

# Scrutiny Proposal

<b>Topic: Bus and Community Transport Provision</b>			
<b>Background to the issue</b> (what is it and why is it being considered for scrutiny)	<p>On 13 September 2018, Council agreed the following Notice of Motion:</p> <p>"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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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."</p>		
<b>Terms of reference</b>	To investigate current bus and community 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.		
<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>	Yes	<i>Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?</i>	<i>Potential to inform the review of bus services</i>
<i>Are improvements for local people likely as a result?</i>	<i>Potential to contribute to the review of bus services</i>		

<b>Scope of scrutiny</b> (what issues will it cover and what won't it cover)	To find out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how bus Services are currently operating, both subsidised and commercial</li> <li>• current County Council policy and budget for bus subsidies</li> <li>• how the bus service cuts will affect the service users</li> <li>• whether the existing bus services meet the needs of bus users across the County</li> <li>• the role of community transport and how it is supported</li> <li>• how the Service is perceived and experienced by bus users</li> <li>• proposals for how the review of subsidised bus services will be carried out</li> </ul> <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>• equality and diversity issues</li> <li>• commissioning</li> <li>• localism</li> </ul>
Advantages to conducting scrutiny & Indicators of success (ie how will you know a good scrutiny has been done?)	The findings of the scrutiny can feed into the Council's review of subsidised services and also into the 2019/20 budget setting process.
Has anyone else examined the issue?	The Council is also undertaking a fundamental review of its entire subsidised services.
Any disadvantages or pitfalls to conducting this scrutiny?	Risk of raising expectations that an in-depth piece of work can be carried out in the time available
<b>INFORMATION NEEDS</b>	
Key Documents, Reports & Data required	information on current bus services/coverage in the County, commercial and voluntary sectors Travel to work data? Previous Bus Consultation findings Bus subsidy criteria
Is an expert adviser needed?	
Possible interviewees	Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways Director of Economy and Infrastructure Representatives of bus companies Bus users, including those travelling to schools and hospitals Consortium of Community Transport Community Transport Operators Older people (via the OPCG, Steve Medley) Learning Disability Partnership Board Sensory Impairment Consultative Group Autism Partnership Board Voluntary Sector Organisations eg Sight Concern, Deaf Direct and

	SpeakEasy and Aspie Worcestershire Association of Carers Council and Service User Groups District Councils Parish Councils Other Partnerships
Is this an issue that young people would be interested in? If so, ask Youth Cabinet for evidence.	Yes
Site Visits	Journeys on buses to experience the service currently provided and meet bus users
Types of meeting/ consultation needed? (eg workshops/ focus groups/ public meetings/ questionnaires etc)	Task Group meetings and visits Questionnaire – potential for local councillors to help in gathering feedback
Any meetings to be held outside of County Hall?	Possibly
Media & publicity needs?	Yes
<b>OUTLINE TIMETABLE</b>	
Proposal to OSPB	26 September 2018
Evidence Gathering	September – November 2018
Scrutiny Report to OSPB	November 2018
Scrutiny Report to Cabinet	December 2018