

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD	Agenda Item: 5
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Meeting Date	Monday 10 th September 2012
Report Title	GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON 2014 RAIL FRANCHISE
Portfolio Holder	Cllr John Wright
SMT Lead	Brian Planner
Head of Service	Brian Planner
Lead Officer	Brian Planner
Classification	Open

Recommendations	Members are asked to consider the issues raised in the Department for Transport consultation together with the consultation response submitted by KCC and decide whether a further response should be provided by the Swale Joint Transportation Board and what form this response should take.
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Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The new South Eastern franchise is due to start in April 2014 and run until September 2020 with a possible extension by up to two years. The Department for Transport (DfT) are seeking the views of passengers across Kent and South East London to help shape a new franchise for train services across the area. The consultation commenced on 21 June 2012 and closes on 13 September 2012. The consultation can be viewed via this link: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-29/>

2 Background

- 2.1 Kent County Council are primarily responsible for public transport in the Swale area as the highway and transport authority for Kent. They have prepared a detailed response to the consultation which is attached as Annex A.
- 2.2 However, Members are asked to consider whether this Joint Transportation Board would also wish to provide a response to the consultation.

3 Issue for Decision

3.1 Members may wish to generally support the consultation response submitted by KCC and in particular emphasise the Swale specific issues raised in the response as outlined below:

- As set out in the response to question 6 that the new franchise specification should require reduced journey times on the North Kent Line via Sittingbourne and Faversham to Victoria/Cannon Street.
- Also in response to question 6 that the connectivity at Sittingbourne between the Sheerness branch and High Speed/Mainline services should be improved to remove the existing long connection periods.
- In response to question 11 that the new franchise operator should be required to continue the support for Community Rail Partnerships to substantially improve the quality and appearance of the stations on these lines, the cleanliness of the trains and the presence of staff to check tickets and charge fares for passengers who board at the majority of unstaffed stations along the Swale line.

4 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving rail access in Swale will support the priority of being Open For Business.
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage.
Legal and Statutory	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	Reference is made in the consultation response to security issues under question 17.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage
Equality and Diversity	Accessibility and mobility issues are addressed under question 21 to the consultation
Sustainability	Encouraging greater use of public transport by improving the quality and availability of rail services would greatly support a shift to more sustainable modes of transport.

5 Appendices

5.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- Annex A – Copy of consultation response by KCC

6 Background Papers

6.1 None.