



**Committee Inquiry - Draft Proposal** (for committee discussion and agreement)

Purpose of the Inquiry	<p><b>To examine - What is the council's aspiration for public transport in Bucks for 2020?</b></p> <p>To examine the Council's current public transport policy to help develop an effective sustainable, affordable and connected public transport network that will be fit for purpose to meet the needs of Bucks residents towards 2020 and beyond.</p>
Subject of Review	<p>Possible Titles could include: (discussion at committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Public Transport network – the future for Bucks</i></li><li>• <i>Bucks on the move – the future of public transport</i></li><li>• <i>“Connecting Bucks ”: Select committee inquiry of future public transport connectedness in Buckinghamshire.</i></li></ul>
Inquiry Membership	<p>Chaired by Warren Whyte, Inquiry Members: Bill Bendyshe Brown, Steven Lambert, Phil Gomm.</p>
Officer contact	<p>Kama Wager: <a href="mailto:kwager@buckscc.gov.uk">kwager@buckscc.gov.uk</a> ; 01296 382615.</p>
Suggested Approach/Options	<p>This inquiry will be a significant staged piece of work, taking up much of the committee's time over the next 6-12 months. Members will need to consider how they will manage and focus the inquiry ensuring clear outcomes from the outset, designing effective evidence sessions and reducing risk of the scope drifting or becoming unfocussed. It is suggested that the review be broken down into stages. The evidence and findings of each stage will inform the focus and direction of the next.</p> <p>Suggested stages and key lines of inquiry may include those outlined below.</p>
<p><b>STAGE ONE</b></p> <p>The first stage of the inquiry will be to identify, examine and review the Council's current policies, transport landscape, budget allocation and funding challenges in relation to public transport.</p> <p>Timing June/July – 2 day evidence gathering and write up of findings to inform stage 2.</p>	<p>Internal BCC activity- understanding the council's current policy, current network/approach and budget for public transport.</p> <p><b>(A) Policy Review</b> (<i>what are BCC policies – the existing components that make up public transport</i>).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To identify what the Council's statutory duties in relation to public transport and understanding the role of the Local Transport Board.</li><li>2. To examine the Councils current policies in relation to public transport (identify, understand, review).</li><li>3. To review whether the council's current policy suite is fit for purpose for the future? Do they have the ability to cope with further reductions in funding?</li></ol>

4. To understand the role of LEPs in relation to public transport.

**(B) Current Transport Network** (*what are the existing components of public transport*)?

5. To understand what the current public transport network looks like and what it achieves? Through Maps showing all the current routes highlighting strategic, commercial, supported, partially supported routes and established community transport schemes.

6. To identify current issues, successes, failures and opportunities with the network as it is.

7. To understand how commercial routes operate, and the Council's relationship and influence in suggesting changes.

8. To identify areas poorly served by public transport (whether buses, CT schemes etc.) and possible ways to address this.

9. To understand the CT agenda in Bucks and to what extent it is a viable alternative to mitigate some of the impacts of reduced funding

10. To examine bus and rail connectivity (possible expert evidence). What demand is there and where are the gaps?

**(C) Budget/Finance** (*Who operates what element and how are they financed – what is the best use of resources to achieve what we need*).

11. To understand and examine the Councils overall budget spend on public transport.

12. How is the budget allocated? (Concessionary fares, supported services, subsidy, community transport, etc.)

13. To understand the extent of planned budget and funding cuts to examine the impacts of these on bus services. To include the impacts of funding reductions on policy?

14. To understand what the subsidy currently achieves? (Improving timetables, capacity, extension to routes, concessionary etc.)

15. To examine to what extent the subsidy is effectively spent and whether there are alternative, innovative ways of using the reducing money, making savings whilst meeting the needs of residents. (What does the subsidy currently buy us, what could we get if spent on alternatives e.g.



	CT schemes).
<p><b>STAGE TWO</b></p> <p>Following evidence and findings from stage one the committee will be able to move onto the second stage. This will be to understand what the future of public transport may/should look like. This stage could begin by exploring and identifying what the future needs and demands are likely to be, examine the options available, and examine options available for the use of transport funding to meet these needs of Bucks residents. This could also consider the wider impacts of the county's growth and connectivity and the interplay or not of other reviews.</p> <p>Suggested timing Sept - Nov</p>	<p>External influences, external evidence, connectedness.</p> <p><b>Planning for the future</b> (<i>How do we know what we need and then identify the best way of achieving this?</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To identify and understand future transport needs and what public transport provision will need to look like to meet these needs. (Where do people need to get to why and how)?</li> <li>2. How does the council currently identify need and demand and understand accessibility issues?</li> <li>3. Consider the impacts of growth within the county and transport needs (s106)?</li> <li>4. To understand/examine how the council, partners and wider transport sector (e.g. rail companies, bus operators, Businesses, LEPs etc.) are planning for future public transport needs.</li> <li>5. To consider outcomes and implications of the Home to School transport policy review and any interplay or not between H to S Transport and Subsidised bus routes.</li> <li>6. To consider how the Council's policies may need to change and adapt to be future proof and meet future public transport needs.</li> </ol>
<p><b>STAGE THREE</b></p> <p>Findings and recommendations</p> <p>December</p>	<p>This stage will put forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee's overall findings and recommendations.</li> <li>• Identify any areas that may require more specific and detailed examination.</li> </ul>
<p>Suggested Evidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal officers - Passenger Transport Team – Andy Clarke etc.</li> <li>• Research team</li> <li>• Localities Teams (identifying need, accessibility, gaps in services).</li> <li>• Bucks Business First (business needs).</li> <li>• Bus Operators</li> <li>• Bus user groups, Passenger Focus group, Transport think tanks</li> <li>• Community Transport providers/groups/organisations.</li> <li>• Evidence session from CYP re home to school transport review – Impacts on this review?</li> <li>• AMEY evidence session on what they could offer commercially re community transport co coordination capacity at what cost?</li> <li>• Parliamentary research/inquiries.</li> <li>• Expert, external witnesses (future of public transport, identifying future need, transport academia, campaign for better transport etc.)</li> <li>• Other Local Authorities (Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Devon etc.)</li> </ul>

<p>Link to BCC Strategic Plan priorities</p> <p>Links to the Transport Cabinet Portfolio Plan</p>	<p>1. To ensure Bucks has a thriving economy that is creating jobs.</p> <p>4: To encourage people and communities to be actively involved in their local area and services.</p> <p>6: <i>To encourage people to do more for themselves whilst providing a safety net for the most vulnerable members of the population</i></p> <p>8: <i>To ensure your local Council and its Councillors protect the interests of Bucks residents</i></p> <p><b>Priority 2</b> <i>To improve transport networks within Buckinghamshire and the surrounding areas</i></p> <p><b>Portfolio Objective 3:</b> <i>Quality of transport and Customer Satisfaction: Enable businesses and communities to access employment opportunities, key services and facilities through access to public transport, cycle routes and effective management of the networks....</i></p>
<p>Suggested outline timetable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014</li> <li>• 08<sup>th</sup> April – Committee to agree proposed scope</li> <li>• Background research, information gathering, and evidence session planning April/May</li> <li>• Inquiry evidence sessions June – November</li> <li>• Interim report for MTP ??? (part one)</li> <li>• Report findings Feb/March 2015 – to Cabinet and others.</li> </ul>