

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 25 October 2016



Subject: Scrutiny of External Organisations - Central Line Services and Infrastructure

Officer contact for further information: S. Tautz (01992) 564180

Democratic Services Officer: A. Hendry (01992) 564246

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee consider and agree appropriate lines of questioning and presentation, for external organisations due to attend future meetings for the purposes of the external scrutiny of local services.

1. (Director of Governance) At its last meeting, the Committee agreed that Transport for London be invited to attend a future meeting to respond to the concerns of members in respect of aspects of local Central Line services and infrastructure. It is hoped that appropriate officers of Transport for London will be able to attend the meeting of the Committee to be held on 19 December 2016.
2. In accordance with the procedure agreed at the last meeting, the Committee is therefore now asked to consider and agree appropriate lines of questioning for Transport for London. The following overarching themes and specific issues of local Central Line services and infrastructure have previously been identified by the Committee as the emphasis for such external scrutiny:

Staffing and Resources

- (i) the current levels of staffing at local Central Line stations, particularly with regard to ticket offices;

Capacity and Frequency

- (ii) the infrastructure of the Central Line, particularly in terms of increasing user capacity;
- (iii) the frequency of Central Line services eastbound to Epping;
- (iv) the split of Central Line services operating eastbound from Leytonstone Station and the perception that fewer services run through to Epping than to Hainault;
- (v) the investment of resources to improve the capacity of the Central Line;

Infrastructure and Rolling Stock

- (vi) the ongoing concern of the Council with regard to platform access at local Central Line stations for people with disabilities;
- (vii) the current position with regard to the rectification of signalling breakdowns that adversely affect Central Line services on a regular basis, particularly given the significant investment made in signalling infrastructure;

- (viii) the age of the rolling stock currently in use on the Central Line, particularly with regard to issues pertaining to the operation of automatic doors and unacceptably high temperatures in carriages;
- (ix) the introduction of new and air-conditioned rolling stock;
- (x) the provision of public toilet facilities at local Central Line stations;
- (xi) the provision of Wi-Fi access in underground sections of the Central Line and at local stations;
- (xii) the possible reinstatement of Central Line services between Epping and Ongar, as proposed by the Mayor of London;
- (xiii) the current CCTV coverage of public areas in the vicinity of local Central Line stations and plans for the extension of such coverage;

Car Parking

- (xiv) the extension of car park facilities at local Central Line stations, particularly in view of previous proposals for additional car parking capacity at Epping Station;
 - (xv) the management of car parks at local Central Line stations and of the public areas in the vicinity of the stations.
3. The Committee is requested to consider and agree any additional lines of questioning to be raised with Transport for London at the next meeting, in order that prior notice of the scope of questions likely to be raised by members can be provided to Transport for London to ensure that maximum value is derived from this external scrutiny activity.
 4. Members are also asked to give direction on the preferred approach of the Committee to the format of such external scrutiny, particularly in terms of the scope of any formal presentation that may be required from Transport for London. The Committee should ensure that it identifies clear objectives for any such presentation.
 5. There may be public interest in the Council's scrutiny of local Central Line services and infrastructure and the Committee may therefore wish to identify appropriate proactive publicity to raise awareness of the concerns of members, so as to make the process as meaningful and useful as possible.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to more effectively meet work programme requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities. Although external organisations are not generally required by legislation to attend before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is hoped that most would be willing to engage constructively with the Council's scrutiny activity when invited to do so.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

The scrutiny of a number of overarching themes and specific issues of local Central Line services and infrastructure were identified by the Committee at its meeting on 19 July 2016.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.