

Notice of Proposed Amendment

Motion to be amended: Bus Franchising

Proposer of amendment: Cllr R Gooding Seconder of Amendment: Cllr C Guglielmi - Conservative

That the motion be amended so as to include the additional words underlined and the removal of the words struck out below:

'Essex residents, particularly those in rural areas, are seeing changes to their bus services, which can impact on the young and old disproportionately. This undermines the ability for some to get to work, school or leisure and also increases congestion, which we know is one of the biggest factors that may hinder the economy in Essex.

At the same time there is a lack of accountability towards residents and councillors when it comes to bus companies. Customers and councillors currently have no say on which routes bus companies maintain, while the costs increase and the quality of buses in Essex deteriorates. The current service is driven by the need to make routes commercially viable without hefty taxpayer subsidy.

This council asks the Cabinet Member with responsibility for buses to investigate adopting a bus franchising scheme (under the new Bus Services Act 2017) as part of any devolution deal from Government. This could allow the Local transport authority to identify the bus services that should be provided for an area, rather than bus companies dictating the routes they would prefer. This will also bring in more accountability for us locally and allow us to contribute to emission reduction in Essex.'

If this amendment is approved the substantive motion as amended would read as follows:

Essex residents, particularly those in rural areas, are seeing changes to their bus services, which can impact on the young and old disproportionately. This undermines the ability for some to get to work, school or leisure and also increases congestion, which we know is one of the biggest factors that may hinder the economy in Essex.

At the same time there is a lack of accountability towards residents and councillors when it comes to bus companies. Customers and councillors currently have no say on which routes bus companies maintain, while the costs increase and the quality of buses in Essex deteriorates. The current service is driven by the need to make routes commercially viable without hefty taxpayer subsidy.

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