



Essex County Council

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

10:45	Thursday, 22 June 2023	Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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		Pages
1	Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest	5 - 5
2	Appointment of Vice-Chairmen To appoint Vice-Chairmen of the Committee	
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2023.	6 - 11
4	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. No statement or question shall be longer than three minutes and speakers will be timed.	

If you would like to ask a question at this meeting, please email [Democratic Services](#) by 12 noon the day before the meeting (Wednesday 21 June 2023).

5	Work Programme and Communications Review To receive an update (PSEG/17/23) on the current Committee Work Programme.	12 - 17
6	Essex Climate Action Update To consider a report (PSEG/18/23) and presentation from Councillor Peter Schwier, Climate Tsar.	18 - 19
7	Bus Consultation To receive a report (PSEG/19/23) from Cllr Lee Scott, the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport.	20 - 22
7a	Appendix 1 - Draft Bus Consultation	23 - 34
7b	Appendix 2 - Cabinet Report - Supporting Local Bus Services - 2024 Onwards	35 - 47
8	Date of Next Meeting To note that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday 20 July in County Hall.	
9	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.

10

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.

Agenda Item 1

Committee: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Justin Long, 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)

Cllr Alan Goggin	Chairman
Cllr Jane Fleming	
Cllr Dave Blackwell	
Cllr Simon Crow	
Cllr Paul Gadd	
Cllr Paul Honeywood	
Cllr Jaymey McIvor	
Cllr James Newport	
Cllr Lee Scordis	
Cllr Andrew Sheldon	
Cllr Chris Siddall	
Cllr Mick Skeels	
Cllr Marshall Vance	
Cllr Andy Wiles	

Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, that was held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 18 May 2023

Present:

Members:

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor J Fleming	
Councillor P Gadd	
Councillor J Newport	
Councillor L Scordis	
Councillor C Siddall	
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Vance	
Councillor M Platt	Substitute

Officers:

Tracey Vickers	Head of Sustainable Transport
David Forkin	Head of Maintenance and Operations (Essex Highways)
Ken Kentria	Head of External Construction (Essex Highways)
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Emma Hunter	Democratic Services Officer

Cllr Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport.
Cllr Peter Schwier, Climate Tsar
Cllr Mike Steel

Welcome and Introduction

Cllr A Goggin, the Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed those in attendance.

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Cllr A Goggin noted that the membership had changed following Annual Council. He thanked those leaving the Committee (Cllrs D Land, R Moore, M Steel and H Whitbread), praised Cllr M Steel for his work as Vice-Chairman, and welcomed those joining the Committee (Cllrs B Massey, A Sheldon, C Siddall and A Wiles).

The report on Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that:

1. The membership of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee was as shown in the report.
2. Apologies had been received from Cllr A Wiles with Cllr M Platt substituting for him.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 April 2023 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The following points were noted on the Matters Arising report:

- Information had been circulated on the overall budget for LHPs including in response to the questions raised by the Committee.
- The updated annual road condition survey would be circulated to the Committee.

3. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

4. Work Programme and Communications Review

The updated Work Programme was noted.

5. Draft Electric Vehicle and Charing Strategy

Cllrs Lee Scott and Peter Schwier introduced the report (PSEG/14/23) and a presentation which can be found [here](#).

Members were invited to ask questions and provide comment. Key points raised during this discussion included:

- Members suggested that the Council should adopt a flexible approach given rapidly evolving technology and the reported continued popularity of hybrid vehicles.
- It was reported that various solutions were available to ensure the availability of charging points and to avoid 'space-hogging' with education being a key component.
- It was confirmed that the maintenance of charges would not be the responsibility of ECC, and it would be up to the operator to ensure charging points were working.
- Officers reported that a working group had been established with district councils, and ECC was taking the lead as the highway authority.

- It was noted that parking would be an issue (particularly in certain areas such as roads consisting of Victorian terraces) and the Council was working closely with the Essex Parking Partnership.
- It was reported that cost was dictated by funding bids with the ORCs (On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme) stipulating no more than £7,500 for a standard residential charging point (slow charging, overnight) except in cases where there was not a sufficient power supply. It was noted that rapid charging points would be more expensive.
- Members asked officers to review the blanket policy against cable charging across pavements. Officers reported that they were planning a range of pilot projects and amended guidance to offer alternatives.
- Members asked officers to work with district councils to look at the planning permission policies for installing dropped kerbs (to aid EV charging).
- It was confirmed that lamppost charging would not be part of the current funding bids for ECC as generally they were in the wrong place (not kerbside).
- It was estimated that 6,000 public off-street charging points would be needed across Essex, and officers agreed to provide further information on the analysis and evidence to support that figure.
- The timeline for the ORCS and LEVIs (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) bids was outlined, and it was confirmed that liaison with Highways was ongoing.
- It was agreed that the Committee would review the EV and Charging Strategy six-months after adoption and, at the same time, consider an update on the employee fleet transition to EVs.

6. Member-led Pothole Scheme

Cllr Lee Scott introduced the report (PSEG/15/23) and summarised the final responses to the recommendations of the LHP Task and Finish Group.

Key points raised during this discussion included:

- The Cabinet Member outlined that an additional £17.7million in total was being put into highways maintenance (including additional funding from the DfT).
- It was confirmed that the Member-led Pothole Scheme would be in the same format as last year and not go through LHPs. In general, members expressed support for the scheme and this approach.
- Clarification was sought on the footway scheme being put through LHPs, and it was agreed that further information would be shared with the Committee.

- Officers explained the delay in completing repairs submitted under the members' scheme but confirmed all should be completed in the coming weeks.
- The Cabinet Member reported that 12 additional pothole repair teams were being recruited (8 already had been recruited) and these typically comprised 3-4 members of staff.
- In response to concerns that messaging on the member's scheme was not strong, it was reported that there would be improved communications including on social media.
- It was agreed that a report would be brought back to the Committee in around 6 months (circa November 2023) on the new Member-led scheme.

7. Highways Performance

The report (PSEG/16/23) was noted. Members were invited to ask questions and provide comment. Key points raised during this discussion included:

- Officers agreed to establish whether it was possible to provide comparative statistics for the number of outstanding defects from previous years.

The Cabinet Member put on record his thanks to officers and the work they undertake across his portfolio.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Thursday 22 June, 10:30am at County Hall.

9. Urgent Business

No items were raised.

Chairman

PSEG – Matters Arising (June 2023)

Date of Meeting:	Agenda Item	Action	Status
May 2023	Draft Electric Vehicle and Charging Strategy	<p>Further information requested – analysis and evidence behind need for 6,000 public off-street charging points.</p> <p>Committee to review the EV and Charging Strategy six-months after adoption and, at the same time, consider an update on the employee fleet transition to EVs.</p>	<p>Information requested</p> <p>Added to Work Programme</p>
	Member-led Pothole Scheme	Report to be brought back to the Committee in around 6 months (circa November 2023) on the new Member-led scheme.	Added to Work Programme
	Highways Maintenance Performance Update	Officers agreed to establish whether it was possible to provide comparative statistics for the number of outstanding defects from previous years.	Next Highways Performance Update due August/September 2023.
March 2023	Minutes and Matters Arising	Enquires would be made with officers on the s106 process and the perception that Essex Highways demanded less for sustainable transport provision compared with contributions for improvements aimed at car traffic.	Issue discussed at Scrutiny Board meeting on 3rd April. CPSC will now lead on the issue (picking up the points raised at PSEG) with a joint committee briefing session on 29 th June.

	Booking System Trial at Recycling Centres	<p>Officers to provide information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data on missed appointments (from the Rayleigh trial) - reductions in waste tonnage during Rayleigh trial (Rayleigh site vs other non-trial sites) - further detail on cost 	Request sent to officers. Answers to be circulated ahead of June meeting.
	Local Highway Panels	<p>Commitments given at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officers confirmed that the new tracking tool for members to monitor LHP schemes would be available from April. - <i>Officers further confirmed that the training on LHPs referenced in the report would be devised and ready in April.</i> 	Email sent to members 10 th May.
January 2023	Highways Maintenance Performance Update	Repeat request for the Annual Road Condition Survey (2021-22).	Information now sent to Members – 14 th June.

