

Report to Council

Date of meeting: 22 February 2018

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Report to Council

**Contact for further information: Councillor M Sartin
(Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Committee)**

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry, ext.4246



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report from January 2018 to the present be noted.

Report:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 09 January 2018

1. At our meeting on Tuesday 09th January, we received a speaker from Transport for London, a Mr Mark Hart, the Transport for London Community Partnership Specialist (West) who was there to speak to and answer questions from members on their concerns in regards to the operation of local bus services within the Epping Forest District run by TfL.

2. He told us that bus routes 167, 397 and 549 had been reviewed in March 2016 in preparation for a new contract with a service provider that was let in March 2017.

3. TfL reviewed all their services looking at capacity, reliability and, increasingly, costs, as they were also a publically funded organisation. They were now in a tighter financial position as TfL had lost financial support from Essex County Council and the grant from Central Government, which was roughly about £700 million per year.

4. The meeting was then opened up for questions from members. Unfortunately, Mr Hart did not have all the information needed with him and had to defer a lot of his answers to later date.

5. We then went on to consider the Quarter 2 performance of the Key Objectives Plans, Key Action Plan for 2017/18.

6. We then reviewed our ongoing scrutiny of external organisations. We noted that the Principal of Epping Forest College was due to attend our next meeting on 27 February. In preparation for this the committee was asked to identify areas that they wished to be covered at this meeting. Some of the topics identified were:

- (1) The support, assistance and facilities provided by the College for disabled or disadvantaged students;
- (2) The support, and assistance provided by the College for students from areas of identified social deprivation;
- (3) The educational subjects and qualifications in which the performance of the College was currently regarded to be 'failing' and those subjects and qualifications where the College was presently performing well in terms of attainment;

- (4) The success of the College's proposed improvements and achievements outlined to the Committee in February 2017;
- (5) The current position with regard to Luctons Field and the intentions of the College with regard to the future use of this area;
- (6) The success of the College's relationship with its 'sister' college (Barnet and Southgate College) in terms of the support, assistance and facilities provided to students; and
- (7) The success of the links and partnership arrangements that the College has established with the local community, including the commercial and charitable sectors.

7. The Committee also agreed that that they would like to receive the East of England Ambulance Service at their April 2018 meeting and to ask for officers from Essex County Council to attend the first meeting in the new municipal year to speak about ECC Passenger Transport services.