

CABINET
13 DECEMBER 2018**SCRUTINY REPORT: BUS AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROVISION**

Relevant Cabinet Member

Mr A T Amos

Relevant Officer

Director of Economy and Infrastructure

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways recommends that Cabinet:**
 - (a) receives the Scrutiny Report on Bus and Community Transport Provision, together with the response from the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways; and**
 - (b) notes the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendation and adopts the response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility as the way forward.**

Background

2. The aim of the scrutiny was to investigate current bus and community/alternative transport provision including the availability of transport at crucial times of the day to get to work, to school or college, to medical appointments and for shopping.
3. The scrutiny was initially prompted by concerns raised about reductions to bus services and the potential impact on the public.
4. In October this year, following a Notice of Motion agreed by Council, the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board agreed that this scrutiny would be carried out by a Scrutiny Task Group.
5. On 13 September 2018, Council agreed the following Notice of Motion:

"The Council is concerned at the unexpected cuts in bus services announced by First and Diamond bus companies in August which take effect on 17 and 3 September respectively.

We welcome the undertaking that the Council will carry out a fundamental review of its entire subsidised services which will involve a public consultation exercise.

We ask that this review is supported by an urgent cross-party scrutiny into current bus and community transport provision which should include the availability of transport at crucial times of the day to get to work, to school or college, to medical appointments and

for shopping. The scrutiny exercise should be completed by middle/late November to feed into the 2019/20 budget-setting process."

Scope of the Scrutiny

6. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board agreed the scope of the scrutiny exercise would be to examine and make recommendations on:

- how Bus Services are currently operating, both subsidised and commercial
- current County Council policy and budget for bus subsidies
- how the bus service cuts will affect the service users
- whether the existing bus services meet the needs of bus users across the county
- the role of community transport and how it is supported
- how the Service is perceived and experienced by bus users
- proposals for how the review of subsidised bus services will be carried out.

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSP)

7. The OSPB considered the Scrutiny Report on 5 December 2018. The Report is available at Appendix 1.

Response of the Cabinet Member

8. The scrutiny process provides for the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility to submit to the Cabinet a response to the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendation to be considered alongside the Scrutiny Report.

9. The response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways on behalf of the Cabinet will be circulated in due course.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 - Scrutiny Report: Bus and Community Transport Provision (electronic only)
- Appendix 2 – Response of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways on behalf of the Cabinet (to follow)

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points
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Specific Contact Points for this report
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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Economy and Infrastructure) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and minutes of:

- OSPB meetings on 26 September and 5 December 2018 – available [here](#)
- Council on 13 September 2018 – available [here](#)