Report title: Work Programme and Communications Review	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 22 June 2023	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer at justin.long@essex.gov.uk.	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is a standard agenda item giving members of the Committee an opportunity to consider upcoming scrutiny activity and request items to be added to the work programme.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the work programme in the Appendix and suggest any additional items.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Board has asked committees to give consideration as to which work programme items may benefit from communications activity in order to promote the work of the scrutiny function both internally and externally. Members are asked to consider this when reviewing the Appendix.

3. Background

3.1 Developing a work programme

Work has continued on identifying priorities and future agenda items. This has included discussions with Committee Members, Cabinet Members and Officers as well as the other Policy and Scrutiny Committees via the Scrutiny Board.

This work has reflected the adoption of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* organisation strategy.

The current work programme is attached in the **Appendix**.

4. Everyone's Essex

The Committee should take account of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* strategy when considering the work

programme and future items.

Particular attention should be paid to the strategic ambitions (and associated commitments and performance measures) most relevant to the work of the Committee: 'Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy', and 'High Quality Environment'.

5. Update and Next Steps

See Appendix.

6. Appendix – Current work programme and an outline of the remit of the Committee.

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG) Work Programme – June 2023

Provisional Dates (2023)	Topic Title	Lead Contact / Cabinet Member	Purpose and Target Outcomes	Cross-Committee Work Identified (where applicable)
22 June	Climate Change	Councillor Peter Schwier, Climate Tsar	To receive a presentation on Climate Change work across ECC	Link to the performance/budget monitoring work of the CPSC
22 June	Bus Consultation	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To consider the draft consultation ahead of publication	
20 July	Economic Growth	Cllr Wagland, Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning	To receive an update on activity to attract high-quality jobs to Essex and retain graduates	Potential link to CPSC
21 September	LTP4 including Space and Movement/Road Hierarchy	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To consider the LTP (Local Transport Plan) 4 and related issues	

TBC	Cycling Strategy / Countywide LCWIP	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To receive an update	
19 October	Community Safety	Cllr Louise McKinlay, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance	To receive an update on the Safety Advisory Group and work with partners on violence against women and girls, particularly Project Minerva	
TBC	Minerals Local Plan Update	Cllr Wagland, Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning	To consider the latest developments including feedback on the public consultation and 'call for sites' engagement	
TBC	Waste Strategy	Councillor Buckley, Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling	To consider the emerging strategy	
TBC	LHP Task and Finish Group	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To review the new LHP system following the recommendations of the LHP Task and Finish Group	

TBC	Recycling Booking System Trial	Councillor Buckley, Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling	To evaluate the trial and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member	
TBC	Member-led Pothole Scheme Review	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To review the performance of the Member-led Pothole Scheme	
TBC	EV and Charging Point Strategy	Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To review progress on the new EV and Charging Point Strategy (6 months after adoption) and review work on employee fleet transition to EVs	

Topics being pursued jointly or via the Scrutiny Board

- s106 (funding for sustainable transport projects) – CPSC-led briefing will take place on 29 June (remote)

Committee Remit

PSEG is responsible for scrutiny of the following areas of Council activity:

- The economy of Essex
- Economic development and regeneration
- Employment related Skills and apprenticeships
- Strategic Highways and transportation
- Heritage, Culture and the Arts
- Tourism
- Country Parks and other green assets Library services
- Broadband and public communications infrastructure
- Planning
- Environmental services
- Community Safety (not Domestic Violence or Youth Offending Team)
- Emergency Planning
- Waste and recycling
- Energy and emissions reduction
- Trading standards
- Housing
- Gypsies and travellers.

Report title: Essex Climate Action Update	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Samantha Kennedy, Director Environment and Climate Action	
Date: 22 June 2023	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Samantha Kennedy, samantha.kennedy@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All	

1. Introduction

The Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG) is responsible for scrutinising activity to tackle Climate Change including areas such as Energy and Emissions Reduction, Environmental Services, Waste and Recycling, Housing, and Strategic Highways and Transportation.

The Committee last considered a (written) update on this subject in September 2022.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider the presentation (to be given at the meeting), policy and performance in this area including progress on the action plan agreed by Cabinet in November 2021, and identify any follow-up scrutiny activity.

3. Links to Everyone's Essex

Action in this area supports several of the Environmental commitments including the Net Zero ambition:

We will work across the council and the county to hit our net zero targets, by ensuring that the council significantly reduces its carbon footprint, whilst also supporting an acceleration in the progress towards sustainable housing and energy, and active and alternative forms of travel across the county.

In November 2021, the Cabinet agreed its response to the [Essex Climate Action Commission's Report 'Net-Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral'](#) published in July 2021:

[Essex County Council's Response to Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral](#)

4. Next Steps

This is an opportunity for the Committee to scrutinise the Council's activity in this area.

Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Councillor Peter Schwier - Climate Tsar

Sam Kennedy - Director Environment & Climate Action

5. Appendix

Presentation to be given at the meeting and circulated in advance.

Report title: Supporting Local Bus Services – Public Consultation	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Helen Morris, Head of Integrated Passenger Transport Unit (IPTU)	
Date: 22 June 2023	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Helen Morris - Helen.Morris@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG) is responsible for scrutinising Strategic Highways and Transportation including public transport. The Committee is asked to consider the upcoming public consultation on bus services (**Appendix 1**).
- 1.2 At its 23 May meeting, Cabinet considered a paper [Supporting Local Bus Services - 2024 onwards](#) (**Appendix 2**) and agreed to consult on the following:
 - (a) Retendering the 97 Local Bus contracts, with an approximate annual net cost of £4.9m, for a four-year period with the possibility of extending for a further two years.
 - (b) The re-design and re-procurement of 43 contracts: the 39 Local Bus contracts with an approximate annual net cost of £3.3m and 4 new Local Bus contracts with an approximate annual net cost of £1.1m for a two-year period with an option for extension for up to a further three years.
 - (c) That the consultation referred to in (b) will be on the basis that if these services are not on course to meet the subsidy requirement of no more than £5 per passenger journey by the time we need to make a decision on what happens after the end of the two year period, the Council may consult on withdrawal, noting that consultation would not take place until 2025 at the earliest.
 - (d) The withdrawal of the 21 low use Local Bus contracts, where the cost is currently more than £10 per passenger journey.

It was noted that following the consultation, decisions on which services to extend; which services to procure; which services to award; and which services to withdraw will be taken by the Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport as long as decisions can be accommodated within the overall local bus budget.
- 1.3 At the Cabinet meeting, it was agreed that the draft consultation should be considered by the appropriate scrutiny committee ahead of publication.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to

- Note the decision taken by Cabinet on 23 May (Appendix 2);
- Consider the draft public consultation (Appendix 1) and suggest any additions or amendments before publication; and
- Consider how the Committee would like to respond to the consultation.

3. Links to Everyone's Essex

Everyone's Essex sets out the following strategic priorities for Essex County Council (ECC). That Essex:

- Has a strong, inclusive and sustainable economy
- Has a high-quality environment
- Offers health wellbeing and independence for all ages
- Is a good place for children and families to grow

Buses contribute to all these outcomes. They support economic growth by getting people to work, training and school. They support the reduction of adverse air quality emissions and carbon emissions. They allow young people, older people and those with disabilities or without cars to travel. They support diverse and thriving communities and help combat loneliness and isolation.

4. Next Steps

The Committee is asked to consider the proposed bus consultation and suggest any additions or amendments before publication.

Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Councillor Lee Scott – Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport and Highways Maintenance

Helen Morris – Head of IPTU

The Committee is also asked to consider how it would like to respond to the consultation and specifically whether it would like to respond as a committee or as individuals.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Draft Bus Consultation (please note that this draft is presented without formatting or design)

Appendix 2 - Cabinet Report - Supporting Local Bus Services - 2024 onwards.

