

Overview & Scrutiny Review Scoping Document	
Project Title:	Home to School Transport – Joint Committee Scrutiny
Link with the Corporate Objectives	
<p>This review will support the following Corporate Plan objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Education, skills and life-long learning leads to employment and roles in the community. b) Communities connected through an improved, accessible rural and urban transport network including active travel. c) Children and young people thrive and reach their potential with targeted support when and where they need it. d) Financially sustainable council, enabled by council-wide service transformation and improvement. 	
Project Background:	
<p>This project will enable members of both Highways & Transport Committee and Children & Families Committee to jointly scrutinise the Councils’ arrangements for provision of Home-to-School Transport, including SEND. The Council provides transport for approximately 4000 students to educational establishments in the borough and beyond. The MTFS provides an increase in budget (FY2025-26) of £1.5 million with further growth expected in future years. Transport services make up 17% of the overall children’s revenue budget. There have been recent planned changes to the council’s policies, procedures and procurement arrangements for home-to-school transport and members are interested to understand the effectiveness of these and what else can be done to ensure services provide value-for-money.</p>	
Project Objectives:	<p>The objectives of this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable members to scrutinise recent developments in the Councils Home-to-School travel policy and consider what opportunities there are for further improvement. • To enable members to scrutinise arrangements for procurement of home-to-school transport contracts to consider whether they are satisfied the Council achieves value-for-money. • To scrutinise arrangements for delivery of all aspects of the home-to-school travel policy, especially the initiatives that rely of cross directorate working and integration of capital and revenue budgets – examples could include delivery of Available Walking Routes and/or integration with public local bus services. • To scrutinise the arrangements for delivering savings and efficiencies relating to Home-to-School transport that are incorporated in the adopted MTFS. • To identify any areas of national legislation that can be brought into the project for discussion.

Appendix 1 –Terms of Reference

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To learn from what is happening national and locally, including bringing ideas in from the sub regional project the Council is engaged in on home to school transport.
Timescales:	<p>This scrutiny project is intended to be completed within the 2025/26 civic year.</p> <p>Task & finish group will meet informally in July with a view to holding monthly meetings to be attended by members, lead officers (as and when required) and Democratic Services.</p> <p>Task & Finish group to decide on whether update reports will be taken to C & F and H & T committees through the process.</p> <p>Final report will be taken to C & F committee with a view to looking nearer the time at how it is fed into H & T Committee.</p>
Lead Officers:	<p>Gill Betton and Clair Kiffin – Children’s and Families Directorate</p> <p>Richard Hibbert, Jenny Marston, and Mike Mitchell – Infrastructure and Highways Directorate</p> <p>Officer from Finance, Public Rights of Way and Cheshire East Highways will be available to support, as necessary.</p>