

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 JANUARY 2026

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CORPORATE POLICY AND SUPPORT)

A.1 KONECTBUS AT COMMITTEE MEETING

PURPOSE OF THE INQUIRY

The Stakeholder Engagement Lead will be attending the Committee as a representative of the Managing Director of Konectbus. Their presence will provide members of the Committee with the opportunity to make enquiries, seek clarification, and engage directly on matters relating to local transport and community and mainstream links.

SCOPE - THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

To enable the Committee to undertake appropriate questioning of Konectbus' representative and, following its deliberations, to determine and record any recommendations it considers necessary.

INVITEES

Charlie Poulter – Stakeholder Engagement Lead, Transport Made Simple

Portfolio Holder for Partnerships

BACKGROUND

A representative for Konectbus, to be formed with effect from 1 April 2026, has been invited to understand the key transport issues in our area and how we can work together as Transport Matters develops sufficient links for our residents. This will include a focus on what matters to residents and how we can deliver improvements in relation to public transport.

RELEVANT CORPORATE PLAN THEME/ANNUAL CABINET PRIORITY

- **Pride in our area and services to residents**
- **Working with Partners to improve quality of life**
- **Championing out local environment**
- **Raising aspirations and creating opportunities**

DESIRED OUTCOME OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS INQUIRY

To enable the Committee to undertake appropriate questioning of Konectbus' representative and, following its deliberations, to determine and record any recommendations it considers necessary.

DETAILED INFORMATION

Transport Made Simple published an article on 22 September 2025 regarding their acquisition of Go East Anglia:

“Transport Made Simple, an independently owned provider of passenger transport services, has reached an agreement with the Go-Ahead Group to acquire its Go East Anglia business. The transaction is expected to be completed by October 1, 2025. Go East Anglia operators Konectbus and Konectbuses will join Transport Made Simple’s existing operations, which operate under the Central Connect, Flagfinders and Simonds brands.

The acquisition will see Transport Made Simple’s fleet increase in size, to 380 buses, coaches and minibuses, with a headcount of 800 team members. The Go East Anglia local bus network complements existing Transport Made Simple operations, and combining the two networks will open up additional opportunities for passengers to travel by public transport across Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex.

Matt Carney, CEO, Go-Ahead Bus said, “We’re confident that Transport Made Simple will be great new owners for Go East Anglia. Bringing together Go East Anglia’s network with Transport Made Simple’s existing operations will create a stronger local presence, supporting future growth in services and connectivity for passengers and the community. We’re grateful to all our colleagues at Go East Anglia for their hard work and commitment over the years and wish them every success for the future.”

To assist Members of the Committee to prepare for the meeting, attached at Appendix A is a copy of the Reference Report from the Committee to Cabinet’s meeting of 24 May 2024 following the earlier enquiry “Scrutiny of the Mainstream and Community Transport Links in the District.”

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to put forward the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

On its meeting held on 24 May 2024 Cabinet:

RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism Portfolio Holder thereto be endorsed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

Final Report of the Mainstream and Community Transport Task and Finish Group - <https://tdcdemocracy.tendringdc.gov.uk/documents/s67455/A12%20Appendix%201.pdf>

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Reference Report from the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet – 24 May 2024 – Scrutiny of the Mainstream and Community Transport Links in the District

REPORT/INQUIRY CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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