Introduction

Essex County Council (ECC) is reviewing its support for 161 local bus services. We want your help to ensure that our future bus network is ready to meet new levels of passenger demand and is providing value for money. ECC is therefore carrying out this public consultation regarding these local bus services.

This consultation will commence xxxxx and close on [12 WEEKS]

As set out in the accompanying questionnaire, ECC is undertaking a review of local bus services which are paid for by Essex taxpayers. It **does not** cover services provided by the commercial transport providers. This review covers all 12 districts in Essex with the view of assessing whether to continue providing the service and in what capacity; or whether to look for alternative solutions.

Background

We know that buses are important to many people. They help people reach employment, education, visit friends and to get to health appointments. The majority of the bus network in Essex (around 85%) is run commercially. The remaining 15% of services are not commercially viable and the transport providers will therefore not run them.

As Essex's local transport authority, when no commercial service is provided, the County Council has a duty to consider whether one is needed, and if, in the Council's view it is, then to provide it.

How the Council decides whether a service is needed and what services it will support are set out in its Local Bus Service Priority Policy which can be found [here](#). The Local Bus Service Priority Policy now forms part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan so has been extended from 2020 to 2026.

ECC has a strong record for supporting local bus services and ECC remains committed to supporting an effective and efficient bus service network offering value for money to the taxpayer in the services it provides.

However, the strong financial pressures on all local government funding means that ECC must look very carefully at how it will provide all its services to make sure that the limited funding available is focused where it will be of most benefit to the public.

The services provided under this policy are paid for by Essex taxpayers. The supported network mainly operates in rural areas, and at less popular times for travel, such as in the evenings and on Sundays. At present ECC spends around £10m of taxpayer's money on these services each year. The local bus service priority policy includes a value for money measure to ensure that taxpayers are not funding services that are not used much or have a high cost. This measure is currently valued at £5 per passenger journey. If the cost to the taxpayer is over £5 per journey made, then ECC will review the service.

The value for money measure was suspended during Covid-19 because of changing government advice on travel during the various lockdowns and then because ECC wanted to allow services time to recover. Patronage has indeed been increasing. But there are several services which were either struggling to attract passengers even before Covid-19 or where passengers have not returned. ECC is not proposing to re-introduce the £5 measure immediately because there is still some growth in patronage. However, there are several services which are substantially over the £5 measure – in fact they are costing taxpayers more than £10 cost per passenger journey to support.

These services are detailed later in this document alongside details of any changes or proposals.

What are we Consulting on?

We are consulting on:

- Continuing most services as they are now;
- Redesigning some services (for example the days of operation; routes; the number of journeys and/or the timetable); or
- withdrawing services, where they are not sufficiently well-used to justify their cost and there is no likelihood of re-design improving that position.

Some of the services in this last group have had low usage for some considerable time. They are currently costing taxpayers over £10.00 per passenger journey. What we are proposing in this consultation for this group is to either:

- withdraw all of the timetable journeys of the service (as shown on the timetables below)
- re-design the service, potentially changing the route or timetable
- reduce the service (frequency and/or days of operation)

A re-designed or reduced service would need to either reduce costs significantly or attract much higher numbers of passengers or do both. This is because if we tender a service then it would then need to show a clear opportunity of meeting the £5 cost per passenger journey measure for us to go ahead and procure it. If it cannot show that it has the potential to meet that measure it may be withdrawn.

We would expect to make an announcement on the outcome of the consultation in Spring 2024. This means we will be using the most up to date passenger data available in any final decisions.

In order for us to consider your comments, we are seeking your views on these proposals. ECC will collate all the responses from the survey and summarise them as part of our report. This report will be used to help decide whether the proposal should be implemented. We will not identify individual people and your name will not be mentioned in any reports we write for this purpose. You do not have to take part if you don't want to - this is a voluntary activity.

Table 1 – 97 Services where we are not proposing to make any significant changes except for XXXXX.

Service number	Origin	Destination	Days of operation	District	Current operator	Proposed Changes
4A	Great Wakering	Shoeburyness	Sunday & Public Holidays	Rochford	Arriva Kent Thameside	
59	Chelmsford	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	Arriva Kent Thameside	
2	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
4	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
6	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
8	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
10	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
1	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
2	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
4	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
1	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
10	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
3	Harlow	Harlow	Saturday Evenings	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
SB21	Fuller Street	Braintree	Monday	Braintree	Arrow Taxi's	
12	Wickford	Billericay	Monday to Saturday	Basildon	Arrow Taxi's	
132	Saffron Walden	Cambridge	Sunday & Public Holidays	Uttlesford	C G Myalls	
211 / 212	Waltham Cross	Breach Barns	Monday to Saturday	Epping Forest	Epping Forest Community Transport	
HSB01	Toot Hill	Harlow	Wednesday & Friday	Harlow	Epping Forest Community Transport	
B3	Felmores	Basildon	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
B3	Felmores	Basildon	Sunday & Public Holidays	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
42B	Chelmsford	Halstead	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
C1	Great Waltham	Galleywood	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
14	Wickford	The Wick	Monday to Friday	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
21	North Benfleet	Basildon	Monday to Saturday	Castlepoint	First Essex Buses Ltd	

1A	Basildon	Pitsea	Saturday	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
21C	Canvey	Hadleigh	Monday to Friday	Castlepoint	First Essex Buses Ltd	
13 / 13A / 14	Chelmsford	Wickford	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
3	Southend	Chelmsford	Monday to Saturday	Rochford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
47	Moulsham	Broomfield Hospital	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
4	The Hythe	Stanway	Monday to Friday	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
16A	Canwick Grove	St Helena School	Schooldays	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
17	West Bergholt	Stanway	Schooldays	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
80 / 80A / 81 / 81A	Colchester	Boxted / Manningtree	Monday to Saturday	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
174 / 175	Colchester	Fingringhoe	Monday to Saturday	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
46	Chelmsford	Ongar	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
11	Highwoods	Colchester	Monday to Friday	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
565	Grays	Brentwood	Monday to Saturday	Brentwood	First Essex Buses Ltd	
32	Chelmsford	Ongar	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
B1 / B2 / B4 / 22	Pitsea	Laindon	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
B1 / B2 / B3 / B4	Pitsea	Laindon	Sunday & Public Holidays	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
25	Basildon	Wickford	Sunday & Public Holidays	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
351	Chelmsford	Brentwood	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
80A / 80C	Brentwood	Hutton	Sunday & Public Holidays	Brentwood	First Essex Buses Ltd	
37	Warley	Brentwood	Sunday & Public Holidays	Brentwood	First Essex Buses Ltd	
21	Canvey	Southend	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
336	Chelmsford	South Woodham Ferrers	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
31 / 332	Chelmsford	Burnham on Crouch	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
C4 / C5	Moulsham Lodge	Oxney Green	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
C2 / C3	North Melbourne	Beaulieu Park	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
70	Colchester Mason Rd	Chelmsford	Sunday & Public Holidays	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
71	Chelmsford	Colchester	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
42B	Chelmsford	Halstead	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
42A	Chelmsford	Stansted Airport	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	

