

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2012
TITLE:	Home to School Transport Review: Contributor session background briefing document
WARD:	ALL

### AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

#### List of attachments to this report:

Appendix One: Background briefing document: Comparing other local authorities and past B&NES Scrutiny Reviews

Appendix Two: Service Officer briefing on B&NES Home to School Transport Policies

## 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 In May 2012, the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel agreed to undertake a review of Home to School Transport in Bath & North East Somerset.
- 1.2 The review is currently in its evidence gathering phase and as part of the review process Members are holding a public meeting to receive contributors' views. The purpose of this is to elicit the views of key stakeholders.
- 1.3 The terms of reference agreed in May also stated that the steering group would gather examples of other local authorities' Home to School Transport policies for comparative analysis and highlight what research has already been conducted through previous scrutiny reviews. The briefing document attached as appendix 1 outlines these findings and will form part of the wider evidence gathering process for the review.

## 2 RECOMMENDATION

The Early Years Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel is asked to agree that:

- 2.1 Note the information presented in the background briefing document

- 2.2 Hear from members of the public who have registered to speak at the contributor session
- 2.3 Based on all the information received during this review, Members will be asked to meet again to discuss the Panel's findings and recommendations on the issues. There will be incorporated into the Panel's final report which will be presented to the Cabinet for their response.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The costs associated with this review will be met from within the annual budget available to the Panel.

### **4 THE REPORT**

The background briefing report outlines that the purpose of the Home to School Transport (HTST) review is to maintain transport services for young people whilst ensuring the most efficient deployment of public funds and meeting the full range of statutory duties in this field. The document also highlights the scope and objectives of the review, as set out in the terms of reference.

- 4.1 The report goes on to highlight recent examples HTST reviews at other local authorities including Bath & North East Somerset Council's neighbouring local authorities.
- 4.2 The background briefing report highlights the findings of two previous Scrutiny reviews that considered elements of school transport. The Passenger Transport Review conducted in the 2005 and the Secondary School Transport Review in 2008.
- 4.3 Final the report outlines the next steps involved in the HTST Review.

### **5 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 A risk assessment related to the review was undertaken when the terms of reference were presented. A further risk assessment will be undertaken as the Panel develop their final report and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

### **6 EQUALITIES**

*An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed but the Council's Equalities Team were consulted prior to the Panel's questionnaire being published and the Panel will also consider all equalities issues when formulating their final recommendations.*

### **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 *Parish Council; Town Council; Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Service Users; Local Residents; Youth Council; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies;*
- 7.2 A questionnaire has been produced to consult with key stakeholders. Letters/e-mails sent to all Head Teachers, School Governors, parents/carers who currently

receive home to school transport support, home to school transport providers and all public bus companies operating in Bath & North East Somerset and all Town/Parish Councillors to promote the questionnaire.

7.3 A press release and other promotional materials were issued to promote the questionnaire and the public contributor session

7.4 This public contributor session is being held to hear from members of the public with an interest in home to school transport

7.5 Focus groups may also be held following the initial analysis of the background evidence, questionnaire and public meeting.

## **8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION**

8.1 *Young People*

## **9 ADVICE SOUGHT**

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>Lauren Rushen- Policy Development and Scrutiny Officer (01225) 396410.</i> <i>Kevin Amos- Children's Services (01225) 395202</i> <i>Councillor Sally Davis- Chair of the Early Years, Children and Youth Panel.</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>Terms of reference (presented at the Panel meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012)</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	