



## Notice of meeting of

### Education Scrutiny Committee

**To:** Councillors Hall (Chair), Bartlett, Bradley, D'Agorne,  
Jones, Kind and Livesley (Vice-Chair)

Co-opted Statutory Members:

Mr John Bailey (Parent Governor Representative),  
Mr Andy Lawton (Parent Governor Representative),  
Dr David Sellick (Church of England Representative) and  
Miss C Duffy (Catholic Representative)

**Date:** Tuesday, 31 October 2006

**Time:** 5.00 pm

**Venue:** The Guildhall, York

## AGENDA

### 1. **Declarations of Interest** (Pages 1 - 2)

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda. A list of general personal interests previously declared are attached.

### 2. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2006.

### 3. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Panel's remit can do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer on the contact details listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is Monday 30 October at 10.00am.

#### **4. Education Scrutiny Work Planning (Pages 5 - 26)**

This report asks Members to consider their programme of work for the rest of the 2006/07 municipal year.

There are two registered scrutiny topics which are relevant to the work of this Committee:

- a) The role of school governors, registered by Cllr Viv Kind in May 2005 and
- b) Contract school bus services registered by Cllr Charles Hall in August 2006.

#### **5. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

#### Democracy Officer:

Name: Jill Pickering

- Telephone – (01904) 552062
- E-mail – [jill.pickering@york.gov.uk](mailto:jill.pickering@york.gov.uk)

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

**EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Agenda item I: Declarations of interest.**

Please state any amendments you have to your declarations of interest:

Councillor Aspden – Governor Knavesmire Primary School, member of the National Union of Teachers and employee of Norton College.

Councillor Bartlett – Governor of Millthorpe and St Paul’s CE Primary School

Councillor Blanchard – Chair of Young Enterprise

Councillor Bradley – Governor of Poppleton Ousebank School

Councillor Kind – Governor of Burnholme Community College; Haxby Road Primary School

Councillor Livesley – Governor of Bishopthorpe Infant School.

Co-opted statutory members

Dr D Sellick – Governor of Derwent Infant and Junior School

Mr A Lawton – Governor of Canon Lee School

Mr J Bailey – Governor of Huntington School

This page is intentionally left blank

City of York Council

Minutes

---

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| MEETING   | EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE   |
| DATE      | 19 JULY 2006   |
| PRESENT   | COUNCILLORS HALL (CHAIR), ASPDEN (SUB FOR CLLR BRADLEY), BARTLETT, AND BLANCHARD (SUB FOR CLLR KIND)<br><br>MR J BAILEY (PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVE)<br>DR D SELICK (CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE) |
| APOLOGIES | COUNCILLORS BRADLEY, LIVESLEY, JONES, KIND AND<br>MS C DUFFY (CATHOLIC REPRESENTATIVE)   |

---

#### 5. **Declarations of Interest**

The following Members and Co-optees declared a general personal interest in the business on the agenda:

Councillor Aspden – Governor Knavesmire Primary School, member of the National Union of Teachers and employee of Norton College.  
Councillor Bartlett – Governor of Millthorpe and St Paul's CE Primary School  
Councillor Blanchard – Chair of Young Enterprise

#### Co-opted Statutory Members

Dr D Sellick – Governor of Derwent Infant and Junior School  
Mr J Bailey – Governor of Huntington School

#### 6. **Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### 7. **Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

#### 8. **Draft Final Report on the Extended Schools Service in York**

Consideration was given to the draft final report of the scrutiny review into the extended schools service in York.

A revised version of the draft final report, which set out changes that had been agreed at the last meeting, had been circulated to Members, prior to the meeting.

The Chair pointed out that there were a number of typographical errors in the circulated reports, which had been corrected in the electronic version of the document.

Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED:** That it be agreed that the report and recommendations be submitted to the Scrutiny Management Committee subject to the correction of typographical and grammatical points and the following amendments:

- In Recommendation 4 the insertion of the word 'of' prior to the words 'a flexible' in the second line.
- In Recommendation 5 the deletion of the word 'extended' and its replacement with 'extends' in the final line.
- On page 21 in the first paragraph under the heading 'St Aelred's Roman Catholic Primary School' the deletion of the sentence '85% of pupils are Catholics, with some other Christians and some Asians'.
- On page 23 the insertion of the word 'currently' prior to the words 'by the Chair' in the third sentence of the first paragraph relating to Osbaldwick Primary School.

**REASON:** To facilitate completion of the former Education Scrutiny Board's outstanding work and to ensure that the final report reflects the Board's intentions.

CLLR C HALL, CHAIR

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 5.30 pm.



---

## Education Scrutiny Committee

31 October 2006

### Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

## Education Scrutiny Work Planning

### Summary

1. This report is to ask Members to consider their programme of work for the rest of the 2006/7 municipal year.

### Background

2. There are two registered scrutiny topics which are relevant to the work of this Committee:
  - a) The role of school governors, registered by Cllr Viv Kind in May 2005 (Topic no 127 – Registration form attached at Annex A and feasibility report at Annex B) and
  - b) Contract school bus services registered by Cllr Charles Hall in August 2006 (Topic no 141, Registration form attached at Annex C and feasibility report at Annex D)
3. Members of the Committee met informally on 12 September 2006 to make recommendations as to the work programme from now until the end of the municipal year.
4. Members recommended that the Committee review contract school bus services from now until January 2007 in the first instance. A draft remit for this topic is enclosed at Annex E. Mark Ellis from the Access Team and Terry Walker from Transport Planning have agreed to attend this meeting to update members.
5. Members recognised the importance of support and training for school governors and there was agreement for this topic being considered later in the year as the role of governors increases with the development of the extended school role. It may be useful to track changes to the governors' roles and identify gaps in their knowledge of their responsibilities. Cllr Bradley offered to arrange for information on these role changes to be presented to a future meeting of Children's Services EMAP.

6. At the Scrutiny Management Committee of 22 October 2006 members are looking at the Scrutiny work planning process including eligibility criteria for future reviews. These will apply to reviews accepted by the Education Scrutiny committee as well as those selected for Ad Hoc Sub-Committees. Further details will be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

### **Options**

7. Members may select one of the registered scrutiny topics for review at the present time, or they may defer or reject one or both of them.

### **Analysis**

8. Members should consider if these are appropriate topics for scrutiny at the present time and to take into account if other work is being done on these issues within the authority.

### **Corporate Priorities**

9. Fits with Corporate Priority no 8 - Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city.

### **Implications**

10. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

### **Risk Management**

11. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

### **Recommendations**

12. Members are asked to consider their programme of work in line with the options above.

Reason: In order to carry out their responsibilities in managing the Education Scrutiny function in York.



**Contact Details**

**Author:**

Barbara Boyce  
Scrutiny Officer  
01904 551714  
barbara.boyce@york.gov.uk

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Suzan Hemingway  
Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

**Report Approved**

**Date** 23 October 2006

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** *List information for all*

*Implication ie Financial*

*Implication ie Legal*

*Name*

*Name*

*Title*

*Title*

*Tel No.*

*Tel No.*

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Annexes**

Annex A – Topic 127 Registration Form

Annex B – Topic 127 Feasibility study

Annex C – Topic 141 Registration Form

Annex D – Topic 141 Feasibility study

Annex E – Draft remit for topic relating to Contract School Transport

This page is intentionally left blank



## SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

Dear Reader

Scrutiny Members examine the decisions, policies and performance of the Council and make recommendations where they feel things could be improved for the citizens of York.

This non-Executive Member cross-party role was created by the Local Government Act 2000 which is all about modernising local government and creating better ways for citizens to be more involved in local decision making.

The scrutiny boards will consider possible suggestions about issues to look at from anyone, so long as these are not specific issues of an individual nature which should be taken up with a local Councillor or addressed through the Corporate Complaints system.

Scrutiny at York has already investigated things as diverse as the response to the 2000 'Floods', provision for 'Young People in York', 'Rail Side Safety' and 'Street Cleaning'.