C7	Chelmsford	Galleywood	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
1	Ambrose Avenue	Greenstead	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
2	Highwoods	Great Horkesley	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
88A	Colchester	Halstead	Sunday & Public Holidays	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
S4 / S6 / S7	Greenstead	St Michaels Estate / Shrub End / Greenstead	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
68	Highwoods	West Mersea	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
88	Halstead	Colchester	Monday to Friday Evenings	Colchester	Hedingham & Chambers	
1A / 2A / S3 / S9	Colchester	Colchester	Sunday & Public Holidays	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
31	Chelmsford	Burnham on Crouch / Steeple	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
336	Chelmsford	South Woodham Ferrers	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
73	Chelmsford	Maldon	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
75	Maldon	Colchester	Sunday & Public Holidays	Maldon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
76	Clacton	Colchester	Sunday & Public Holidays	Tendring	First Essex Buses Ltd	
102	Colchester	Harwich	Sunday & Public Holidays	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
301	Bishops Stortford	Saffron Walden	Monday to Saturday	Uttlesford	Central Connect	
5	Sumners Farm	Harlow Bus Station	Monday to Saturday	Harlow	Central Connect	
306	Wicken Bonhunt	Bishops Stortford	Schooldays	Uttlesford	Central Connect	
66A	Waltham Cross	Debden	Sunday & Public Holidays	Epping Forest	Arriva Kent Thameside	
77 / 77A	St Osyth Beach	Colchester	Monday to Friday	Tendring	Hedingham & Chambers	
97A / 98A	Clacton on Sea	Walton on the Naze	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Tendring	Hedingham & Chambers	
97 / 98	Clacton on Sea	Walton on the Naze	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Tendring	Hedingham & Chambers	
71 / 72	Stondon Massey	Warley	Monday to Saturday	Brentwood	Hedingham & Chambers	
19	Rowhedge	Monkwick	Schooldays	Colchester	Hedingham & Chambers	
50 / 50A	Colchester	Tollesbury	Monday to Saturday	Colchester	Hedingham & Chambers	
63 / 63A	Colchester	West Mersea / Monkwick	Monday to Saturday	Colchester	Hedingham & Chambers	
694	Langham	East Bergholt	Schooldays	Colchester	Hedingham & Chambers	

91	Tollesbury	Witham	Monday to Saturday	Maldon	Hedingham & Chambers	
92	Tollesbury	Colchester	Monday to Saturday	Maldon	Hedingham & Chambers	
95 / 95A	Maldon	Tollesbury	Monday to Saturday	Maldon	Hedingham & Chambers	
9	Walton on the Naze	Great Holland	Monday to Friday	Tendring	Hedingham & Chambers	
105 / 107	Walton on the Naze	Colchester	Monday to Saturday	Tendring	Hedingham & Chambers	
115	Weeley	Thorpe le Soken	Schooldays	Tendring	Hedingham & Chambers	
101	Point Clear	Brightlingsea	Schooldays	Tendring	Hedingham & Chambers	
21	Ongar	Brentwood	Saturday	Brentwood	NIBs Buses	
2	Harwich	Harwich	Monday to Saturday	Tendring	Panther Travel	
Citi 7	Cambridge	Saffron Wallden	Monday to Saturday	Uttlesford	Stagecoach	
30	Beckers Green	Marks Farm	Monday to Saturday	Braintree	Stephensons of Essex	
61	Blackmore	Brentwood	Monday to Saturday	Brentwood	Vectare Ltd	
13	Waltham Cross Bus Station	St Margaret's Hospital Epping	Monday to Saturday	Epping Forest	Vectare Ltd	
73 / 73A	Chelmsford	Maldon	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
82A / B / 83A / B	Colchester	Colne Engaine	Monday to Saturday	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
269	Brentwood	Grays	Monday to Saturday	Brentwood	First Essex Buses Ltd	
418	Loughton	Harlow	Monday to Saturday	Harlow	Vectare Ltd	
S9	Colchester North Station	Rowhedge	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	

Table 2 – 44 contracts for 'at risk' services where re-design options include: reduced frequency, removal of journey(s). These services will be continued for 2 years during which time the contracts will be reviewed.

Service number	Origin	Destination	Days of operation	District	Current Operator	Proposed changes
8	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
10	Temple Grove	Pleshey	Monday to Friday	Chelmsford	Arrow Taxi's	
99A	Chelmsford	Woodham Walter	Monday to Friday	Chelmsford	Arrow Taxi's	
SB28	Stisted	Braintree Freeport	Wednesday	Braintree	Braintree Community Transport	
104 / 106	Langdon Hills	Basildon	Monday to Friday	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	

345	Fuller Street	Braintree	Wednesday	Braintree	First Essex Buses Ltd	
63	Rayleigh	Great Wakering / Landwick	Wednesday & Friday	Rochford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
251	Warley	Wickford	Sunday & Public Holidays	Brentwood	NIBS Buses	
371 / 71	Oxney Green	Chelmer Village	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
C7 / C57	Chelmsford	Galleywood	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
S3	Old Heath	West Bergholt	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Colchester	First Essex Buses Ltd	
74	Clacton	Colchester	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Tendring	First Essex Buses Ltd	
102	Harwich	Colchester	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Tendring	First Essex Buses Ltd	
316 / 318	Stansted Airport	Saffron Walden	Monday to Saturday	Uttlesford	Central Connect	
14	Harlow	Pinnacles	Monday to Saturday	Harlow	Central Connect	
7 / 7A	Bishops Stortford	Stansted Airport	Monday to Saturday	Uttlesford	Central Connect	
542	Debden	Loughton	Monday to Saturday	Epping Forest	Central Connect	
4	Jaywick/ Clacton	Great Clacton / Holland on Sea	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Tendring	Hedingham & Chambers	
16	Wethersfield	Chelmsford	Monday to Saturday	Chelmsford	Hedingham & Chambers	
94 / A / B	South Woodham	Basildon	Monday to Saturday	Basildon	Hedingham & Chambers	
79	Colchester	Tiptree	Friday	Colchester	Hedingham & Chambers	
85 / 92	Colchester	Tollesbury / Layer Breton	Wednesday	Colchester	Hedingham & Chambers	
2 / 2A	Clacton	Mistley	Monday to Saturday	Tendring	Hedingham & Chambers	
D1 / D2	Maldon	Bradwell	Monday to Saturday	Maldon	Hedingham & Chambers	

17 / 18	Great Dunmow	Chelmsford	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday	Chelmsford	J W Lodge	
118	Parkeston	Ramsey	Schooldays	Tendring	Panther Travel	
90	Maldon	Witham	Monday to Saturday	Maldon	Stephensons of Essex	
14	Southend	Great Wakering	Monday to Saturday	Rochford	Stephensons of Essex	
60 / 60A	Southend	Paglesham	Monday to Saturday	Rochford	Stephensons of Essex	
31	Toot Hill	Harlow	Monday to Saturday	Harlow	First Essex Buses Ltd	
10	Shotgate / Wickford	Basildon	Monday to Saturday	Basildon	Vectare Ltd	
40	Witham, Ebenezer Way	Witham, Town service	Monday, Wednesday, Saturday	Braintree	First Essex Buses Ltd	
34	Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden	Tuesday and Thursday only	Uttlesford	Stephensons of Essex	
319/320/321/5 9/590	Haverhill	Saffron Walden/Newport	Monday to Saturday	Uttlesford	Central Connect	
6A / 6B	Clacton	Point Clear	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Tendring	Heddingham & Chambers	
505	Harlow	Waltham Abbey	Saturday	Harlow	Vectare Ltd	
418B	Loughton	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Harlow	Central Connect	
418B	Loughton	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays	Harlow	Central Connect	
322/323/324	Great Dunmow	Saffron Walden	Monday to Saturday	Uttlesford	Central Connect	
305/315/325	Bishops Stortford	Stansted Airport	Monday to Saturday	Uttlesford	Central Connect	
505	Harlow	Waltham Cross	Monday to Friday	Harlow	Vectare Ltd	
313 / 314	Great Dunmow	Saffron Walden	Monday to Saturday	Uttlesford	Stephensons of Essex	
DaRT 299	Uttlesford	Braintree	Monday to Saturday	Uttlesford	Arrow Taxi's	

Table 3 – 21 services with low passenger usage where services will be re-designed but are also at risk of withdrawal.

