

**Committee:** Uttlesford Planning Policy Working Group

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**8**

**Title:** Essex County Council: "Getting around in Essex" - A bus and passenger transport strategy, draft for consultation

**Author:** Jeremy Pine. Planning Policy / Development Management Liaison Officer (01799 510460)

---

### Summary

1. This report is about Essex County Council's new draft bus strategy, which is currently out on consultation. The report briefly describes the strategy, including its goals and strategic actions. The report sets out a suggested reply to the consultation questions which are not about individual passenger experience.

### Recommendations

2. That the Working Group endorses the reply that is set out in Appendix 1, and suggests any other points that ought to be raised.

### Financial Implications

3. None.

### Background Papers

4. None.

### Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	This consultation closes on Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015.
Community Safety	Assessed by ECC
Equalities	Assessed by ECC
Health and Safety	Assessed by ECC
Human Rights/Legal Implications	Assessed by ECC
Sustainability	Assessed by ECC

Ward-specific impacts	Districtwide
Workforce/Workplace	None

## Situation

6. Essex County Council has recently published this draft bus strategy, which sets out how it plans to grow and improve the bus network.
7. Three documents have been published. They are:
  - the main document (copy attached), which contains the draft strategy, the consultation questionnaire and annexes,
  - a summary document, and
  - the consultation questionnaire as a stand-alone document
8. The draft strategy identifies three main goals, which are (in ECC's own words):
  - *Increase passenger numbers, by working with the commercial, public and voluntary sectors, businesses and people who live and work in Essex to strengthen our ability to deliver an attractive, comprehensive, resilient and high quality bus network.*
  - *Maximise the economic and social benefits to people, businesses and communities across Essex – supporting Essex County Council's seven outcomes.*
  - *Ensure what we deliver is cost effective and good value for money.*
9. ECC has identified eight areas of strategic action to deliver the necessary commercial bus growth. These are set out in detail on Pages 9-12 of the main document. ECC says that the strategy is a long term one, and whilst there are some changes that can be delivered relatively quickly, many will take some time and will need a sustained joint effort. A lot of detail is still to be developed, and this will be done in partnership once consultation responses have been considered.
10. The consultation is aimed particularly at individual bus users and non-bus users. Questions 1-14 relate to individual passenger experience, but the remaining questions (15-25) are more general. The Council's response deals with the more general issues.
11. The Council's suggested response is attached as Appendix 1. The questions that the Council is answering are set out on Pages 18 – 21 of the main document.

**Risk Analysis**

12.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
None	None	None	None

- 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.