

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)****DATE:** 17 MARCH 2014**LEAD OFFICER:** Laurie James, Bus Service Planning Manager**SUBJECT:** PETITION RESPONSE**DIVISION:** LOWER SUNBURY & HALLIFORD**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report provides a response to a petition received for this meeting, asking for the provision of a bus service along Staines Road East between Sunbury Cross and the junction of Harfield Road.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to**

- (i) Note the contents of this report.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:****1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The Spelthorne Local Committee has received a petition with 30 signatories, requesting the provision of a bus service along Staines Road East, in the area between Sunbury Cross and the junction of Harfield Road.
- 1.2 The petitioner explains that other bus services avoid the area, such as running via Sunbury Village instead and that residents from areas adjacent to Staines Road East/Kempton Park have a 15 minute walk to access other services, at Sunbury Cross or Sunbury Village. This causes difficulties, especially when walking with young children, or when the weather is poor or during the fewer daylight hours in winter.

**2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 Some of the key bus services in the Sunbury area are controlled by Transport for London (TfL), including those in the Kingston direction. There has not been a regular service along Staines Road East for over 20 years as TfL

preferred to operate via Sunbury Village (route 216) to give benefit to a wider area and to encourage the best possible patronage levels.

- 2.2 For a number of years in the 1990s/early 2000s, Surrey County Council did attempt to provide a limited subsidised service between the Sunbury area and Kingston via Kempton Park. The only section of route not covered by other services was Staines Road East itself, from which patronage was poor and the service was eventually withdrawn as it offered very poor value for the subsidy funding involved.
- 2.3 It is very unlikely that a bus company would come forward on a commercial basis to re-instate the service and the County Council's bus service support budget is already fully committed in maintaining the existing supported network. Budgetary pressure for bus service support will be ongoing and at present it is not possible to recommend funding for the desired service.
- 2.4 The Surrey County Council Travel & Transport Group has approached TfL, to enquire whether they would be prepared to divert part of service 216 (Staines-Sunbury-Kingston) or another service, to operate via Staines Road East. They have responded that they do not wish to divert their services as that could create gaps in service in areas such as Sunbury Village, from where usage is reasonably good. Fewer journeys on parts of popular existing routes could lead to concerns about overcrowding. They could not consider any new services without guarantee of local funding to pay for them.
- 2.5 For the above reasons, the County Council is regretfully unable to accommodate the petitioners' request, but the request and the reasons for it are recognised and noted and will be considered at such future time as bus services in the area are being reviewed.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 None at the present time

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

- 4.1 Transport for London has been consulted

### **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 There are none arising from this report

### **6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report

**7. LOCALISM:**

7.1 None for the purposes of this report

**8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting / Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

**9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

9.1 The response is noted

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

10.1 The request for the provision of a bus service along Staines Road East, in the area between Sunbury Cross and the junction of Harfield Road. will be considered at such future time as bus services in the area are being reviewed.

**Contact Officer:**

Laurie James, Local Bus Service Planning Manager Tel: 020 8541 8633

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