Service number	Origin	Destination	Days of operation	District	Current Operator	Proposed Changes
6	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Harlow	Arriva Kent Thameside	
F315	Sudbury	Halstead	Monday to Saturday	Braintree	Arrow Taxis	
DaRT 5	Maldon	Stow Maries/Nth Fambridge/Althorne	Monday to Saturday	Maldon	Arrow Taxis	
552	Ramsden Heath	Billericay Station	Monday to Friday	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
256	Basildon	Ramsden Heath	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	Basildon	First Essex Buses Ltd	
9 / 9A	Great Saling/Great Bardfield	Great Notley	Monday to Friday	Braintree	Central Connect	
84B	Colchester	Great Horkesley	Thursday Only	Colchester	Heddingham & Chambers	
21	Bocking	Black Notley	Sunday & Public Holidays	Braintree	Heddingham & Chambers	
21	Bocking	Gt Notley	Monday to Saturday	Braintree	Stephensons of Essex	
DaRT 3	Braintree	Braintree	Monday to Saturday	Braintree	Essex and Suffolk Dart C I C	
DaRT 4	Burnham On Crouch	Burnham on Crouch	Monday to Saturday	Maldon	Essex and Suffolk Dart C I C	
DaRT 7	Moreton/Matching Green/Stanford Rivers	Epping	Monday & Thursday Only	Harlow	Epping Forest Community Transport	

94	South Woodham	South Woodham	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	
99	Clacton	Walton on the Naze	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Tendring	Hedingham & Chambers	
15	Marks Tey	Marks Tey	Monday to Friday	Colchester	Hedingham & Chambers	
50B	Colchester	Colchester	Monday Only	Colchester	Hedingham & Chambers	
69 / 69A	Colchester	East Mersea	Tuesday Only	Colchester	Hedingham & Chambers	
804	Debden	Chigwell	Schooldays Only	Epping Forest	NIBS Buses	
21	Bocking	Black Notley	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Braintree	Stephensons of Essex	
7	Hockley	Rayleigh	Monday to Saturday Evenings	Roschford	Stephensons of Essex	
C56	Chelmsford	Galleywood	Sunday & Public Holidays	Chelmsford	First Essex Buses Ltd	

For the 97 successful services, timetables can be found on the operator websites.

Links to copies of timetables for all other services are available at the end of this document.

If you require assistance with this survey or require it in alternative format, such as large print or audio, please call XXXX or email us at: passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk

Service/s XXXXXX the following changes are proposed: XXXXXXXX. For all other services listed here [insert table 1] we are not proposing to make any significant changes until at least 2028. If you would like to comment on that service please choose the service and add your comment.

When you have answered the questions, you will be given the choice of finishing the survey or returning to the list of services. Please give your views on the service(s) that you use.
Need to emphasise that they need to answer all questions about each service

For services listed here [insert table 2] we are proposing to retain the service until at least

2026 and may also be proposing some potential improvements. These will be shown in the table. Please choose the service you would like to comment on from the table.

When you have answered the questions, you will be given the choice of finishing the survey or returning to the list of services. Please give your views on the service(s) that you use.

Need to emphasise that they need to answer all questions about each service

For services listed here [insert table 3] we are proposing to re-design the service to try and reduce the cost or increase patronage. If this is not possible the service could be withdrawn entirely. Please choose the service you would like to comment on from the table

When you have answered the questions, you will be given the choice of finishing the survey or returning to the list of services. Please give your views on the service(s) that you use.

Need to emphasise that they need to answer all questions about each service

List all services in table 2 and table 3 we consider potential changes on at this stage

Table 1

- ☐ **Service 7** - Hockley /Rayleigh/ Southend on sea – Monday to Saturday (Evenings Only)

Questions

1. Please tell us how often you use this service?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Less than once a month

2. Please specify which time of day you use this service tick box

Eg 0600 – 0900, 0900 - 12.00, 12:00 - 16:00, 16:00 - 19:00, 19:00 onwards, please select all that apply.

3. Please specify which days of the week you use this service? – tick box for days of week. Tick all that apply

4. What is the main purpose of your journey/s? (Character limit of 50)

tick box? food shopping, employment, education, health, social, leisure, other

please specify

5. Which ECC proposal would you support in relation to this service?

I agree with the proposed withdrawal of this service

I agree with the proposed change of this service as specified in Table 2 or 3

I disagree with the above, please specify why:

- I could not make necessary journeys without this service
- The journeys I make will be less convenient

- Other – including any changes you would propose to reduce cost or increase passenger usage (no more than 100 Characters)

6. If journeys from this service are maintained, which would you prefer us to support?

- ☐ Focus on Journeys that carry the most passengers
- ☐ Focus on peak time journeys for travel to and from school and/or work
- ☐ Focus on daytime journeys for shopping. Leisure and healthcare.
- ☐ Any other comments:

If you wish to comment on another service, please click here to take you back to the list of services.

If not click here to finish the survey.

Add standard demographic questions and questions for ECIA.

Forward Plan ref: FP/093/03/23

Report title: Supporting Local Bus Services - 2024 onwards	
Report to: Cabinet	
Report author: Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	
Date: 23 May 2023	For: Decision
Enquiries to: Paul Crick, Director of Highways and Transport, email Paul.crick@essex.gov.uk or Helen Morris, Head of IPTU, email: helen.morris@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1. Everyone's Essex

- 1.1 Everyone's Essex sets out the following strategic priorities for Essex County Council (ECC). That Essex:
- Has a strong, inclusive and sustainable economy
 - Has a high-quality environment
 - Offers health wellbeing and independence for all ages
 - Is a good place for children and families to grow
- 1.2 Buses contribute to all these outcomes. They support economic growth by getting people to work, training and school. They support the reduction of adverse air quality emissions and carbon emissions. They allow young people, older people and those with disabilities or without cars to travel. They support diverse and thriving communities and help combat loneliness and isolation.
- 1.3 The majority of buses in Essex, around 85% of the network, are run commercially. Where there is no bus service, Essex County Council has a legal duty to consider whether one should be provided. It is then entirely discretionary whether a service is provided or not. The policy framework under which ECC makes these decisions is set out [here](#).
- 1.4 The policy now forms part of ECC's Bus Service Improvement Plan and has therefore been formally extended until 2026. Currently around 15% of the network is supported by taxpayers under this policy at a cost of £10.1m annually (based on the 2023/24 budget). The contracts for these current services expire in 2024 and ECC must now make a decision on what services to provide after that point.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Agree that the Director, Highways and Transportation shall consult as follows:

- (a) Retendering the 97 Local Bus contracts in appendix A, with an approximate annual net cost of £4.9m, for a four year period with the possibility of extending for a further two years.
 - (b) The re-design and re-procurement of 43 contracts at appendix B: the 39 Local Bus contracts with an approximate annual net cost of £3.3m and 4 new Local Bus contracts with an approximate annual net cost of £1.1m for a two year period with an option for extension for up to a further three years.
 - (c) That the consultation referred to in (b) will be on the basis that if these services are not on course to meet the subsidy requirement of no more than £5 per passenger journey by the time we need to make a decision on what happens after the end of the two year period, the Council may consult on withdrawal, noting that consultation would not take place until 2025 at the earliest.
 - (d) The withdrawal of the 21 low use Local Bus contracts listed in appendix C where the cost is currently more than £10 per passenger journey.
- 2.2 Note that following consultation, decisions on which services to extend; which services to procure; which services to award; and which services to withdraw will be taken by the Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport as long as decisions can be accommodated within the overall local bus budget.
- 2.3 Note that some contracts for services may need to be the subject of a short term extension if it is not possible to consult and award contracts by the expiry of the current contracts in July 2024.
- 2.4 Note that proposals for innovative new delivery models will be brought forward for consideration, including but not limited to devolving hyper local services; digital demand responsive services; low rate flat fares building on the success of the national £2 single fare offer; and marketing and promotion of services, including wider ticketing offers. Such investment proposals will be subject to agreement in a decision taken by the relevant Cabinet Members.

3 Background and Proposal

- 3.1 The majority of the bus network in Essex has operated on a commercial basis, but historically 15% of the network has been subsidised by the Council where bus operators are unable or unwilling to provide them commercially. The supported services are known as the 'local bus network'.
- 3.2 The ECC supported services are normally reviewed every four years. However, during the covid pandemic, changes were put on hold, both as a condition of central government funding; but also because it was recognised travel patterns were changing. Contracts for all local bus services now expire

in July 2024. Patronage has risen and fallen over the past three years largely as a result of the various lockdowns and restrictions on travel.

