee

The Committee is asked to note the content of this report, and a further report will be submitted in due course confirming how representatives will report back to the Committee itself.
