

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021**

The following question was received from Mr. J. Blake

1. “Home to School Transport

To give the question context it is in view of the Home To School Transport, with the question deriving, in one example, no council attainment or monitoring of 'risk assessments' from operators that are transporting school children with which the council has a duty of care.

In view of the fact that legally the Council must ensure it procures transport from passenger transport operators, that is safe and legally compliant, will the Council ensure it only awards contracts to those operators that can evidence that they are safety and legally compliant and have not been called to a Public Inquiry for road safety critical offences?”

Response by the Chairman

The Council undertakes checks on transport providers at the point when they apply for a place on the Council’s Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) and this includes their agreement to adhering to the DPS conditions of contract which includes all legal requirements and service standards relating to operating public service vehicles and home to school transport.

In addition, the Council’s Contracts & Compliance team monitor transport service providers through vehicle and contract inspections throughout the year. The Council also undertakes Company audits to ensure that the companies have all the relevant documents and licences to operate legally and compliant.

The team also monitors the DVSA Notices of Bus Operator Public Enquiries and investigate when a DPS operator is called to an enquiry and on occasion will attend hearings. They also work alongside local taxi licencing authorities in monitoring taxi companies and sharing information and compliance issues.

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