
Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

19th January 2011

Report of

Assistant Chief Executive

Transformation Programme – Corporate Transport Review

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Members of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee will be aware that at its December meeting, during the discussion on the Transformation Programme Progress Report, members asked for a further report on the progress on the Corporate Transport review, which is part of the Transformation Programme. The purpose of this note is to brief on the current work-streams being undertaken to move forward the Corporate Transport review.

2 Recommendations

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is asked to:

- a) note the progress that is being made on the review of Corporate Transport,
- b) consider whether there are any issues which it wants to refer to the Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources).

3 Background

- 3.1 The review is following the Council's FSR methodology. Following the data gathering and analysis for the baseline, which determined the current service delivery method, its strengths and weaknesses, and exploration of alternative ways in which the service might be delivered, three work-streams have been identified and are being pursued.

4 Progress in undertaking the Corporate Transport Review**4.1 Integrated Transport Unit**

This work-stream is reviewing how best the Council's transport fleet (excluding passenger transport) should be organised and managed, and how to develop a single transport unit to co-ordinate transport needs, and create opportunities for vehicle pooling. It is being led by Colin Knight, Assistant Director (Planning, Transportation and Highways) and Mary Morrissey, Assistant director (Street Pride and Fleet Management), and progress is being reported to the Transformation Board. The objectives of the work-stream are to implement an integrated transport unit for the whole Council and deliver ongoing savings of at least £300,000 per year. Detailed design work is now being undertaken on the organisational

structure for the integrated transport unit, including the creation of service level agreements with customers, the mapping of processes, and the establishment of a centralised transport budget and a simpler recharging mechanism between transport provider and customers. In addition, collaborative working with other authorities is being explored and the early indications are promising.

4.2 Passenger Transport Services

This work-stream is reviewing the Council's passenger transport needs (the provision of home to school transport, transport for children in care and Community Services transport for vulnerable adults). The review will consider how such transport provision might be delivered in the future. It is being led by Lisa Commane, Assistant Director (Special Projects Finance) and Andrew Walster (Head of Waste and Fleet Management), and progress is being reported to the Transformation Board. Detailed analysis of current provision and costs has been undertaken, and this work supports the need for further work to explore the alternative options that might be available to the Council:

- a) the continuation of the current model of delivery (which is a mixture of in house and out sourced)
- b) retain the current model but consider how better integration of service delivery might improve efficiency (greater opportunity for vehicle utilisation by staggering journey times)
- c) considering alternative providers, for example the voluntary and community or private sectors
- d) establishing a grant aid agreement with the voluntary and community sector
- e) a hybrid option which encompasses elements of options a to d).

Initial work has indicated that there are significant savings possible by moving away from the current system of provision. This view has been supported by a separate piece of work on Children's transport from Impower which comes to very similar conclusions, and also makes suggestions about managing eligibility and demand for transport in different ways.

4.3 Grey Fleet

- 4.4 This work-stream is reviewing the Council's "grey fleet" expenditure. This includes any travel undertaken by staff, including mileage in employee-owned vehicles and car parking arrangements. It is being led by Simon Brake, Assistant Director (Policy & Performance) in the Community Services Directorate, and progress is being reported to Corporate Management Board. A report is being prepared which will detail the current levels of expenditure and patterns of usage, as well as the basis upon which private vehicles are used, authorised and overseen, and the rationale for council issued parking permits for staff. Options that will be considered include re-examining the current structure of management authorisation and justification for travel by staff using private vehicles, mileage rates, as well as costs of and contribution towards car-parking permits issued to council staff.