If you have a suggestion for something the scrutiny boards might consider, then please fill in this registration form and return it to us, either by post or by e-mail.

Madeleine Kirk

**Cllr Madeleine Kirk**  
**Chair, Scrutiny Management Committee**

**SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM**

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>SUGGESTED TITLE OF TOPIC</b></p> <p>The Role of School Governors</p> |
|--|

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>ABOUT YOU</b> Please fill in as many of the details as you are able to.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Title (delete as applicable):</b></p> <p><b>Other please state:</b> Cllr</p>  |   |
| <p><b>First Name:</b> Viv</p>   | <p><b>Surname:</b> Kind</p>   |
| <p><b>Address:</b> 1 Sefton Avenue<br/>York YO31 9LR</p>  | <p><b>Daytime Phone:</b> 01904 426909</p> <p><b>Evening Phone:</b> same</p> <p><b>Email:</b> cllr.vkind@york.gov.uk</p> |
| <p><b>Are You</b> (delete as applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Resident of York</b></li> <li>• <b>A Visitor</b></li> <li>• <b>A City of York Councillor</b></li> <li>• <b>A City of York Council Employee</b></li> <li>• <b>A Representative of a Voluntary Organisation or Charitable Trust</b><br/>(if YES please tell us the organisations title and your relationship to the organisation below )</li> <li>• <b>Other</b> (please comment)</li> </ul> | <p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>NO</b></p> <p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>NO</b></p> <p><b>YES / NO</b></p>                            |

**ABOUT YOUR PROPOSED TOPIC**

Please write your responses to as many of the questions below as you are able to.

**WHY DO YOU THINK THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT?**

School Governors' responsibilities have increased greatly during the last few years. Governors have a major contribution to make to the running of and achievement in our schools. They cannot do this in isolation and must work in partnership with schools and with the LEA. It would be useful to explore these relationships to ensure that governors are able to make best use of their roles and responsibilities, and that we are securing the optimum outcome for schools and for our children and young people.

**DO YOU KNOW IF THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT TO OTHER PEOPLE? IF SO, WHO AND WHY?**

It must be important to children and young people in securing best outcomes for them. Some governors have told me it is important for them to ensure they are making the contribution they would want to their schools. Schools may also benefit from the opportunity to ensure they are getting the maximum support from their governing bodies

**WHAT DO YOU THINK SCRUTINY OF THIS TOPIC MIGHT CHANGE, DO OR ACHIEVE?**

The aim would be to achieve better outcomes for children. The topic should allow us to identify any improvements that can be made in how governors could exercise their responsibilities, and any additional support that can be provided for governors by schools and/or the LEA.

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS ABOUT THE APPROACH SCRUTINY MEMBERS MIGHT TAKE TO YOUR SUGGESTED TOPIC?

Seek information to understand what the roles and responsibilities of governors are. Talk to governors, governance service, schools, LEA officers, and children and young people and their parents and carers.

WOULD YOU BE HAPPY TO TALK TO SCRUTINY MEMBERS ABOUT YOUR PROPOSED TOPIC AT FORMAL MEETINGS?

Yes

PLEASE ENCLOSE ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OR OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL MIGHT BE USEFUL BACKGROUND TO THE SUBMISSION OF THIS TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION.

### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

Thank you for proposing a new scrutiny topic. As Members of the Scrutiny Management Committee and Scrutiny Boards we promise the following things;

- To advise you of any meetings where a decision will be taken as to whether to progress your topic and invite you to attend
- If Members would like you to speak in support of your topic at such meetings you will be notified and supported through the process by a Scrutiny Officer
- If you do not wish to speak you do not have to; your choice will not influence fair consideration of your topic.

Please return this form to the address below or send it by email. If you want any more information about Scrutiny or submitting a new topic for consideration then please contact the Scrutiny Team.

