

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 8 JUNE 2011

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY
COMMISSIONERS**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline for members issues discussed at the meeting of Scrutiny Commissioners and to seek the approval of the Commission to agree the terms of reference for a proposed review of the 95% Bus Coverage Policy and to invite non-Executive members to a meeting with the Commissioners to discuss the scrutiny work plan and priorities for 2011/12.

Background

2. Rule 7 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules states that *'overview and scrutiny committees dealing with County Council functions shall obtain the prior approval of the Scrutiny Commission for their work programme and in formulating their work programme they shall take into account the wishes of members on that committee who are not members of the current political administration of the County Council.'*

Review Panel on 95% Bus overage Policy.

3. Arising from debate of the Local Transport Plan 3, it became clear that the Council's commitment to delivering a network of Monday to Saturday daytime bus services operating to an hourly or better timetable within 800m of 95% of County residents was no longer affordable. Furthermore, a phased reduction in bus service operator's grant would result in a very challenging picture going forward. The Commissioners therefore concluded that a review of the existing policy be undertaken and that a Panel be appointed for that purpose. A copy of the proposed terms of reference for the Panel is attached at **Appendix A.**

Workshop to discuss scrutiny priorities and the work plan for 2011/12

4. In May 2010, a workshop session was held to discuss the new scrutiny structure and ways in which scrutiny could be made more effective. The Scrutiny Commissioners would like to organise a session for Deputy Commissioners, and the Chairmen, Deputy Chairmen and Spokespersons of the CYPS and ACH Scrutiny Committees in June to discuss priority areas for scrutiny for 2011/12. It is hoped that this

session can be held on **Monday 13 June**, pending members' availability.

Programme and Project Management for Elected Members Training Sessions

5. As the work of scrutiny is increasingly focused around Review Panel work, a training course has been devised to assist members in managing projects. A leaflet for the course is attached at **Appendix B**. Members are encouraged to attend one of these sessions.

Equal Opportunities Implications

4. None.

Recommendations

The Scrutiny Commission is asked to:-

- (a) agree the establishment of a review panel on the 95% bus coverage policy with the terms of reference outlined in Appendix A to this report and to nominate a member to serve as Chairman;
- (b) note the intention to hold a workshop session on 13 June to discuss scrutiny priorities and the work plan for 2011/12;
- (c) note that member training sessions focused around project management for scrutiny review panels will be held through June and July.

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Terms of Reference – Review of The 95% Bus Coverage Policy

Appendix B – Programme and Project Management for Elected Members Training Sessions