- 3.3 Data from September and October 2022 showed an increase as schools and universities returned and as some people who had worked from home returned either fully or part time to their place of work. Since then patronage has stabilised at around 80% of pre-covid levels. Our assessment is that travel patterns have now broadly settled and now is the right time to review services and consult on proposals. Broadly, urban routes, particularly those used for school travel have recovered most strongly with rural routes and travel by concessionary pass holders recovering less well.
- 3.4 TravelEssex is the Enhanced Partnership brand for all buses and routes on the Essex network. It is used on information material, bus infrastructure and marketing material to encourage bus travel across Essex. Each of the commercial bus companies in Essex actively continually run strong marketing campaigns in order to grow bus patronage. Buses running up and down the roads are used as advertising for promotions, such as the £2 single fare, free travel for the armed forces and wrapped buses for the Queen's Jubilee, Pride, Armed Forces Day and local places of interest within Essex. In addition to the £2 single fare promotions, social media campaigns have focused on selling group tickets to families and couples, ticket bundles to the commuters, and reasons to travel for concessionary bus users. Community Engagement projects have included the 'Chatty Bus' and 'Meet the Manager'.
- 3.5 ECC has a long standing value for money measure whereby it will not generally subsidise buses by more than £5 per passenger journey. This is calculated by taking the cost of a service net of fare revenue and dividing it by the number of journeys made by passengers on it. The measure is designed to ensure that:
- in assessing the value of services to communities, we are also assessing the cost to taxpayers and targeting funding where it has most impact;
 - we are targeting resources where they do most good; and
 - we are ensuring services are sufficiently used to be delivering good carbon reduction outcomes.
- 3.6 The impact of the pandemic has changed passenger numbers significantly since these local bus contracts were originally awarded. We have reviewed the network based on recent data and divided services into three groups of services:
- a group of 97 services which remain successful and well used representing £4.9m of investment where the subsidy cost per passenger journey now is less than £5 (appendix A).

- a group of 43 'at risk' services which are either new or have recovered to some degree where the cost is between £5 and £10 representing an investment of £4.4m (appendix B).
 - a group of 21 low use services that are unfortunately currently significantly failing the value for money criterion and which are operating at a cost of at least £10 per passenger journey representing an investment of £1.1m (appendix C).
- 3.7 The cost per passenger journey used for the basis of calculation in 3.3 above uses bus operators and concessionary fares data for November 2022 up to and including February 2023, where available – and where it is not available for the whole period we have used as much data as possible from this period. This is to ensure we are not using data from the period when services were still significantly recovering from the impacts of the covid restrictions and is the most recent data available when the background work to consider the future of the services was being undertaken.
- 3.8 We will continue to review these groups throughout the consultation and procurement process to ensure we are using the best evidence for decisions. As such we may propose that bus contracts are switched between the groups in appendices A-C if ridership particularly increases.. ECC will continue to request data on a monthly basis. Ahead of consultation ECC will continue to request appropriate passenger data to the end of April 2023 to support the consultation and subsequent decision making. We will have at least a year's data before we make the final decision on re-procuring will be based on at least a year's worth of data.
- 3.9 The proposal is that we manage each group as follows:
- For the 97 services listed in appendix A, which have a current cost per passenger journey of £5 or less, we make any appropriate changes and tender the services for 4 years plus 1 year plus 1 year. Given the strong performance of these services despite the lower patronage post covid, they are clearly valued, providing broadly the right service to their communities; and offer value for money to taxpayers.
 - For the 'at risk' services ie those with a cost per passenger journey of between £5 and £10, listed in appendix B, we consider making any changes that would strengthen patronage and/or reduce cost; and re-tender those services for 2 years plus 2 years plus 1 year plus 1 year. If by the time we need to make a decision on extension after two years they have met the value for money criteria or are on a clear trajectory to do so, they could be extended and become co-terminus with the successful services. If after two years, they have not grown sufficiently to meet the value for money criterion, we would consult on withdrawal. This also gives communities a clear opportunity to improve the usage of services that they wish to continue. Withdrawal would not take place before summer 2026, giving a three year commitment to continue these routes.

- For the low use services with a cost per passenger journey of more than £10 as listed at appendix C, if a re-design could reduce cost and/or increase patronage that will be included. However, these services are substantially in excess of the £5 per passenger journey criterion – at over £10 per passenger journey. There would need to be a significant step change to bring them below that cost. The proposal is therefore to consult on withdrawal alongside re-design. The impacts of potentially withdrawing services will be assessed as part of consultation. Whilst it is never possible to commission a bus service to meet every individual travel need, the impact on individuals of a service withdrawal can be significant.

3.10 Recognising the adverse impact that the withdrawal of services can have on those who use them, it is proposed to bring forward proposals for new delivery models. Our Bus Service Improvement Plan [here](#) sets out a range of options, including demand responsive services, devolution of hyper local services; de-carbonisation; and other measures. This will also include options for introducing low rate flat fares, such as the central government funded £2 maximum single fare currently on offer.

3.11 All of these proposals will be subject to consultation. Any decisions will be made using the most up to date data, including service patronage. This means that any changes in service use can be reflected in the final decision, though no buses will be withdrawn without consultation.

3.12 Continuing to support bus services in this way will:

- Help people in Essex prosper by increasing their skills
- Enable Essex to attract and grow large firms in high growth industries
- Target economic development to areas of opportunity
- Help keep vulnerable children safer and enable them to fulfil their potential
- Enable more vulnerable adults to live independent of social care
- Improve the health of people in Essex
- Help to secure stronger, safer and more neighbourly communities
- Help to secure sustainable development and protect the environment
- Facilitate growing communities and new homes

4 Links to our Strategic Ambitions

4.1 This report links to the following aims in the Essex Vision

- Enjoy life into old age
- Provide an equal foundation for every child
- Strengthen communities through participation
- Develop our County sustainably
- Connect us to each other and the world
- Share prosperity with everyone

4.2 Approving the recommendations in this report will have the following impact on the Council's ambition to be net carbon neutral by 2030:

- Switching journeys from car to bus offers the biggest immediate carbon reduction gain from transport – even with a predominantly diesel bus fleet;
- Bus use is therefore critical to delivering ECC's net zero ambition.

4.3 This report links to the following strategic priorities in the emerging Organisational Strategy 'Everyone's Essex':

- A strong, inclusive and sustainable economy
- A high quality environment
- Health wellbeing and independence for all ages
- A good place for children and families to grow

5 Options

Option 1: Do Nothing (not recommended)

5.1 If we do nothing contracts will expire in July 2024 and all services will cease. This will not meet the terms of the local bus policy; the proposals set out in our Bus Service Improvement Plan; or deliver the outcomes of Everyone's Essex.

Option 2: Reprocure all services (not recommended)

5.2 If we re-procure all services this would mean that taxpayers were continuing to support low use and high cost services which do not meet the value for money criteria. This would not meet the terms of the local bus policy. It would also mean we could not establish an innovation investment fund to develop new models.

Option 3: Consult on re-procuring contracts based on their performance (recommended)

5.3 For successful contracts with a cost per passenger journey of £5 or under to consult on procuring services for 4 years plus 1 year plus 1 year (appendix A;

5.4 For 'at risk' contracts with a cost per passenger journey of more than £5 but less than £10 and new contracts to consult on procuring for 2 years plus 2 years plus 1 year plus 1 year. The proposal would be to then after 2 years – in July 2026 at the earliest - to extend any contracts where the costs appears to be likely to be below £5 per passenger journey based on latest information or with a trajectory to bring it below £5 within a year; and to withdraw any services in excess of £5 per passenger journey where there appears no likelihood of this criteria being met, appendix B.