**By Writing to:**

The Scrutiny Services Team  
C/o The Guildhall  
York  
YO1 9QN

**Or Email:** [Scrutiny.services@york.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny.services@york.gov.uk)

**Or Phone:** 01904 552038



This page is intentionally left blank



## **Annex B**

### **Report on results of feasibility consultation on the Role of School Governors - Ref no 127.**

#### **Policy Unit Response:**

Officers in the Policy Unit were not aware of any duplicating work connected with this issue. They think it could be a quite timely topic in that lots of changes are underway or planned in connection with the implementation of the Children Act in schools. Governors' roles and responsibilities might evolve as a result of these changes - scrutiny might like to consider this too

#### **Performance Improvements Team Response:**

##### **Equalities**

School Governors' responsibilities have increased greatly during the last few years. Governors have a major contribution to make to the running of and achievement in our schools. They cannot do this in isolation and must work in partnership with schools and with the LEA. It would be useful to explore these relationships to ensure that governors are able to make best use of their roles and responsibilities, and that we are securing the optimum outcome for schools and for our children and young people.

Govenors have an important role to play in supporting the inclusion agenda. The Inclusion Strategy, developed as a result of Scrutiny Board recommendations in April 2003 states:

Historically, some groups of children have tended to do less well in our schools than other children. The groups more likely to underachieve include those with special educational needs, children with disabilities, children from black and minority ethnic communities, children in public care, children with additional needs and those facing other challenging personal and social circumstances.

Effective schools are inclusive schools . . . they respect difference and have a commitment to offering all children access to learning opportunities. Such schools will also have good links with parents and with their communities.

In order to develop 'inclusive' schools we must pay attention to the development of 'inclusive' cultures and, particularly, to the building of some degree of consensus around inclusive values in each school's community. Headteachers and other school leaders are particularly important in the development of 'inclusive' schools. Their own commitment to inclusive values and their capacity to get participation

and consensus within their schools is significant. This has implications for the criteria on which school leaders are selected and for the sort of training they receive.

Governors have an important role to play in supporting the inclusion agenda. This scrutiny topic could usefully consider:

- How well governing bodies in their composition reflect the diversity amongst pupils and the local community – and how more parents and local people from under-represented groups could be involved?
- How can governors better support the inclusion agenda? What support or training would help with this? Do the existing roles and responsibilities of governors facilitate this?

### **Community Strategy**

The community strategy doesn't refer to the role of School Governors specifically but it does set out strategic aims in relation to learning that would be relevant to this topic:

- To give our children the best start in life, even before they reach school;
- To redefine learning to enable people to develop the attitudes, skills and sense of purpose, which can help to build confident and creative communities.
- To increase the achievement of all school pupils at every stage in their education;
- To improve levels of literacy and numeracy;
- To encourage and value all forms of creativity and talent;

We also aim to 'encourage and nurture the potential and energy of children and young people' (Inclusive City aim 6)

### **Performance Monitoring**

School Governance have no complaints recorded against their service, but they have recently dropped below the Customer First Standard Target for answering phone calls within 20 secs, the last quarter it was recorded as 81% a drop from 96% in the 1st quarter of 2004/05, this is not consistent with the history of performance for this statistic over the last couple of years where they have been above the 95% target.

### **Marketing and Communications**

There hasn't been much interest in the role of school governors nationally, but I think we could generate some interest in the local media through press releases - there must be several hundred governors across the city.

**Director of Education and Leisure**

The Governance Service and support for school governors is a unique service within the Council. However, there is potential for other agencies to become involved. For example, the teaching unions may undertake training for staff governors.

It is true that the remit of governors is broadening. With the extended schools initiative they are being asked to take responsibility for an increasing range of educational and out-of-hours provision. It may be advantageous for Members to become more aware of the role of governors and to examine the provision offered by the LEA to support them.

The governance service is a small, tight unit with little capacity for undertaking additional work. The time required to undertake this scrutiny exercise would stretch current resources and it may be that some additional administrative support would be required.

Report prepared by Barbara Boyce      Date report prepared 25 May 2005  
**For further information please contact the author of the report**

This page is intentionally left blank



## SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

Dear Reader

Scrutiny Members examine the decisions, policies and performance of the Council and make recommendations where they feel things could be improved for the citizens of York.

