

Agenda Item 7

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; and legal, financial, environmental, health, respect for human rights, personnel, property and transport considerations.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 January 2009

Report of the Chair – Sustainable and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee

Review of Community Transport – Progress Report

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To inform Members of the progress made in the review into Community Transport in Derbyshire.

2. Information and Analysis

Scheme visits – The working group has now visited all of the Community Transport schemes in the County which has been a useful exercise given the many differences between the various schemes. At each meeting a number of issues were discussed, including:

- Route planning and scheduling
- Complaints procedures
- Vehicle storage, repairs and purchasing/leasing
- Cross-scheme working and sharing of best practice

User consultation was undertaken during a number of the visits and provided a useful perspective into the value of the service. It also provided the working group with an opportunity to see first-hand some of the rural locations that the buses have to travel to each week in all weather conditions.

Scheme development – The public transport unit have been working with schemes for some time to help develop cross-scheme working and sharing of best practice. As part of this process Elaine Wachlarz, Rural Bus Project Worker, organized a community transport event on 8th January 2009 to which working group members were invited. The event included a presentation with the Cotswolds Community Transport scheme who have come together in a social enterprise to improve efficiency and roll out best practice. The solicitors firm, Wrigleys, also gave a presentation at the meeting detailing some of the key issues in Charity law which schemes will need to consider if they decide to move forward and embed joint-working in a more formal arrangement.

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3. Agreed future actions

3.1 The working group is due to meet twice at the end of January to share views on the scheme visits and to identify the next steps in the review. It is likely that the working group will interview Adult Social Services officers as the Personalising Health and Social Care agenda may have an impact on the Community Transport service. Further consultation, perhaps with organisations representing people with disabilities, may also provide useful information.

3.2 Continued dialogue to be held with scheme managers and trustees as appropriate.

4. Other Considerations

4.1 The impact of the review on the Council's financial, property, personnel and transport resources will be taken into account.

5. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The Committee notes the work undertaken so far in this review and agrees the proposed future investigations by the working group.

**WALTER BURROWS
CHAIR - SUSTAINABLE AND SAFE COMMUNITIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**