

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND THE  
ECONOMY CABINET PANEL  
1 JULY 2019 AT 2.00PM**

Agenda item No:

**4**

**GOVIA THAMESLINK RAILWAY PRESENTATION**

*Report of the Director of Environment & Infrastructure*

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Executive Member: Derrick Ashley, Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the  
Economy

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 This paper provides background information to support the presentation to Panel from representatives of Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR).

**2. Summary**

2.1 Govia Thameslink Railway operates the local rail services from 20 stations in Hertfordshire.

2.2 The May 2018 timetable change caused significant disruption, which was discussed with GTR when they presented to this Panel in September 2018.

2.3 Govia Thameslink Railway will attend the Panel to give an update on current performance.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 The report is for information only and the Cabinet Panel is asked to note the presentation.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1 Govia Thameslink Railway is the franchisee for local rail services on the following routes in Hertfordshire:
- Thameslink services through St Albans to St Pancras
  - Thameslink / Great Northern services through Stevenage to St Pancras / Kings Cross
  - Great Northern services from Welwyn Garden City and Hertford North to Moorgate
  - Southern services through Watford Junction to East Croydon
- 4.2 Govia Thameslink Railway's franchise began in September 2014 and runs to September 2021.
- 4.3 Govia Thameslink Railway last presented to this Panel in September 2018, when there was discussion on the major disruption caused by the introduction of the May 2018 timetable. In the intervening period further changes were introduced in May 2019, including additional services which had been postponed from the previous year.

## **5. Current Issues**

- 5.1 The current issues for discussion with GTR include:
- Performance since the introduction of the May 2019 timetable
  - Further changes to train services proposed
  - The Passenger Benefit Fund
  - The Hertford North to Stevenage service
- 5.2 The Passenger Benefit Fund has been introduced to compensate passengers for the problems caused by the May 2018 timetable. The total pot of £15 million has been split across all of GTR's stations, with £80,000 being allocated to each of the 20 GTR stations in Hertfordshire. GTR is now seeking suggestions for schemes, and county council officers have written to Local Members seeking their views.
- 5.3 The Hertford North to Stevenage service has been operating as a bus replacement service on weekdays since May 2019. This will continue until the new platform is built at Stevenage, which is expected to be completed by May 2020.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 This is a report on activities delivered by Govia Thameslink Railway. There are no financial implications for Hertfordshire County Council arising from this report.

## **7. Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)**

- 7.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking.
- 7.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure the proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum, this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 7.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.4 This report covers the independent operations of a third-party organisation, and does not require a county council decision. Therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment has not been undertaken.

### ***Background Papers***

None