

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/2017 - REPORT NO. **46**

MEETING TITLE AND DATE

COUNCIL

13 July 2016

REPORT OF: Ian Davis

Director of Environment

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Agenda - Part: 1	Item: 11
Subject: Public Transport Consultative Group – Changes to Membership and Remit	
Wards: All Key Decision No:	
Cabinet Member consulted: Cllr Daniel Anderson – Lead Member for Environment	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment, with support from the former Chair of the Public Transport Consultative Group (PTCG), asked officers to review the existing membership and remit of the Public Transport Consultative Group in order to make sure that the Group represents Enfield’s diverse population and is fulfilling its function.
- 1.2 The conclusion was that the Group’s membership, as set out in the Constitution, does not appear to be representative of Enfield’s diverse population. In addition, whilst providing useful input into council responses, the Group does not appear to be meeting its remit as set out in the Constitution.
- 1.3 Therefore, it is proposed that the Group’s remit is altered and its membership reformed to address these issues. It is further proposed that this should be achieved by seeking an amendment to the Council’s Constitution at the next Full Council meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is asked to agree that changes are made to the constitution (see 3.11 and 3.13):

24. Public Transport Consultative Group

MEMBERSHIP

8 Members of the Council (5 majority / 3 minority).

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector recommended by the Voluntary Sector

Strategy Group and approved by the Cabinet Member for Environment.

One representative from each of:

- Transport for London.
- Train Operating Companies providing services within the Borough.
- London Borough of Enfield - Regeneration and Environment Directorate.

The chair shall be a member from the majority group of the Council.

The chair can invite, if deemed appropriate and necessary, other organisations to be members to make sure it reflects the demographic breakdown of the borough and those who regularly use the public transport network.

In addition the chair can invite guests where there are specific agenda items requiring their contribution.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

(i) to consider and monitor the operation and provision of public transport facilities within the Borough;

(ii) to share information on key developments relating to the public transport network including receiving reports from representative forums and groups;

(iii) to identify strategic issues for public transport providers to address; and,

(iv) to provide input into the development of council policies and responses to relevant consultations.

- 2.2 The Council is also asked to agree that corporate support is no longer provided for the Enfield Transport Users Group (see 3.17). Instead, there should be engagement with other groups which specifically represent transport modes, for example the Enfield Cycling Campaign and any Community Rail Partnerships in the area.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Public Transport Consultative Group is recognised in the Council Constitution with a Membership and Terms of Reference (set out in Appendix 1):
- Consider and monitor the operation and provision of public transport facilities within the Borough;
 - Receive reports from Forums and User Groups in connection with public transport within the Borough;
 - Submit to the Cabinet in respect of suggestions to improve and encourage the use of public transport within the Borough; and,

- Submit via the Cabinet proposals for inclusion in the Council's bid for Capital funding in respect of Enfield's Transport Strategy.
- 3.2 This means the Group is supported as part of the Council's structure, but does not exercise any statutory or constitutional decision making functions so acts in a purely advisory capacity.
- 3.3 It should be noted that the Group has not made any formal recommendations to Cabinet in the past 12 months, although it has provided input into several council responses to national and regional consultations.
- 3.4 According to the Constitution, the Group is broadly made up of councillors, representatives from community groups and transport operators.
- 3.5 In terms of the councillors, new members are nominated at the start of each municipal year (usually early May), with a chair for that year selected at the next meeting of the Group.
- 3.6 Currently 11 councillors sit on the Group. This is a high number compared to almost all other council committees, which mainly have between 5 and 7 councillors (the exception being the Planning Committee which has 12 councillors). Given that there is no obvious rationale for having 11 councillors and such a high number stretches available resources, it is proposed that the number is reduced to 7.
- 3.7 In line with other council committees it is proposed that the split of councillors is 4 majority and 3 minority with the chair being from the majority group of the Council.
- 3.8 In order to make the Group more representative, as well as councillors and transport providers, it should seek representatives from organisations which broadly reflect the demographic breakdown of the borough and those who regularly use the public transport network. Specifically this should include:
- People aged under 18.
 - Working age population.
 - Older residents
 - Black and minority ethnic groups.
 - Disabled groups.
- 3.9 The Voluntary Sector Strategy Group (the strategic forum for Council/VCS relations chaired by the Chief Executive and Cabinet Member for Community Organisations), with support from the council's CREST team, is asked to bring forward suggested groups for inclusion in the forum.
- 3.10 The Group should also include a representative from London's transport authority, Transport for London, which has responsibility for the majority of public

transport services, as well as representatives from the companies operating rail services not under TfL's control.

3.11 Therefore the proposed Membership section is:

7 Members of the Council (4 majority / 3 minority).

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector recommended by the Voluntary Sector Strategy Group and approved by the Cabinet Member for Environment.

One representative from each of:

- *Transport for London.*
- *Train Operating Companies providing services within the Borough.*
- *London Borough of Enfield - Regeneration and Environment Directorate.*

The chair shall be from the majority group of the Council.

