

## **Annex G**

### **Chair's Foreword**

Local Education Authorities must provide free transport for children of primary school age who live more than two miles from their nearest suitable school. Travelling by bus to school has a higher safety record than car journeys. It is better for the environment, reduces congestion and develops confidence in children but some parents are reluctant to allow their children to use this form of transport because they regard the vehicles as being unsafe, outdated and the behaviour on the buses to be of a low standard.

This report has attempted to make recommendations that will in the long-term improve the quality of the buses used, improve safety, improve behaviour, reduce traffic congestion and encourage the uptake of places on school buses.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the production of this report including Members, Officers, proprietors and managers of transport companies, parents, governors and headteachers of the schools involved. The frankness and openness of their contributions enabled the board to identify clear targets that can be achieved.

There has been a marked variation in the type and quality of vehicle used for transporting primary school children to and from school in the past and this report if implemented would ensure that all pupils receive the same provision.

Cllr Charles Hall  
Chair of Education Scrutiny Board  
February 2007