

Local Transport Plan Rural Access Policy Advisory Group – Exec Response Action Plan

Regeneration and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee

Local Transport Plan Rural Access Policy Advisory Group

15th February 2011

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION Y/N (if no – please state reason)	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD OFFICER	DEADLINE
<p>1 We recommend that the Cabinet/Portfolio Holder, in consultation with Members, develops a common framework which can be used to assess the County Council's commitment to and funding of local transport schemes (whether that be subsidised bus services/community or voluntary schemes). This would enable the County Council to make consistent and fair decisions on support for schemes and to be able to explain such decisions clearly to the public.</p> <p>While we are of the view that it is for the Cabinet/Portfolio Holder to ultimately decide what such a framework should be, it is our view that it should set out key priorities in terms of transport provision. Based</p>				

Local Transport Plan Rural Access Policy Advisory Group – Exec Response Action Plan

	<p>on our work we think that any County Council subsidised transport scheme should <i>primarily</i> be about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing / preventing social exclusion of identified vulnerable groups; • ensuring access to <i>essential</i> services (e.g. health services) for vulnerable people; • ensuring access for young people to opportunities and leisure activities; and • ensuring access to employment opportunities to support growth. <p>In assessing one scheme against another value for money also needs to be taken into account.</p>				
2	<p>We recommend that the Portfolio Holder ensure that a more robust and thorough system of local member consultation is developed when transport reviews are undertaken in an area – beginning with two scheduled reviews in South Staffordshire and Lichfield. This system should also include some mechanism for seeking the views of District and Parish Members.</p>				

Local Transport Plan Rural Access Policy Advisory Group – Exec Response Action Plan

3	Recommendation for the Regeneration and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee – Executive Response not required.				
4a	We recommend that the Council continue to support these services (voluntary schemes such as Rural Runabout), at least in line with the budget that was allocated this year.				
4b	We recommend that the Portfolio Holder liaise with the appropriate Cabinet Member (Communities and Culture), regarding undertaking some work around volunteer transport schemes as part of the wider Volunteer Staffordshire campaign.				
5a	We recommend that all Elected Members are contacted with the details of the appropriate person to contact regarding any concerns over bus service provision;				

Local Transport Plan Rural Access Policy Advisory Group – Exec Response Action Plan

5b	We recommend that the Portfolio Holder investigate the possibility of requiring bus companies which are subsidised by the County Council to display, inside the vehicles, a number (possibly the County Council's 'one' contact number) which passengers can contact if they have any concerns regarding the service; and				
5c	We recommend that the Portfolio Holder review the number of vehicle inspectors employed by the County Council; taking into account the potential benefit it would deliver in terms of improved service quality, and therefore greater numbers potentially using public transport.				
6	Recommendation for the Regeneration and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee – Executive Response not required.				