

TASK & FINISH SCRUTINY PANEL

Agreed Project Scope

Topic: Public Transport in the SELCP area

Author: Matthew Hogan, Assistant Director – Strategic Growth and Development

Objectives:

The Joint Public Transport Task and Finish group is the first such joint scrutiny group to sit across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership area. The establishment of a framework for joint scrutiny activity across the partnership's three constituent authority areas has been developed to enable members to scrutinise matters of common strategic interest that would benefit from a partnership approach.

The first such topic identified for this newly created process is a joint scrutiny committee with a focus on Public Transport. Whereas public transport is not a subject matter that district authorities have direct control (i.e. the three councils do not fund, provide or commission public transport services), it is a public service function which acts a key determinant of outcomes in areas where the three district councils (and its wider partnership) have a direct role to play in influencing change, including;

- Economic growth, access to employment and skills development
- Supporting the social mobility and increasing life opportunities for residents
- Addressing health inequalities
- Access to high streets and town centres, including support for the night-time economy
- Carbon reduction, sustainability and air quality management
- Encouraging and supporting the visitor economy

Consequently, it is proposed that the Joint Public Transport Task and Finish group develops a programme of scrutiny activity that focuses on the following key areas;

- Developing a more detailed understanding of the policies and approaches that govern the delivery of public transport at a national, regional and local level
- Gathering qualitative and quantitative evidence concerning the current provision of public transport across the SELCP area
- Understanding the relationships between existing public transport provision and wider agenda of importance to the SELCP area (see 'lines of enquiry' below)
- Understanding the matter of Public Transport from the perspectives of both operators and commissioners
- Exploring innovation and best practice that could inform future strategy for the SELCP area

This is with a view for the Joint Public Transport Task and Finish group to prepare a series of recommendations. These recommendations have the potential to take the following form;

- Recommendations concerning policy objectives that the SELCP authorities may wish to adopt when seeking to influence (either directly or indirectly) improvements and changes to public transport in the SELCP area
- Recommendations concerning how local and countywide strategies relating to public transport should seek to address issues raised and opportunities identified
- Recommendations concerning local projects and initiatives that should be explored within the SELCP area, promoted by the three authorities in partnership

- Recommendations concerning lobbying at a local, county, regional and national level for change and/or investment

For the purposes of clarity, the proposed definition of 'public transport' for the purposes of this Task and Finish group is bus (including demand responsive bus provision e.g. Call Connect) and train provision.

Lines of enquiry:

The following are proposed as lines of enquiry for the Joint Public Transport Task and Finish:

- Public transport, the economy and employment within the SELCP area
- Public transport, education and skills attainment within the SELPC area
- Public transport and health outcomes within the SELPC area
- Public transport from the perspective of the provider/operator
- Public transport from the perspective of the Local Transport Authority (i.e. Lincolnshire County Council)
- Public transport from the perspective of residents of the partnership area
- Examples of innovation and best practice in public transport (e.g. models of delivery including businesses, parish councils etc...)

Proposed programme of activity:

It is proposed that a programme of activity is developed that reflects these key lines of enquiry, with a series of meetings structured around topics. It is also proposed that the programme of activity is structured into three phases, those being;

Phase 1 - Scene setting. This phase will be focused on supporting the Task and Finish group with developing a deeper understanding of the local and national policy context concerning public transport, including how it is funded, how it is commissioned and delivered, and the national policy direction. It is proposed that external specialist support is procured to support this phase of the programme, with a view to provide a useful and impartial scene setting exercise to the topic area and support the overarching scrutiny process.

Phase 2 - Evidence gathering stage. This phase will be focused on supporting the Task and Finish group with gathering evidence based around the 'key lines of enquiry' for the group. It is envisaged that it will involve a series of meetings, specific to certain topics, where various external partners will be invited to present to the group. It is proposed that external, impartial and specialist support is procured in the form of an expert witness to support these sessions. It is envisaged that the external witness support will serve to assist members with formulating the direction of questioning and the scrutiny exercise.

Phase 3 – Recommendation formation. This phase will be focused around collating and preparing a series of formal recommendations from the Task and Finish group, to be reported back to the 'parent' scrutiny committees of each council, with a view to consider whether those recommendations should be formally recommended to the relevant decision makers in each sovereign council.

Witnesses:

Internal: Michelle Sacks, Matthew Hogan, Lydia Rusling, Mike Gildersleeves, Nigel Burch, Clive Gibbon, Emily Spicer, Sarah Baker and Christian Allen

External (proposed): Brylaine, Stagecoach, Grayscroft, East Midlands Rail, Network Rail, NHS, Lincolnshire County Council, Midlands Connect, Boston College, Skegness TEC, educational academies, the Federation of Small Businesses, the UK Fresh Produce Network

Expert Witness support (Proposed): David Ubaka - [David Ubaka - Managing Director - David Ubaka Placemakers | LinkedIn](#)

Lead Officer: Matthew Hogan, Assistant Director – Strategic Growth and Development. Matthew.hogan@sholland.gov.uk 07776 240766

Lead Deputy Chief Executive: Michelle Sacks, Deputy Chief Executive for Growth – michelle.sacks@boston.gov.uk

Liaison Officer: Rebecca James, Scrutiny Officer - rebecca.james@e-lindsey.gov.uk 01507 613410

Timescales

Start date: May 4th 2022

End date: TBC (However it is anticipated that the task and finish group's programme may run across 6-8 meetings in total, so c.6 months of activity).

Ends