

Education Scrutiny Committee

27 February 2007

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Draft Final Report on the Home to School Transport Contracts in York

Summary

1. This report is to ask members to consider the draft final report of the scrutiny review into home to school transport contracts in York.

Background

2. In August 2006 Cllr Charles Hall registered Scrutiny Topic no 141 with the aim of investigating how the Council could provide better quality and safer buses for transporting children from home to school.
3. It was decided that the scope of this review would:
 - a. be concentrated on provision in primary schools.
 - b. look at provision in other local authorities including those who use dedicated "yellow" buses.
 - c. investigate the nature of the contracts operated in York and the views of the operators.
 - d. identify possible improvements to provision in York.
4. Members held consultation meetings with representatives of the schools using the home to school transport service and also with the transport companies who operate the contracts. They also held discussions with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Cheshire County Council.
5. Some of the parents of pupils at St Mary's School in Askham Richard submitted a petition calling for seatbelts to be fitted to the school bus. The petition was presented to Full Council on 25 January 2007 and referred back to this Committee (Annex B - copy of letter accompanying petition). Members have been in discussions with the parents as part of the consultation with schools, and their views have been taken into account in the draft final report.

Options

6. Members should consider the draft report (to follow) which details the evidence they have gathered and consider the recommendations they would wish to put to the Executive.

Analysis

7. It might be considered that the recommendations of this report are relevant to the findings of Consultants, Kendric Ash, who have been examining all transport used by the Council as well as collaborative working with partners.

Implications

8. Implications of the recommendations will be included with the draft report. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

Risk Management

9. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report at this stage.

Recommendations

10. Members are asked to consider the draft final report of the Education Scrutiny Committee
11. Members are asked to agree the recommendations that they wish to submit to the Executive.

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Report Approved

Date 15 February 2007

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Implication ie Financial

Name
Title
Tel No.

List information for all

Implication ie Legal

Name
Title
Tel No.

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Draft Final Report of the Education Scrutiny Committee (to follow)

Annex B – Letter from Askham Bryan parents of children attending St Mary's School, Askham Richard calling for seatbelts to be fitted to the school bus.

Background Papers

None