

<b>Key Decision Required</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>In the Forward Plan</b>	<b>No</b>
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**CABINET**

**13 MARCH 2015**

**REFERENCE FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 23 FEBRUARY 2015**

**A.1 INFRASTRUCTURE, PARKING AND REGENERATION OF MANNINGTREE  
TRAIN STATION**

(Report Prepared by Colin Sweeney)

**BACKGROUND**

At its meeting held on 19 January 2015, the Committee agreed to receive a report at its next meeting (23 February 2015) on the findings of a meeting held at Manningtree Station earlier that day (19 January 2015) with Abellio Greater Anglia (Abellio), which had been called for by Councillor Matthew Patten (Vice-Chairman) and also attended by Essex County Councillor and Tendring District Council's (TDC) Portfolio Holder for Planning and Corporate Services and Chairman of the Council's Local Plan Committee (Councillor G V Guglielmi), together with Manningtree Train Station's Manager, representatives from the local town and parishes and officers from Essex County Council (ECC) and TDC.

At that meeting, the following matters were considered:

- (a) Increasing traffic congestion and danger to pedestrians in the vicinity of the Station at peak times due to the inadequate road layout and level crossing there;
- (b) Overspill parking in Lawford, Manningtree and Brantham; and
- (c) Projected future growth and worsening impact due to major new housing and other development proposals in Brantham, Manningtree and Lawford.

Accordingly, at its meeting held on 23 February 2015, the Committee considered a report, which sought its approval to (i) make any comments to Abellio's Franchise Specification and, if any, that these be forwarded to Cabinet for inclusion within its formal response to the consultation; and (ii) submitting the report's findings, formally, to the Local Plan Committee and, in doing so, recommending that the proposals contained within the report, which related to improvements to the infrastructure, parking provision and future regeneration of Manningtree Railway Station, be included within and considered as part of TDC's emerging Local Plan and the equivalent document commissioned by ECC.

At its meeting held on 8 December 2014, the Committee received a presentation from Abellio, which set out to inform Members of respective levels of performance, where improvements to infrastructure, services, vehicles and rolling stock were required together with timescales for implementation and proposals for the future to ensure that the people of Tendring would continue to receive the best services possible within the resources available.

With much of the discussion having been centred upon Manningtree Railway Station and its strategic importance to North Tendring and South Suffolk, the Committee recognised the Station being acknowledged as:

- The busiest in Tendring
- One of the busiest in Essex
- Providing a key gateway to London and Norwich with important local drop-offs at Colchester, Chelmsford and Ipswich

- The main public access point for Harwich, Stansted Airport, Cambridge, Peterborough and rail routes to the North

However. The Committee had serious reservations about whether the local infrastructure there had kept pace with the growth of the Station, in particular:

- Serious congestion at peak hours on the roads accessing the Station having a harmful impact across Manningtree, Lawford, Mistley and Brantham
- Rogue parking across Manningtree, Lawford and Brantham by station users
- Impact on major new housing developments on local congestion and parking (approximately 1,000 planned new houses in the immediate locality)

Given the strategic importance of the Station to North Tendring and South Suffolk and its key role as a positive engine for regeneration for the local area, the Committee asked Councillor Patten to meet with Abellio (operators of the Station) and ECC (directly responsible for much of the local infrastructure surrounding the Station) to discuss these issues (but specifically not any issues relating to the service provided by Abellio).

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET**

Cabinet is now asked to consider the recommendation of the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee determine its response if any:

The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to **CABINET** that:

1. The Committee had considered the Abellio Franchise Specification consultation in the report attached as item A.1 to the Agenda, and it did not have any comments to make to Cabinet for consideration within its formal response to this; and
2. The afore-mentioned report be referred to the Local Plan Committee for it to consider the proposals contained within the report for inclusion and deliberation when it was considering its emerging Local Plan.

#### **PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

Comments will be provided directly at the meeting.