This non-Executive Member cross-party role was created by the Local Government Act 2000 which is all about modernising local government and creating better ways for citizens to be more involved in local decision making.

The scrutiny boards will consider possible suggestions about issues to look at from anyone, so long as these are not specific issues of an individual nature which should be taken up with a local Councillor or addressed through the Corporate Complaints system.

Scrutiny at York has already investigated things as diverse as the response to the 2000 floods, affordable housing, provision for young people in York, rail-side safety and street cleaning.

If you have a suggestion for something the scrutiny boards might consider, then please fill in this registration form and return it to us, either by post or by e-mail.

Madeleine Kirk

**Cllr Madeleine Kirk**  
**Chair, Scrutiny Management Committee**



## SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>SUGGESTED TITLE OF TOPIC</b><br><b>Contract School Bus Service</b>  |  |
| <b>ABOUT YOU</b> Please fill in as many of the details as you are able to.   |  |
| <b>Title (delete as applicable):</b> Mr Mrs Miss Ms<br><b>Other please state</b> Cllr  |  |
| <b>First Name:</b> Charles   | <b>Surname:</b> Hall   |
| <b>Address:</b><br>104 Oaken Grove<br>Haxby<br>YO32 3QZ  | <b>Daytime Phone:</b> 01904 760618<br><b>Evening Phone:</b><br><b>Email:</b><br>cllr.chall@york.gov.uk |
| <b>Are You</b> (delete as applicable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Resident of York</b></li> <li>• <b>A Visitor</b></li> <li>• <b>A City of York Councillor</b></li> <li>• <b>A City of York Council Employee</b></li> <li>• <b>A Representative of a Voluntary Organisation or Charitable Trust</b><br/>(if YES please tell us the organisations title and your relationship to the organisation below )</li> <li>• <b>Other</b> (please comment)</li> </ul> | YES<br>NO<br>YES<br>NO<br>NO   |

**ABOUT YOUR PROPOSED TOPIC**

Please write your responses to as many of the questions below as you are able to.

**WHY DO YOU THINK THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT?**

I understand that some pupils are transported to and from schools on contract buses that do not have seat belts.

In some local authority areas dedicated school buses are used for pupil school transport i.e. "yellow buses".

It should be a priority for this authority to ensure the safest possible transport for all pupils.

**DO YOU KNOW IF THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT TO OTHER PEOPLE? IF SO, WHO AND WHY?**

To pupils and parents.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK SCRUTINY OF THIS TOPIC MIGHT CHANGE, DO OR ACHIEVE?**

Provide safer transport to and from schools for pupils.

Improve the quality of school buses.

It could possibly change the form of contract currently negotiated by the council for the provision of bus services.

**DO YOU HAVE IDEAS ABOUT THE APPROACH SCRUTINY MEMBERS MIGHT TAKE TO YOUR SUGGESTED TOPIC?**

Approach other similar local authorities that have introduced dedicated "yellow buses" to obtain information regarding costs, safety features, staffing and pupil/parent response.

WOULD YOU BE HAPPY TO TALK TO SCRUTINY MEMBERS ABOUT YOUR PROPOSED TOPIC AT FORMAL MEETINGS?

Yes

PLEASE ENCLOSE ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OR OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL MIGHT BE USEFUL BACKGROUND TO THE SUBMISSION OF THIS TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION.

### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

Thank you for proposing a new scrutiny topic. As Members of the Scrutiny Management Committee and Scrutiny Boards we promise the following things;

- To advise you of any meetings where a decision will be taken as to whether to progress your topic and invite you to attend
- If Members would like you to speak in support of your topic at such meetings you will be notified and supported through the process by a Scrutiny Officer
- If you do not wish to speak you do not have to; your choice will not influence fair consideration of your topic.

Please return this form to the address below or send it by email. If you want any more information about Scrutiny or submitting a new topic for consideration then please contact the Scrutiny Team.

