

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Communities, Transport & Environment, Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	11th January 2016
TITLE:	Quality Contract Scheme (QCS) for Buses - scrutiny review interim report
WARD:	All wards
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scrutiny review interim report 	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Communities Transport & Environment PDS Panel was asked by Full Council to undertake a scrutiny review into the potential for a bus Quality Contract Scheme (QCS) in Bath & North East Somerset Council. A steering group was nominated and has met several times to progress this work. The draft interim report can be found at Appendix 1, and gives the key findings to date.
- 1.2 The PDS panel may wish to undertake further work into this issue once the Buses Bill has been published, and the potential for a West of England Devolution deal are more readily known. Upon completion of this further work, a final report will be drafted.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Communities Transport & Environment PDS Panel are asked:-

- 2.1 To consider the current findings contained in the draft interim report; and
- 2.2 To review findings when the Buses Bill and potential West of England devolution deal have been further developed.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The scrutiny review must be completed within the resources available to the Communities Transport & Environment Panel; the further findings review work would therefore be managed within existing budgets.
- 3.2 Any proposals put forward by the group around a QCS would require a business case identifying budget impact analysis in order to fully inform the decision making process.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 Equalities issues were considered by the Panel as part of their work in formulating the scope of this proposed investigation and further equalities work would be undertaken during the course of consultation and formulation of the final recommendations.

4.2 No sustainability or natural environment considerations at this initial stage.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 The interim report for this scrutiny review is contained in Appendix 1.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 The final report for this review would be brought to a public PDS panel meeting.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Ward Councillors; Cabinet Member; Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; and Chief Executive.

8.2 The Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer and Strategic Director for Place have had opportunity to review and input into this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CTE Panel meeting 14th September 2015 (Agenda Item 9) Quality Contract Scheme for Buses (Minutes of panel discussion)2. CTE Panel meeting 13th July 2015, (Agenda Item 9) Quality Contract Scheme for Buses (Minutes of request)3. Full Council meeting Minutes 15th January 2015 (Agenda Item 61)
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