

Council 15 January, 2015

Quality Contract Scheme

Labour Group to move:

- 1 Council notes that buses are a key part of the B&NES Transport Strategy yet the current services often do not serve the needs of residents and are viewed as expensive and unreliable.
- 2 Council further notes the powers contained within the Transport Act 2000, as amended, to set up a Quality Contract Scheme (QCS) which would allow the Authority to plan the bus route network, set the fares and award contracts to run services or local networks.
- 3 Council recognises, however, that under a QCS there is a revenue risk to the Council in that it would be responsible for meeting any shortfall in fares income to cover the operating costs of the contracts.
- 4 Council also recognises that where a decision has been made to proceed with a QCS in the North East, this has been a joint decision between multiple local authorities.
- 5 For the reasons outlined in 3 and 4 (above), Council believes that significantly more work is required to determine whether a QCS is the best way forward for the provision of buses in B&NES.
- 6 Council therefore asks, in the first instance, the Planning, Transport and Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel to undertake further work into the potential, including advantages and disadvantages, for a QCS in B&NES with a report back to the new Council at the meeting immediately following the Annual meeting in 2015.