

E&I Local Transport Review

Proposed Terms of Reference for Member Reference Group

Background and Overview of Project

Environment and Infrastructure spend considerable sums supporting various forms of transport in Surrey:

- £8.3m pa of revenue support for Local Buses
- £8.4m pa (mostly reimbursed from central government) supporting Concessionary Fares
- £600,000 pa supporting Community Transport

Substantial savings of £4.8m pa were made during 2010-2012 in the earlier Bus Review, with other savings made in wider transport support. This new Review aims, if possible, to save about a further £2m pa in revenue by 2017 by reviewing and integrating these various forms of transport support. In particular:

- The Local Bus stream will make the main savings contribution, while seeking new capital funding and maintaining access to essential services
- The Concessionary Fares stream will review SCC's criteria for allocating passes, and the way in which payments to bus operators are calculated
- The Community Transport stream will help the sector move towards self-funded commercial operation

The project will run for up to four years, and the first changes in local bus services could take place in September 2015. An E&I project team is currently developing options, working closely with Procurement, bus operators, and neighbouring County Councils. Full engagement with stakeholders is planned for autumn 2014.

The Local Bus stream aims to avoid simple reductions in services, and is carrying out a wide-ranging study of all aspects of Surrey bus services, including:

- The policy context – central government funding objectives
- The national and Surrey bus industry
- Potential for closer working with neighbouring County Councils
- Potential for bidding for capital investment to reduce future revenue spend
- Scope to increase bus usage by better ticketing and marketing
- Scope to encourage communities to organise alternatives to local bus services
- The impact of reductions on users, and defining the legal minimum level of support

These reports will be available in January 2014.

Proposed Role of the Member Reference Group

The project team believe that a Member Reference Group could add value to this important project. The Group can:

- Give officers the perspective of users and the general public on the various transport services under review
- Advise on proposed levels of savings and the balance between savings and unavoidable impacts on users and the public
- Challenge and validate the project's Equalities Impact Assessments
- Advise on the balance of savings between different service types and areas

- Advise on how to approach wider engagement with the public and stakeholders and own the agreed plan
- Act as advocates for the agreed plan with Member colleagues and community organisations
- Following a briefing on consultation responses, advise on the proposals to be taken before E&T Select Committee and Cabinet

We anticipate that the Group should meet as required during 2014, and probably into spring 2015.

Timescales and Reporting Dates

A detailed project plan for 2014 is being prepared, but the key milestones look to be:

Jan 2014	First briefing of the Member Reference Group
Feb/March 2014	Initial proposals to Member Reference Group
March/April 2014	Consultation with E&T Select Committee
March/April 2014	Initial consultation with key partners
June 2014	Cabinet items on all three workstreams set out savings proposals and seek authority for consultation
Autumn 2014	Likely engagement with stakeholders and the public on potential changes
Early 2015	Report back to Member Reference Group
Spring 2015	Firm proposals for change to Cabinet
Sept 2015	Following re-tendering, changes to bus services take effect

If changes are made on a geographically phased basis as before, a similar pattern of consultation and Cabinet approvals will take place during 2015 to 2017.

Officer Support and Contacts

Project Sponsor:	Ian Boast, AD Environment & Infrastructure
Project Director:	Paul Millin, Group Manager Travel & Transport
Project Manager:	Peter Wylde, Directorate Programme Group

Workstream leads:

Local Bus:	Laurie James
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Community Transport:	Cass Brewer