

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Executive Leader)	Executive Cabinet	19 November 2015

EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUP INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC TRANSPORT ISSUES IN CHORLEY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To respond to the report of the Overview and Scrutiny task group that examined public transport issues across Chorley.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the responses in section 8 be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. An overview and Scrutiny task group looked at public transport issues across Chorley and their final report was presented to Executive Cabinet on 27th August 2015. This report is Executive Cabinet's response to the 15 recommendations contained within the report.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

4. If the recommendations are approved they provide a response to the Overview and Scrutiny task group and also when implemented, should lead to an improvement to public transport in the area or at the very least seek to prevent a reduction in the current transport provision.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	X	A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

BACKGROUND

7. A copy of the Overview and Scrutiny task groups report is attached as an Appendix to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXECUTIVE CABINET RESPONSE

8. Outlined below are the 15 recommendations of the task group and the Executive Cabinet's response.

Recommendation	Executive Cabinet Response
1. That when the revised Lancashire County Council (LCC) criteria is applied to subsidised services operating in Chorley and appear to be detrimental, any issues or concerns will be referred to full Council requesting approval to lobby LCC to minimise the impact in Chorley.	Agreed. Executive Cabinet anticipate the revised criteria is likely to be applied as part of LCCs budget planning from 2016/17 and beyond.
2. Should LCC take forward the 'Parish Partnership Offer' it is recommended that LCC consult and work with Cumbria County Council to explore how a Community Wheels type scheme could be undertaken and fully funded by LCC in Lancashire.	Agreed. It is currently unclear whether this offer will be pursued by LCC. However, should this proposal from LCC be taken forward, the Executive Cabinet or its representative will notify LCC and encourage them to engage with Cumbria CC.
3. That Chorley Council contact Cumbria County Council to gather more information on their approach to recruiting volunteer drivers and to work with LCC and parishes to implement best practice in Chorley.	Agreed.
4. That the 'Parish Partnership Offer' (should it be progressed by LCC in the future) and the recruitment of volunteer drivers should be included as projects in the Rural Communities Action Plan and monitored accordingly.	Agreed.

<p>5. That Chorley Council write to Lancashire County Council and all relevant operators to progress any issues raised by the parishes that have not already been covered as part of this review.</p>	<p>Agreed. Public Transport Issues can be included as a discussion item at a future Parish Liaison meeting.</p>
<p>6. To explore the offer from Stagecoach to meet on a regular basis to develop better working relations and improve communications and include Lancashire County Council Representatives.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>7. That upon completion of the West Coast Strategic Studies process (expected April 2016) the Council will seek an update from, and continue to lobby Lancashire County Council and Network Rail on the establishment of a railway station in Coppull.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>8. That Chorley Council follows up Northern Rail's Commitment to looking at the lighting at Adlington station and if necessary also follow-up the delivery of the Customer Information Screens if installation does not take place in Summer 2015.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>9. Once the Council is aware of the new franchise holder (from February 2016), the Executive Cabinet to continue to lobby and raise the current rail issues, in particular to include additional rail services to Manchester Airport from Adlington from December 2016.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>10. That consideration is given to including railway station enhancements and other public transport infrastructure across the borough in the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) 123 list revisions and be monitored by the Council to ensure funding is allocated and commitments are</p>	<p>Agreed. The CIL 123 list is to be reviewed shortly.</p>

fulfilled.	
11. That any conditions made through the Buckshaw Village S106 agreement regarding the up-grading and re-opening of Alker Lane Bridge which will improve access to Buckshaw Railway Station from Astley Village is followed up by the Council to ensure commitments are fulfilled.	Agreed.
12. That the Future Governance Viability Working Group notes the contents of the report on the benefits and potential areas of focus for a Combined Transport Authority for Lancashire in order to improve public transport for Chorley residents and the Council to use the findings to influence any future discussions regarding the establishment of a Combined Authority and its role in transport provision.	Agreed. A report to November Council is expected on the formation of a Combined Authority for Lancashire, part of which will include a Combined Transport Authority.
13. That Lancashire County Council reconsiders the displaying of bus timetables at all bus stops and shelters across the borough and explores the possibilities of funding this service by the use of advertising by local companies.	Agreed. Executive Cabinet or its representative will inform LCC and encourage them to consider this recommendation.
14. That Lancashire County Council in conjunction with the operators explores better ways of communicating increased bus fares to its customers.	Agreed. Executive Cabinet or its representative will inform LCC and encourage them to consider this recommendation.
15. To highlight to the Executive Cabinet the importance of considering all public transport needs for its residents when undertaking all relevant Council projects. For example, the provision of bicycle racks and storage units and positioning of bus stops as part of the Market Walk development proposals.	Agreed.

SUMMARY

12. Given the responsibility for overseeing local transport matters currently rests with LCC, the majority of the recommendations are not within the remit of Chorley Council to take forward. However, the Executive Cabinet is supportive of all the recommendations made and will use a variety of mechanisms to influence partners and operators directly involved in public transport provision.
13. The Council currently has a project in the Organisational Plan to produce a 'Transport Plan for Chorley' which can specifically pick up recommendations 7, 9 and 11 and be overseen by the LDF Working Group. The emerging Combined Authority for Lancashire is also an opportunity for Chorley to have a greater influence on transport matters and lobby partners on a range of issues and opportunities including those highlighted in recommendations 12, 13 and 14.
14. Finally, the Rural Community Action Plan is currently being finalised and Transport issues is one of the four themes being focused on and will include appropriate actions in response to recommendations 2, 3 and 4.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

15. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

16. The current Executive Cabinet responses to these recommendations have no budgetary implications for Chorley Borough Council.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

17. There are no comments.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group on Public Transport Issues in Chorley	July 2015	***	Mod Gov

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Lesley-Ann Fenton	5323	29 th October 2015	***