**By Writing to:**

The Scrutiny Services Team  
C/o The Guildhall  
York  
YO1 9QN

**Or Email:** [Scrutiny.services@york.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny.services@york.gov.uk)

**Or Phone:** 01904 552038

---

**For Scrutiny Administration Only**

**Topic Identity Number** 141

**Date Received** 30 August 2006

**SC1- date sent**



**Feasibility responses Topic 141 – Contract School Bus Service****From Director of Children's Services**

1. Does this overlap with work in your area or another area of the Council you are aware of and if so what?

No

2. Can you see the positive potential in progressing this topic? Please give reasons.

Yes

3. Can you see any immediate pitfalls to progressing this topic?

No

4. If the topic were progressed would you encourage officer support from your area?

Yes

5. Are you aware of existing papers or research documents that might help Members (e.g. a recent Audit report or feedback from regulatory bodies)? If so what and could you provide them?

No

6. Any other comments based on the registration form content.

This has already been discussed with the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel,

**From Policy Development Team**

I've no additional/ background information available on this issue unfortunately but I'm not aware of any specific work planned which would overlap with this scrutiny topic

### **From Performance Improvement Team**

Having looked at the form, it seems that the proposal has fairly weak links to a small number of BV and local PIs.

First obvious link is regarding road safety figures (i.e. BVPI 99 - children killed and/or seriously injured on York's roads). Obviously, making it safer for children to travel on our roads is a positive thing. However, I would be surprised if any of the recent KSI figures come from school bus incidents.

Second positive outcome would be around encouraging parents to allow their children to travel to school via the school bus, rather than driving them to school in their cars (BVPI 102). Making this option safer (i.e. by adding seatbelts to buses) may help to encourage some parents to make the change. However, once again, I would be surprised if this improvement made any difference to current attitudes and preferences.

Barbara. I've read Peter Lowe's response to you and agree with what he says. In CPA terms, I don't think that this is a directly relevant issue apart from via the PIs Pete mentioned.

However I think it would be of indirect interest to CPA - as the corporate inspection will look at what the council achieves in respect of issues such as road safety, congestion, children's safety etc. Mike

### **From Marketing and Communications**

We have not done any research on this topic, sorry! Best wishes

### **From Equalities Team**

don't know if the current use of contract buses includes provision for transporting disabled students (either on these buses or via another method). Either way the new service would need to provide the same or an improved service for disabled students. For example if the current contract buses are not able to take disabled students but the yellow school busses would be able to do this then this would be a welcome improvement.

If the service provision was changed an Impact Assessment would need to be done to ensure the new service doesn't discriminate against any group.

Should consult with Disabled Groups - People First, York Access Group, York Blind and Partially Sighted Society; Youth Forum

## **Remit for Scrutiny topic no 141 – Contract School Bus Service**

### **Objectives**

- To investigate if improvements can be made to the safety of buses transporting school pupils.
- To consider the contract that is negotiated by the council for the provision of school transport services.
- To make enquiries as to the school transport that is provided in other local authorities including the use of dedicated “yellow buses”.
- To consider if improvements can be made to the quality of the buses used for school transport.

### **Scope**

1. To find out the schools which use transport, the routes used and numbers of children carried.
2. To find out who the contractors are and the nature of the contracts they operate to.
3. To approach other local authorities that have introduced dedicated “yellow buses” to obtain information regarding costs, safety features, staffing and pupil/parent response
4. To identify possible improvements to provision in York.

### **Officer and partner involvement**

Colleagues from Children’s Services.

Transport contractors

Other local authorities

### **Timescale**

.

October 2006 – Input from Children’s Services

November-December – visits to other local authorities, discussions with transport providers,

January 2007 – draw up draft recommendations

**Constraints**

Members hope to have draft recommendations in place by January 2007. There are formal meetings scheduled for 31 October, 6 December and 9 January so some work may have to be carried out in informal groups or on visits. If more time is required the only remaining formal meetings scheduled for this municipal year are on 27 February and 17 April. Elections will be held in May 2007 and there is the possibility that membership of the Committee will change.

**Budget requirement**

Members are asked to consider any budget requirement the board may have for this topic, for example for travel on visits to other local authorities.