



Chester-le-Street District Council

Report to:	People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 June 2008
Report from:	County Durham Overview and Scrutiny Member Network
Title of Report:	Review into Local Transport

1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 To present the report of the County Durham Overview and Scrutiny Member Network to the scrutiny panel following the review into local transport issues as set out in appendix 1.
- 1.2 To allow members the opportunity to discuss and consider the report and the recommendations contained therein.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 In the investigations and preparation of the review report a wide variety of officers, members, partner organisations and outside agencies were consulted.
- 2.2 It is the intention of the Scrutiny Network to provide the final report, once it has been approved, to the Executive.

3. TRANSITION PLAN AND PEOPLE AND PLACE PRIORITY

- 3.1 The review into Local Transport was a joint project involving members and officers from the County and District Councils work collaboratively. The report is to be submitted to all the Councils involved to present the findings of the review.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

Financial implications are considered where possible in Appendix 1.

4.2 Legal

Legal implications are considered where possible in Appendix 1.

4.3 Personnel

There are no personnel implications to this report at this current time.

4.4 Diversity

Diversity implications are considered where possible in Appendix 1.

4.5 Risk

Risk implications are considered where possible in Appendix 1.

4.6 Crime and Disorder

Crime and Disorder implications are considered where possible in Appendix 1.

4.7 Data Quality

Every care has been taken in the development of this report to ensure that the information and data used in its preparation and the appendices attached are accurate, timely, consistent and comprehensive. The council's Data Quality Policy has been complied with in producing this report.

4.8 LGR Implications

This has been a fully inclusive project. There has been representation from all Councils and input/support at both member and officer levels, with meetings held on a rotational basis at the offices of all participating Councils. The project was set against the context of a single Unitary Council for County Durham and provided opportunities for prospective councillors of the new Authority to gain an understanding of the areas of responsibility in relation to transport currently delivered at different levels within local government.

5. BACKGROUND, POSITION STATEMENT & OPTION APPRAISAL

5.1 The County Durham Scrutiny Member Network conducted a major review into Local Transport. The review began in July 2007 and was concluded in March 2008.

5.2 Recent Governments have not sought to reverse the deregulation of the bus industry brought about by the Transport Act 1985, the current

Government has recognised, in "Putting Passengers First" (2006) and the Local Transport Bill (2007), that transport services (primarily buses) should meet the needs of all and that vulnerable people in society are not isolated because of difficulties in accessing transport for everyday needs.

- 5.3 It was these actions that provided the impetus for this scrutiny project, undertaken by Councillors from the seven District Councils and Durham County Council. Members wished to enhance their knowledge about the levels of transport provision across the County; the challenges faced by providers; and the needs of users. There was also a desire on the part of members to identify where opportunities might exist for services to be improved and to make recommendations, where appropriate, linked to these issues.
- 5.4 The review team gathered a lot of information and evidence throughout the review process and this has been collated and presented in the report attached at appendix 1 of this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That Members note the review and provide comments and amendments as appropriate.
- 6.2 That Members agree to the recommendations contained within the report following any additions, deletions or amendments.
- 6.3 That Members of the Panel agree that the report be presented to the Executive following amendments.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS / DOCUMENTS REFERED TO:

- As set out in Appendix 1.

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