

Decision Record – Rail Decentralisation and Rail Fares and Ticketing consultation responses

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision:

Councillor Peter Butlin – Portfolio Holder for Transport & Highways

Date of Decision: (NOT BEFORE 22 June 2012)

22 June 2012

Decision taken

I, as Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways, approve the proposed responses the Department of Transport's consultations - 'Rail Decentralisation' 'Rail Fares and Ticketing' as appended.

Reasons for Decisions

The enclosed responses set out the reasons for supporting the proposals in the consultations. The response is supported by the West Midlands Regional Rail Members Group who propose that West Midlands authorities work together with the government to develop and manage a West Midlands Rail Franchise from 2015.

Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (summary set out below – see also officer report):

Government published 'Reforming our Railways: Putting Customers First' in March. Setting out the Government's framework for reforming the railways. There followed these two consultation papers – one on whether passengers would benefit if more decisions relating to local rail services were made closer to the communities they service, and the second on rail fares and ticketing.

The benefits of rail decentralisation could include:

1. Delivery of better service quality across whole rail network within the West Midlands which would be encouraged by an appropriate incentive regime and monitoring arrangement;
2. A single approach to marketing, branding and ticketing across whole journey to work area which would simplify the rail network for passengers
3. More responsive decision making and implementation of change to meet the needs of passengers and
4. Provision of new rail services and new stations that are closely linked to other local plans for housing and economic development.

The response is set out at **Appendix A**.

The Council will be participating in discussions on possible governance options and an appropriate franchise model for the West Midlands at the West Midlands Regional Rail Forum and the West Midlands Regional Rail Members Group.

The Rail Fares and Ticketing consultation seeks views on a range of issues concerning general principles and have no immediate direct implications for Warwickshire. The response at **Appendix B** makes clear that the Council does not support closure or reduction of opening hours of ticket offices and also points out irregularities in current fare levels for travel into major centres and welcomes further discussion on fare anomalies.

Financial and Legal Implications

None in relation to responding to consultation documents.

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Strategic Director:	Monica Fogarty
Portfolio Holder	Peter Butlin (Highways and Transport)

Checklist

Urgent matter: yes/no*

No

Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)

No

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework

No

List of Reports considered [please attach or forward a copy]

Report (text included above).

List of Background Papers [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

None (other than the Government's published consultation papers available on Department of Transport website)

Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.

For Comment: Cllr P Butlin (decision maker).

Officers :

Legal: Ian Marriott

Finance:

Equality&Diversity: Tejay De Krester

Other Communities Group officers: Peter Barnett, David Fagg

For information:

O&S Spokespersons: Cllrs Saint, Whitehouse, Sweet.