

# Scrutiny Proposal

<b>Topic: Bus Transport Review</b>	
<p><b>Background to the issue</b> (what is it and why is it being considered for scrutiny)</p>	<p>In February the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) was informed of Members' concerns about the potential impact of bus contracts being re-tendered in April 2016. It was agreed that this issue would be investigated by the Chairman of the OSPB together with the Chairmen of the Adult Care and Well-Being O&amp;S Panel and the Economy and Environment O&amp;S Panel.</p> <p>A meeting was held with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways in March and subsequently the Chairman of the OSPB reported that, as a result of a delay in the proposed changes being made, there was no longer a need for urgency on this work and the scrutiny exercise may now take more time. OSPB heard that issues for further consideration included areas for future investment and the definition of a socially necessary service.</p>
<p><b>Terms of reference</b></p>	<p><b>Socially Necessary Services Definition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate what can be included within this definition</li> <li>• Investigate what other Local Authorities include in this definition</li> <li>• Review what issues in Worcestershire need to be reflected within this definition</li> </ul> <p><b>£1.6 Million Bus Subsidy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review whether the bus subsidy is being spent in the right areas</li> <li>• Review whether or not the level of subsidy is currently able to meet the socially necessary needs of Worcestershire</li> <li>• Identify what level of subsidy would be needed to meet the definition of Socially Necessary that the Task Group believes should be adopted</li> <li>• Examine WCC approach for providing services where there is a socially necessary reason and whether this is best through community services, corporate provision or any other form</li> <li>• Could the subsidy be better spent on other forms of public travel?</li> </ul> <p><b>Diamond Bus Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q&amp;A with Diamond to discuss service issues and how WCC can assist</li> </ul> <p><b>Recent Bus Service Cuts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate accountability and communication from bus providers to determine if it is adequate or could be improved, including how local members are involved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Transport Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the public transport strategy role for the County Council and to determine if it is adequate and fit for purpose</li> <li>• Examine what powers/options WCC has if a Bus Provider is delivering a poor service</li> <li>• Identify innovative public transport schemes that WCC can learn from</li> </ul>

Scrutiny Officer & Scrutiny Liaison Officer	Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers		
<b>Suitability for scrutiny.</b> Which of the following criteria does it meet?			
<i>Is the issue a priority area for the Council?</i>	Yes	<i>Does it examine a poorly performing service?</i>	Yes
<i>Is it a key issue for local people?</i>	Yes	<i>Has it been prompted by new Government guidance or legislation?</i>	No
<i>Will the scrutiny have a clear impact on services?</i>	Potentially	<i>Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?</i>	Potentially
<i>Are improvements for local people likely as a result?</i>	Possibly		
<b>Scope of scrutiny</b> (what issues will it cover and what won't it cover)	<p><i>N.B. O&amp;S has committed to ensure that the following are considered in all scrutiny reviews as appropriate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>equality and diversity issues</i></li> <li>• <i>commissioning</i></li> <li>• <i>localism</i></li> </ul>		
Advantages to conducting scrutiny & Indicators of success (ie how will you know a good scrutiny has been done?)	To have a better understanding of the situation in Worcestershire which will in turn could help to prioritise the areas of most need for the provision.		
Has anyone else examined the issue?	No		
Any disadvantages or pitfalls to conducting this scrutiny?	Concern exists regarding potential impact of Scrutiny in the short-term.		
<b>INFORMATION NEEDS</b>			
Key Documents, Reports & Data required			
Is an expert adviser	Suggestion: Paul Smith – Transport Operations Manager		

needed?	
Possible interviewees	<p>Cabinet Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Highways</li> <li>➤ Localism and Communities</li> <li>➤ Leader of Council</li> </ul> <p>Paul Smith, Transport Operations Manager Diamond Bus Company First Bus Company Other Bus Service providers in the County</p>
Is this an issue that young people would be interested in? If so, ask Youth Cabinet for evidence.	Yes
Site Visits	TBC Suggestion to hold meetings around the County and to hold a meeting on a Bus
Types of meeting/consultation needed? (eg workshops/focus groups/public meetings/questionnaires etc)	Task Group Meetings
Any meetings to be held outside of County Hall?	Potentially
Media & publicity needs?	<p>May request media release to gather views of the public</p> <p>Task group to take part in a meeting on a Bus to publicise the scrutiny</p>
<b>OUTLINE TIMETABLE</b>	
Proposal to OSPB	25 May 2016
Evidence Gathering	May 2016 – September 2016
Scrutiny Report to OSPB	12 October 2016
Scrutiny Report to Cabinet	17 November 2016