

## **REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**30 JANUARY 2014**

### **CHATHAM WATERFRONT BUS STATION VISIT**

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

Author: Steve Hewlett, Head of Integrated Transport

#### **Summary**

This report sets out a response to an issue, raised by Councillor Bright and the opposition spokespersons, requesting a visit to Chatham Waterfront Bus Station.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 Under Medway Constitution Overview and Scrutiny rules (Chapter 4, Part 5, Paragraph 9.1) Councillor Bright and the opposition spokespersons have requested that an item on this matter is included on the agenda for this meeting.

#### **2. The Issue**

- 2.1 At the pre-agenda meeting on 30 July 2013 Councillor Bright and the opposition spokespersons requested that members of the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee have an opportunity to visit Chatham Waterfront Bus Station, to view conditions when it was colder. The visit to the bus station took place on the evening of Monday 25 November 2013.

#### **3. Director's comments**

- 3.1 On the evening of the visit the weather conditions were dry and moderately cold with a slight breeze. Eight members from the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee attended the site visit together with officers and representatives from Arriva and Nu-Venture. At the site visit Members:
- inspected all four platforms and associated bus service display information;

- visited the Travel Information Centre, which incorporates public toilets;
- visited the Whitehouse, which incorporates canteen and toilet facilities for drivers of all bus companies and management offices.

3.2 An informal meeting then took place in the Whitehouse when members were invited to ask questions to officers and local bus operators on the operation of the bus station. Various operational issues were discussed, but no significant issues with the bus station were raised that were not already in progress to be resolved or improved. Officers advised members of proactive improvements undertaken at the bus station including:

- additional higher seating for waiting travellers;
- extra signage and junction improvements at Medway Street to discourage mis-use by private drivers;
- clearer bus departure time displays on bus stand totems;
- additional row of trees on the green space adjacent platform B to act as a wind break; and
- 5 new cycle racks.

3.3 Bus operators reported improved punctuality, far less bus on bus incidents which were apparently a daily occurrence in the Pentagon bus station and a very productive working relationship with the Council.

3.4 Members were advised that officers were investigating improved weather protection on platform B. A brief has been issued to the council's Capital Projects team and a project inception meeting took place on 10 January. The programme is for the design to be complete by 31 March 2014. The works are unfunded at this stage.

#### **4. Risk Management**

4.1 No risks were identified during the site meeting.

#### **5. Financial and Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no financial or legal implications that arise from the site meeting.

#### **6. Recommendation**

6.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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#### **Background Papers**

None.