

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**5TH MARCH 2008**

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT (BUSES) SCRUTINY REPORT**

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mrs. M. A. Sherrey J.P.
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Street Scene and Waste Management Services
Chairman of Scrutiny Task Group	Councillor B. Lewis F. CMI

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 It is a Government requirement that Local Authorities provide a Public Transport Strategy that best meets local needs and provides best value for money, at the same time subsidising services which are considered vital to the public good, thus allowing the community to access social activities, health care and educational amenities.
- 1.2 The role of the Public Transport (Buses) Task Group was to examine the current bus services (or lack of), timetables, bus condition and age, and the general availability and acceptability to current bus users at large within the Bromsgrove District. The attached scrutiny report sets out the findings and recommendations of the Task Group.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Members are requested to consider and approve the recommendations set out in the attached report.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At a meeting of the Scrutiny Steering Board held on the 12th June 2007, it was decided that a Task Group would be established to scrutinise issues relating to public transport in and through the Council's area, with specific reference being made to buses.
- 3.2 The full terms of reference were approved (as amended) by the Scrutiny Steering Board at its meeting held on 3rd July 2007, when membership of the Task Group was also agreed.
- 3.3 Further details can be found in the "Background and Terms of Reference" in Section 3 of the attached Report.

- 3.4 On 5th February 2008, the Scrutiny Steering Board considered the Scrutiny Report and after discussion with the Task Group Chairman and Executive Director – Partnerships and Projects, the Board agreed to include the following recommendation:

Recommendation 14 - The Task Group Chairman, Councillor B. Lewis F.CMI, be invited to sit on the Joint County and District Town Centre Steering Group to assist the Council in ensuring any approved recommendations contained within this Scrutiny Report are implemented.

- 3.5 At that meeting of Scrutiny Steering Board, subject to recommendation 14 above being included in the final report, the Scrutiny Report, including all recommendations, was approved and it was requested that it be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The financial implications for the Council are as outlined in the attached report.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no significant legal implications, as outlined in the attached report.

#### **6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

- 6.1 The report links to the Council's Objectives Regeneration and Improvement.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 The risk of not approving the recommendations contained within the report is to undermine the Council's commitment to the regeneration of the town centre.

#### **8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Residents living within the Bromsgrove district will benefit from an improved public transport service if the recommendations contained within the attached scrutiny report are implemented.

#### **9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Disability Discrimination Act Regulations 2000 govern the provision and minimum standards for various transportation issues, and all buses, regardless of age, must conform to the DDA by 2017. It is hoped, however, that by maintaining a dialogue with the County Council and the various

Operators every effort will be made to achieve such compliance at the earliest opportunity.

**10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Any projects that are undertaken by the Council as a result of the recommendations contained within this report will be subject to Contract Procedure Rules to ensure value for money in the delivery of services to the community.

**11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues - Possible admin set-up costs connected with the creation of any Partnership Project Team established to plan, fund-raise and implement a new purpose-built town centre bus station for Bromsgrove.
Personnel Implications – Possible implications with the proposed recommendation to liaise with Redditch Borough Council with a view to extending their existing Dial-a-Ride scheme.
Governance/Performance Management -None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - This report has considered S.17 of the CDA and the duty it imposes, and there are no implications arising from it.
Policy - None
Environmental – If all of the proposals contained within the report are put into place, there should be a marked improvement in public transport arrangements resulting in a better service, and reduced carbon emissions through fewer car journeys.

**12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	No – however, has been sent a copy of the attached report for information.
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (Partnerships and Projects)	Yes
Executive Director (Services)	Yes

Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

### 13. **WARDS AFFECTED**

All Wards of the District are likely to be affected by the contents of the Report.

### 14. **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Public Transport (Buses) Scrutiny Report, including its appendices.

### 15. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011: Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy  
 Passenger Transport Infrastructure Best Practice Report  
 Passenger Transport Accessibility Best Practice Report  
 Passenger Transport Vehicles & Rolling Stock Best Practice Report  
 Traffic Management and Parking for Passengers Best Practice Report  
 Passenger Transport Marketing and Information Best Practice Report  
 Community Transport Best Practice Report  
 Land Use and Development Control for Passenger Transport  
 Executive Summaries Best Practice Workshops 6th and 7th Nov. 2007.  
 Achieving Disability Equality in the Bromsgrove District  
 Local Transport Bill

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