The chair can invite other organisations, if deemed appropriate and necessary, to be members to make sure the Group reflects the demographic breakdown of the borough and those who regularly use the public transport network.

In addition, the chair can invite guests where there are specific agenda items requiring their contribution.

3.12 In addition the Group's remit should be altered to reflect its actual role as a forum for:

- Sharing information on key developments relating to the public transport network including receiving reports from representative fora and groups;
- Identifying strategic issues for public transport providers to address; and
- Providing input into the development of council policies and responses to relevant consultations.

3.13 With this in mind the proposed wording for the Terms of Reference section is:

(i) to consider and monitor the operation and provision of public transport facilities within the borough;

(ii) to share information on key developments relating to the public transport network including receiving reports from representative forums and groups;

(iii) to identify strategic issues for public transport providers to address; and,

(iv) to provide input into the development of council policies and responses to relevant consultations.

3.14 With options being considered for reforming the PTCG, it also seems appropriate to consider the role of the Enfield Transport Users' Group (ETUG).

- 3.15 Whilst the Group has Terms of Reference, it is unclear if these are being adhered to and whether it is appropriately constituted given the membership is self-selected and, currently, is unrepresentative of the breadth of people who use the public transport system in Enfield.
- 3.16 Alongside this, by moving the PTCG's focus to representative groups the role of ETUG will be diminished.
- 3.17 In light of this it is recommended that there is not a specific ETUG representative on the PTCG and that corporate support to ETUG is withdrawn (this support currently constitutes meeting rooms, meeting clerking and officer time).
- 3.18 Instead the resources freed up could be used to engage with other groups which specifically represent transport modes, as appropriate.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Leave the Group as is – Does not address underlying issues around representation and effectiveness.
- 4.2 Seek to reform the Group from within – This approach could lead to future changes but is also at risk from organisations with a vested interest seeking to maintain the status quo.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

As set out in the report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

This report is seeking the Council to agree that changes are made to the constitution (see 3.10 and 3.12) "Public Transport Consultative Group – Changes to Membership and Remit", while support for ETUG is being removed, the resources will instead be used to engage with other groups, which should mean that the changes will be neutral in terms of resources so will not have any financial implications.

6.2 Legal Implications

Section 9P of the Local Government Act 2000 requires a local authority to prepare and keep up to date its Constitution. The recommendations contained in this report propose to make changes to the Council's Constitution although not in respect of a statutory function. The Constitution may only be amended by Full

Council and the proposals are intended to bring the Council in line with best practice and the efficient operation of the Constitution.

6.3 Property Implications

None identified.

7. KEY RISKS

Reputational – The Council is committed to representing the full range of diverse communities and groups in Enfield. If the Public Transport Consultative Group cannot demonstrate that its membership is representative then it does not meet the Council's own aspirations.

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All

Positive - The Public Transport Consultative Group will better reflect Enfield's diverse communities.

8.2 Growth and Sustainability

Positive – An effective Public Transport Consultative Group will help prioritise investment in public transport infrastructure and services.

8.3 Strong Communities

Positive - The Public Transport Consultative Group will better reflect Enfield's diverse communities.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

A specific assessment has not been undertaken however, given that the proposals are intended to make the Group more representative of Enfield's diverse population the impact is likely to be positive.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

12. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

13. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

The Group aims to make a positive contribution to the provision of public transport in Enfield which should in turn improve air quality, by encouraging mode shift away from private vehicles, and encourage more active lifestyles through more people walking and cycling.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Current Public Transport Consultative Group Membership and Terms of Reference from the Enfield Council Constitution

Appendix 1 – Current Public Transport Consultative Group Membership and Terms of Reference from the Enfield Council Constitution

24. Public Transport Consultative Group

MEMBERSHIP

11 Members of the Council plus one representative from each of the following organisations:

- Transport for London
- London Buses (representing all tendered services)
- The three bus operators providing the most bus services within the Borough
- London Underground Limited
- Railtrack
- Train Operating Companies providing services within the Borough
- Federation of Enfield Residents and Allied Associations
- Federation of Enfield Community Associations
- Enfield Chamber of Commerce
- Metropolitan Police
- Enfield Disablement Association
- A representative of Rail User Groups within the Borough
- British Transport Police
- Strategic Rail Authority
- Enfield Borough over 50s Forum
- Finance, Resources & Customer Services Department -Community Safety
- Place-Shaping & Enterprise Department - Regeneration
- Environment & Street Scene Department - Transportation Planning

TERMS OF REFERENCE

(i) to consider and monitor the operation and provision of public transport facilities within the Borough;

(ii) to receive reports from Forums and User Groups in connection with public transport within the Borough;

(iii) to submit to the Cabinet in respect of a. suggestions to improve and encourage the use of public transport within the Borough; and

(iv) To submit via the Cabinet proposals for inclusion in the Council's bid for Capital funding in respect of Enfield's Transport Strategy.