

Scrutiny Task and Finish Scoping Document

Focus of Review	
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.	
Background and Context	
<p>The Board considered a briefing note on the 21st 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>	
Key Questions	
<p>Key Questions raised by members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the value for money test when awarding contracts? • Flat fees vs taxi fees – how to move away from this? • How are other Local Authorities nationally awarding contracts? Beyond the West Midlands region • Are taxis the most cost-effective way of transporting children with SEN – Consider other options: such as buses, council-owned taxi service etc • Direct parent payments – how to encourage more to take up on this offer? • Does the Dynamic Purchasing System encourage providers to work together to maintain high price rates? <p>Note: This group will be limited to reviewing the home-to-school transport service and no other areas of Special Educational Needs</p>	
Spotlight Review Involvement	
Lead Scrutiny Member	Cllr L Kelly
Scrutiny Membership	Agreed at the 17 th of July meeting as: Cllr L Kelly (Chair) Cllr J Blundell Cllr R Lakha Cllr J McNicholas
Cabinet Member (s)	Cllr Brown and Cllr Sandhu
Responsible Director	Julie Newman (for Procurement)
Lead Officer(s)	Rob Amor, Jeanette Essex, Sarah Elliott, Adrian Coles, Mark Bolton
Scrutiny Co-ordinator	Elan Jones
Methodology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers developing the work in co-production with Members • The use of Comparison indicators from statistical neighbours 	
Equality and Diversity	
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
The Green Agenda	

Does the review have implications for the green agenda?	N/A
Timescales	
Date Task & Finish approved by Board	17 th July 2024
Reporting date to Board	26 th March 2025