

Committee: Environment Committee

Agenda Item

Date: 16th March 2010

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Title: Greater Anglia Franchise Consultation

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Item for decision

Summary

1. This report, which is at Members' request, invites the Committee to put forward its view on the DfT's current Greater Anglia Franchise consultation. Members will recall that the existing franchise, run by National Express, will terminate on 31st March 2011.

Recommendations

2. That the Committee let officers know of any issues that should be raised in the Council's consultation response.

Background Papers

3. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

DfT's Greater Anglia Franchise consultation, January 2010

Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	The Council has the chance to respond to the consultation by 19 th April 2010
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Finance	None, but the DfT has asked that any request to include a local scheme in the franchise specification contain details of how it would be funded
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	Increasing rail patronage must be a key

	aim of the new franchise
Ward-specific impacts	Use of the railway has a district wide impact
Workforce/Workplace	Officers are working with others on responding to the consultation

Situation

5. All Council Members were notified of this consultation by Email on 1st February. The Email contained the author's summary of the document, and a link to the document on the DfT website. The consultation will also be considered by the Uttlesford Transport Forum on 14th April. Separately (but in consultation with others including this Council), both the West Anglia Routes Group and Essex County Council will be responding. Officers will prepare the Council's response in time for submission by the deadline of 19th April.
6. On Friday 12th March, the author will be attending a stakeholder meeting in London, run by DfT, which is aimed at helping Consultees write their responses. The Committee will be informed of anything important that came out of that meeting.
7. Members' views are invited.

Risk Analysis

8.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Council's views are not taken into account by the DfT	1. Low, as the Council is a statutory consultee	2. A lack of response would make it harder for the Council to influence the outcome of the franchise consultation	Respond to the consultation by the deadline

- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.