

## Scrutiny Leadership Board, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009

### **Agenda item 4: Update on the Implementation of Recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of School Travel**

A report on the implementation of recommendations from previous scrutiny reports (by exception) was presented to the Scrutiny Leadership Board at the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

An update of all previous scrutiny recommendations had commenced in July 2009 when scrutiny requested an update on progress towards the implementation of each recommendation from responsible officers. The report showed those recommendations that had not yet been completed with an update, where it had been provided, from the responsible officer explaining the actions taken towards implementation or the reasons why the recommendation had not yet been implemented. The report also highlighted where no update had been received from the responsible officers.

The Scrutiny Leadership Board therefore agreed that where no update had been provided, the responsible officers would be invited to future meetings to give a verbal update to the Scrutiny Leadership Board, and that the officers from Transport would be invited to the next meeting to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations from the review of School Travel.

A summary of the recommendations and updates received to date is shown below. The area shaded red indicates where updated information has been requested.

Review Title	Year	Rec No	Recommendation	Response	Cabinet Response	Timeframe	Officer Responsible	Updated Position	Date	Completed	Updated Position
School Travel	2007/08	7	Officers from the Children & Young People and Environment & Regeneration portfolios should undertake more investigation into alternative models for a yellow bus scheme in Telford & Wrekin. This should include looking at using minibuses instead of large buses. A detailed report on the options available, including costs and potential usage, should be presented to scrutiny by the end of June 2009 to enable the Commission to make further recommendations to Cabinet.	Defer for further consideration.	Two reports have already been taken to Scrutiny regarding yellow buses. The initial report highlighted limited potential use of the provision in the Newport area. It is recommended that any formal decision be deferred until an announcement is made on the potential opportunity for external funding, this decision is expected by April 2011. The ongoing provision of transport to schools will be considered as part of the wider transport services review that is currently being started. It is recommended that the appropriate results of the Transport Services Review be reported to Scrutiny once the review is completed. The outcomes of the review will be widely communicated in due course.	Jan - June 2009	Business Manager: Transport				

School Travel	2007/08	8	Feedback should be provided to scrutiny on the work that officers are undertaking to reduce the cost of taxis for school transport.	Agreed	There has been substantial work undertaken to procure taxi transport more effectively. Other value for money initiatives will be considered and reviewed as part of the review of transport services that is about to commence. The outcomes of the review will be widely communicated in due course.	Jan - June 2009	Team Leader: Transport (Contracts)				
School Travel	2007/08	9	Transport provision for children attending faith schools at their parents' choice should be brought in line with provision given to other parents exercising their choice of school. Where the child lives outside the statutory distance from the school and it is the parents' choice that the child attends, the parents should be responsible for transport provision, unless they are a low income household.	Agreed	The Council should be equitable in how school transport is provided. Any change in policy will subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment and consultation before a final decision is taken.	Apr-09	Education Officer: Admissions	We have taken the recommendation forward by holding a consultation from March to end May 2009 about possible policy changes. The outcomes of the consultation are scheduled to go to cabinet during the autumn to decide whether to change the existing policy on funding for transport to school on denominational grounds.			

School Travel	2007/08	6b	The working group should consider inviting a representative from the Community Services portfolio to join the group.	Agreed	However, representation from Community Services may not be required at every meeting.	Ongoing	Capital & Facilities Manager (CYP) and Business Manager: Network Management & Policy	The group has met bi-monthly and specific issues affecting Redhill, Lawley and Captain web primary schools have been discussed. The next site to be looked at will be Newdale.			
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