

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee**
held on Tuesday, 21st June, 2011 at Meeting Room, Macclesfield Library,
Jordangate, Macclesfield

PRESENT

Councillor L Gilbert (Chairman)
Councillor G M Walton (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors A Barratt, G Barton, H Davenport, R Fletcher, M Grant, P Groves,
P Hoyland and D Newton

Apologies

Councillors P Butterill and D Druce

103 **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Chris Williams – Transport manager
Jenny Marston – Principal Transportation Officer
Trevor Robinson Transport Co-ordinator
Mark Nedderman – Senior Scrutiny Officer

104 **ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor D Stockton – Cabinet Support Member
Councillor D Flude
Councillor L Brown

105 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest.

106 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2011 be approved
as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

107 **PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/ OPEN SESSION**

There were no Members of the public present who wished to address the
Committee.

108 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

OPTIONS FOR REVISED PUBLIC TRANSPORT CRITERIA

Councillor D Flude attended the meeting and addressed the committee in respect of this matter and informed the Committee that through the Health and Adult Social Care Committee this Council had participated in a national study of rural health inequalities which had highlighted concerns about mental health and she requested the Committee to consider taking account of mental health issues in the transport criteria.

Councillor L Brown attended the meeting and asked for clarification about the figures contained in appendix 2 of the report concerning the difference between annual and cumulative support.

In response to the points made by visiting Members, Chris Williams Transport Manager explained that although the criteria could be amended to take account of mental health issues, at the moment the proposals were attempting to address public transport at a strategic level, and the suggestion regarding mental health was a matter of detail. Chris also explained that the cumulative column in appendix 2 of the document was merely a running total of the impact on schools

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director Places relating to proposals to introduce revised public transport support criteria to guide future investment in local bus, rail and community transport services subsidised by the Council. The Committee had discussed the matter at its previous meeting held on 7 June at which, the following additional information had been sought:

1. Revised criteria to take account of the specific needs of the elderly and young people;
2. More details of passenger profiles and specific information to identify which routes are heavily used by concessionary travellers;
3. An amendment to the rating of the Health/Medical/Welfare criteria contained in appendix 1, from 3 to 4;
4. Additional information on the detailed calculations that have been used to produce the final scores in appendix 1;
5. Analysis of the likely impact of the proposals on rural communities which are expected to be more severely affected than urban communities;
6. Further information on the wider issue of Community Transport with a view to the Committee considering setting up a Task and Finish group to review in detail that aspect of public transport.

In response to a question regarding the work that Children and Families Scrutiny Committee had recently been involved in concerning transport to schools, Chris Williams explained that that Committee was looking at proposals to reduce specific school bus facilities affecting two peer groups i.e. post 16 education and denomination schools.

The proposal before this committee however concerned public transport routes which included some routes specifically provided for children who did not attend the school nearest to their home. The two matters were distinct and separate.

The Committee specifically considered the merits of giving additional weight to scores affecting elderly and disabled people who lived in rural; areas on the grounds that public transport was the only option for many people in such circumstances.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the report be received;
- (b) That the Transport Manager be requested to amend the weighting on accessibility to recognise access for older and disabled people, and details of the revised criteria be circulated to Members of this committee at the next meeting to be held on the 5 July 2011;
- (c) That an item be added to the Committee's work programme to consider setting up a Task and Finish Group to investigate Community Transport facilities.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.15 pm

Councillor L Gilbert (Chairman)