5.5 For low use services, where there is an opportunity to re-design the service to reduce cost and/or increase patronage to do so and to consult on that. To simultaneously consult on withdrawal for those services; and to consult on

withdrawal for services where there is no reasonable opportunity to re-design them.(appendix C).

- 5.6 Bring forward proposals to test and develop new models.
- 5.7 This option will meet the terms of the local bus policy; support the proposals set out in our Bus Service Improvement Plan; and support the outcomes of Everyone's Essex.
- 5.8 It should be noted that most locations served by the routes which will potentially be withdrawn in 2024 will remain served by other routes, either at peak times or to other places, thus few places would lose any access to public transport. It is however likely that some urban and rural areas will no longer be served by buses. The places are served by routes where every passenger journey costs ECC at least £10 in subsidy.

6 Issues for consideration

6.1 Financial implications

6.1.1 The Local Bus budget for 2023/24 is set out below:

2023/24 Approved Budget	
	£000
Gross Expenditure	12,325
Fares and Bus Service Operator	
Grant	(2,246)
Net Budget	10,079

6.1.2 The Value for Money (VFM) of all existing contracts has been assessed, using the total passenger numbers in November 2022 to February 2023 provided by all operators. For Gross contracts, where ECC receives the income, the on bus and Concessionary Fares income has also been included to calculate the Cost Per Passenger Journey (CPPJ) for that single month. This is a limited set of data and therefore this analysis will be carried out each month to inform any decisions and ECC will request appropriate passenger data to the end of April 2023.

6.1.3 The table below sets out a summary of the analysis. The data set is limited and this simply extrapolates the November 2022 to February 2023 data to model an annualised position, therefore it does not take into account seasonal variations, variations in days of operation per month or any changes to patronage throughout the year. The Bus Service Operator grant is not factored into this table and is currently anticipated at £1.1m per annum and supports the Local Bus services tendered.

	No. of contracts	Estimated annual net cost of contracts (£000)
Successful	97	4,937
At risk & new services	43	4,435
Failing services	21	1,134
	161	10,506

6.1.4 Alongside the proposed consultation, the CPPJ will continue to be monitored monthly for all contracts and this will be reviewed together with the responses to the consultation. For the low use services this intelligence will be used to inform the re-design or possible withdrawal of services that currently offer poor value for money.

6.2 Legal implications

6.2.1 ECC is under a statutory duty in accordance with the Transport Act 1985 to secure the provision of such passenger services as ECC considers it appropriate to meet any public transport requirements within its area which would not in its view be met otherwise.

6.2.2 Where a procurement exercise is required following consultation, ECC must undertake a procurement exercise in accordance with the provisions set out within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and ECC's procurement policy and procedures.

6.2.3 ECC will carry out a consultation prior to deciding to withdraw any services, therefore reducing the risk of legal challenge when ECC allows them to cease operating.

7 Equality and Diversity Considerations

7.1 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.

7.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, 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).

- 7.3 The Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic. This is because this report relates primarily to the terms of consultation. Consultation will be used to assess any specific impacts particularly from the withdrawal of services. That will then be reflected in the subsequent Cabinet Member Action/s relating to any services withdrawals.

8 List of Appendices

Appendix A – list of services which are operating at a cost of under £5 per passenger journey

Appendix B – list of ‘at risk’ or new services costing £5-£10 per passenger journey

Appendix C – list of low use services which are costing at least £10 per passenger journey

Appendix D - ECIA

9 List of Background papers

Essex County Council Bus Service Improvement Plan 2021 - 2026

Service number	Origin	Destination	Element of service supported
4a	Southend	Shoeburyness	Sunday & Public Holidays
59	Chelmsford	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays
2	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays
4	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays
6	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays
8	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays
10	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays
1	Harlow	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays
2	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings
4	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings
1	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings
10	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings
3	Harlow	Harlow	Saturday Evenings
SB21	Fuller Street	Braintree	Monday
12	Wickford	Billericay	Monday to Saturday
132	Saffron Walden	Cambridge	Sunday & Public Holidays
211/212	Waltham Cross	Breach Barns/Roundhills	Monday to Saturday
SB12	Toot Hill	Harlow	Wednesday & Friday
B3 (Previously 5)	Felmores	Basildon	Monday to Saturday Evenings
B3 (Previously 5)	Felmores	Basildon	Sunday & Public Holidays
42B (Previously 352)	Chelmsford	Halstead	Monday to Saturday Evenings
C1 (Previously 42)	Great Waltham	Galleywood	Monday to Saturday Evenings
14	Wickford	The Wick	Monday to Friday
21	North Benfleet	Basildon	Monday to Saturday
1A	Basildon	Pitsea	Saturday
21C	Canvey	Hadleigh	Monday to Friday
13/13a/14	Chelmsford	Wickford	Monday to Saturday
3	Southend	Chelmsford	Monday to Saturday
47	Chelmsford	Springfield-Broomfield/Maldon	Monday to Saturday
4	Hythe Tesco/Highwoods	Stanway Sainsburys/North Station	Monday to Friday
16A	Canwick Grove	St Helena School	Schooldays
17	West Bergholt	Stanway	Schooldays
80/80A/81/81A	Colchester	Boxted / Dedham	Monday to Saturday
174/175	Colchester	Fingringhoe	Monday to Saturday
46	Chelmsford / Epping	Ongar	Monday to Saturday
11	Hythe Tesco/Highwoods	Stanway Sainsburys/North Station	Monday to Friday
565	Grays	Brentwood	Monday to Saturday
32	Chelmsford	Ongar	Monday to Saturday
B1/B2/B4/B5 (Previously 8/8A)	Pitsea	Laindon	Monday to Saturday Evenings
B1/B2/B4/B5 (Previously 8/8A)	Pitsea	Laindon	Sunday & Public Holidays
25	Basildon	Wickford	Sunday & Public Holidays
351	Chelmsford	Brentwood	Sunday & Public Holidays
80A/80C	Brentwood	Hutton	Sunday & Public Holidays
37	Warley	Brentwood	Sunday & Public Holidays
21 (Previously 21B)	Canvey	Southend	Monday to Saturday Evenings
336 (Previously 36)	Chelmsford	Southminster/South Woodham Ferrers	Sunday & Public Holidays
31/31D/31X (Previously 31C)	Chelmsford	Southminster/South Woodham Ferrers	Sunday & Public Holidays
C4/C5 (Previously 45)	Moulsham Lodge	Oxney Green	Monday to Saturday Evenings
C2/C3 (Previously 54C/56)	North Melbourne	Beaulieu Park	Sunday & Public Holidays
70	Colchester Mason Rd	Chelmsford	Sunday & Public Holidays
71 (Previously 71A)	Chelmsford	Colchester	Monday to Saturday Evenings
42b	Chelmsford, Broomfield Hospital only	Halstead	Sunday & Public Holidays
42A	Chelmsford	Stansted Airport/Boreham	Sunday & Public Holidays
C7 (Previously 57C)	Chelmsford	Galleywood	Sunday & Public Holidays
1 (Previously 1A)	Ambrose Avenue	Greenstead	Monday to Saturday Evenings
2 (Previously 2A)	Highwoods	Great Horkesley	Monday to Saturday Evenings
88a	Colchester	Halstead	Sunday & Public Holidays
S4/S6/S7 (Previously 64/64A)	Greenstead	St Michaels Estate/ Shrub End/Layer De La Haye	Monday to Saturday Evenings
68	Highwoods	West Mersea	Monday to Saturday Evenings
88	Halstead	Colchester	Monday to Friday Evenings
1/2/6/S3/S9 (Previously 1A/2A/67B/66)	Colchester	Colchester	Sunday & Public Holidays
31 (Previously 31/33)	Chelmsford	Maldon/South Woodham Ferrers	Monday to Saturday Evenings
336 (Previously 36)	Chelmsford	Maldon/South Woodham Ferrers	Monday to Saturday Evenings
73	Chelmsford	Maldon/South Woodham Ferrers	Monday to Saturday Evenings
75	Maldon	Colchester	Sunday & Public Holidays
76	Clacton	Colchester/ Thorpe le Soken	Sunday & Public Holidays
102 (Previously 102/106)	Colchester	Harwich	Sunday & Public Holidays
301	Bishops Stortford	Saffron Walden	Monday to Saturday
5	Summers Farm	Harlow Bus Station	Monday to Saturday
306	Wicken Bonhunt	Bishops Stortford	Schooldays
66 a/b	Waltham Cross	Debden/Upshire	Sunday & Public Holidays
77/77A	St Osyth Beach	Tufnell Way	Monday to Friday
97a/98a	Clacton	Walton	Monday to Saturday Evenings
97/98	Jaywick/ Clacton	Great Clacton / Holland on Sea	Monday to Saturday Evenings
71/72	Stondon Massey	Warley	Monday to Saturday
19	Colchester Cowdray Centre/Rowhedge	William Harris Way/Monkwick School	Schooldays
50/50A	Colchester	Tollesbury / East Mersea / Layer Breton / Tiptree/ Little Horkesley	Monday to Saturday
63/63A	Colchester Cowdray Centre/Rowhedge	William Harris Way/Monkwick School	Monday to Saturday
694	Langham	East Bergholt	Schooldays
91	Tollesbury / Maldon	Witham / Tollesbury / Colchester	Monday to Saturday
92	Tollesbury / Maldon	Witham / Tollesbury / Colchester	Monday to Saturday
95/95A	Tollesbury / Maldon	Witham / Tollesbury / Colchester	Monday to Saturday
9	Walton / Weeley/Point Clear	Walton / Weeley/Point Clear / Colchester / Thorpe le Soken/Brightlingsea	Monday to Friday

