

Key Decision Required:	NO	In the Forward Plan:	NO
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CABINET

11 APRIL 2014

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF 26 MARCH 2014

A.2 RURAL PROJECTS PANEL

BACKGROUND

The Committee received a verbal update by the Chairman of the Panel, Councillor Nicholls, on the success of the inaugural meeting of the Rural Projects Panel, which had been set up at the last meeting of the Committee.

He explained that the Panel had discussed the topics they would like to examine in more detail which would include gas and electricity supplies, rural transport, rural amenities and mains sewerage. It was also noted that the Panel would monitor broadband speeds in the District.

Members welcomed the early progress that had been made, particularly with regard to consideration given to local bus routes and levels of dependency upon these in rural areas, and the opportunity for Tendring residents to collectively switch their energy provider in order to maximise savings on fuel purchases, along with the potential to establish oil-buying groups to drive down costs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS / COMMENTS TO CABINET

Cabinet is now asked to consider the recommendations of the Corporate Management Committee and determine its response if any:

RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET: The Committee recommends to Cabinet that it informs and encourage town and parish councils within Tendring to ask its residents to consider the “Essex Energy Switch”, a scheme run by Essex County Council designed to save consumers money when purchasing gas and/or electric energy supplies, and encourages the establishment of oil-buying groups to bulk purchase domestic heating oil.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER’S COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

Comments will be provided directly at the meeting.