

# Scrutiny Task and Finish Scoping Document

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| <b>Focus of Review</b>  |  |
| The Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to review delivering the best value for the home-to-school taxi service.  |  |
| <b>Background and Context</b>   |  |
| <p>The Board considered a briefing note on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 which provided a background on the establishment and use of the home-to-school taxi service and an update on its review. Following discussion, the Board agreed to further explore the issues raised, and establish a Task and Finish Group to ensure that the best value was being achieved for the home-to-school travel package.</p> <p>This task and finish group will not be considering the eligibility criteria or assessment process for receiving the service – the focus will be on the procurement and value for money of the taxi service.</p>  |  |
| <b>Key Questions</b>  |  |
| <p>Key Questions raised by members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the value for money test when awarding contracts?</li> <li>• Flat fees vs taxi fees – how to move away from this?</li> <li>• How are other Local Authorities nationally awarding contracts? Beyond the West Midlands region</li> <li>• Are taxis the most cost-effective way of transporting children with SEN – Consider other options: such as buses, council-owned taxi service etc</li> <li>• Direct parent payments – how to encourage more to take up on this offer?</li> <li>• Does the Dynamic Purchasing System encourage providers to work together to maintain high price rates?</li> </ul> <p>Note: This group will be limited to reviewing the home-to-school transport service and no other areas of Special Educational Needs</p> |  |
| <b>Spotlight Review Involvement</b>   |  |
| Lead Scrutiny Member  | Cllr Jobbar  |
| Scrutiny Membership   | To be agreed at the meeting 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2024, including representation from SB2  |
| Cabinet Member (s)  | Cllr Brown and Cllr Sandhu   |
| Responsible Director  | Julie Newman (for Procurement)   |
| Lead Officer(s)   | Rob Amor, Jeanette Essex, Sarah Elliott, Ewan Dewar  |
| Scrutiny Co-ordinator   | Elan Jones   |
| <b>Methodology</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers developing the work in co-production with Members</li> <li>• The use of Comparison indicators from statistical neighbours</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>Equality and Diversity</b>   |  |
| Does the review have any potential implications for Equality and Diversity?   | Public Sector Equality Duty, as required by the Equality Act 2010, to ensure policies and decisions do not impact negatively on people with protected characteristics, to include disability |
| <b>The Green Agenda</b>   |  |
| Does the review have implications for the green agenda?   | N/A  |
| <b>Timescales</b>   |  |

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| Date scope approved by Board |  |
| Reporting date to Board      |  |

DRAFT