105/107	Walton / Weeley/Point Clear	Gt Holland / Colchester / Thorpe le Soken/Brightlingsea	Monday to Saturday
115	Walton / Weeley/Point Clear	Gt Holland / Colchester / Thorpe le Soken/Brightlingsea	Schooldays
101	Walton / Weeley/Point Clear	Gt Holland / Colchester / Thorpe le Soken/Brightlingsea	Schooldays
21	Ongar	Brentwood	Saturday
2	Harwich	Harwich	Monday to Saturday
Citi 7	Cambridge	Saffron Wallden	Monday to Saturday
30	Beckers Green	Marks Farm	Monday to Saturday
61	Blackmore/Doddinghurst	Brentwood	Monday to Saturday
13	Waltham Cross Bus Station	St Margaret's Hospital Epping	Monday to Saturday
73/73A (Previously 73)	Chelmsford	Springfield-Broomfield/Maldon	Monday to Saturday
82A/B/83A/B	Colchester/Lexden	Marks Tey/Colne Engaine/Bures	Monday to Saturday
269	Brentwood	Grays	Monday to Saturday
418	Loughton	Harlow	Monday to Saturday
S9 (Previously 66)	Colchester North Station	Rowhedge	Monday to Saturday Evenings

Service number	Origin	Destination	Element of service supported
8	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings
10	Temple Grove	Pleshey	Monday to Friday
99a	Chelmsford	Woodham Walter	Monday to Friday
SB28	Stisted	Braintree Freeport	Wednesday
DaRT 1	Uttlesford	Uttlesford	Monday to Saturday
104/106	Langdon Hills	Basildon	Monday to Friday
345	Fuller Street	Braintree	Wednesday
63	Rayleigh	Great Wakering / Landwick	Wednesday & Friday
251	Warley	Wickford	Sunday & Public Holidays
71 (Previously 45A)	Oxney Green	Chelmer Village	Sunday & Public Holidays
C7/C57 (Previously 57A/57C)	Chelmsford	Galleywood	Monday to Saturday Evenings
S3 (Previously 66B)	Old Heath	West Bergholt	Monday to Saturday Evenings
74 (Previously 74B)	Clacton	Colchester	Monday to Saturday Evenings
102	Harwich	Colchester	Monday to Saturday Evenings
316/318 (Previously 6)	Stansted Airport	Saffron Walden	Monday to Saturday
14	Harlow	Pinnacles	Monday to Saturday
7/7A	Bishops Stortford	Stansted Airport	Monday to Saturday
542	Debden	Loughton	Monday to Saturday
4	Jaywick/ Clacton	Great Clacton / Holland on Sea	Monday to Saturday Evenings
16	Wethersfield	Chelmsford	Monday to Saturday
94/A/B	South Woodham	Basildon	Monday to Saturday
79	Colchester	Tollesbury / East Mersea / Layer Breton / Tiptree/ Little Horkesley	Friday
85/92	Colchester	Tollesbury / East Mersea / Layer Breton / Tiptree/ Little Horkesley	Wednesday
2/2a	Clacton	Mistley	Monday to Saturday
D1/D2	Maldon	Bradwell	Monday to Saturday
17/18	Great Dunmow	Chelmsford	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
118	Parkeston	Ramsey	Schooldays
90	Maldon	Witham	Monday to Saturday
14	Southend	Shoeburyness/Barling	Monday to Saturday
60/60A	Southend	Paglesham	Monday to Saturday
31 (Previously 381)	Toot Hill	Harlow	Monday to Saturday
10	Shotgate / Wickford	Basildon	Monday to Saturday
40	Witham, Ebenezer Way	Witham, Town service	Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
34	Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden	Tuesday and Thursday only
319/320/321/59/590	Haverhill	Saffron Walden/Newport	Monday to Saturday
6A/6B	Clacton	Point Clear	Monday to Saturday Evenings
505	Harlow	Waltham Abbey	Saturday
418B	Loughton	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings
418B	Loughton	Harlow	Sunday & Public Holidays
DaRT 2 (soon to become DaRT 299)	Braintree / Uttlesford	Braintree / Uttlesford	Monday to Saturday
322/323/324 (Previously 313/313A)	Great Dunmow	Saffron Walden	Monday to Saturday
305/315/325 (Previously 5)	Bishops Stortford	Stansted Airport	Monday to Saturday
313/314 (Previously 313/313A)	Great Dunmow	Saffron Walden	Monday to Saturday

Service number	Origin	Destination	Element of service supported
6	Harlow	Harlow	Monday to Saturday Evenings
F315 (Previously DaRT3)	Sudbury	Halstead	Monday to Saturday
DaRT 5	Maldon	Stow Maries/Nth Fambridge/Althorne	Monday to Saturday
552	Ramsden Heath	Billerica Station	Monday to Friday
256	Basildon/Ramsden Heath	Billerica	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
9/9A	Great Saling/Great Bardfield	Great Notley	Monday to Friday
84B	Colchester	Tollesbury / East Mersea / Layer Breton / Tiptree/ Little Horkesley	Thursday
21	Bocking	Black Notley	Sunday & Public Holidays
21	Bocking	Gt Notley	Monday to Saturday
DaRT 3	Braintree	Braintree	Monday to Saturday
DaRT 4	St Lawrence	Burnham on Crouch	Monday to Saturday
DaRT 7 (Previously SB10/11/13)	Moreton/Matching Green/Stanford Rivers	Epping	Monday & Thursday
94 (Previously 94C)	South Woodham	South Woodham	Sunday & Public Holidays
99	Clacton	Walton	Monday to Saturday Evenings
15	Colchester/Lexden	Marks Tey/Colne Engaine/Bures	Monday to Friday
50B	Colchester	Tollesbury / East Mersea / Layer Breton / Tiptree/ Little Horkesley	Monday
69/69A	Colchester	Tollesbury / East Mersea / Layer Breton / Tiptree/ Little Horkesley	Tuesday
804	Debden	Chigwell	Schooldays
21	Bocking	Black Notley	Monday to Saturday Evenings
7	Southend	Rayleigh	Monday to Saturday Evenings
C56 (Previously 57B)	Chelmsford	Galleywood	Sunday & Public Holidays