

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

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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.