

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19 th March 2019
Report Subject	Flintshire County Council's Response to the Welsh Government White Paper 'Improving Public Transport'.
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside. Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welsh Government (WG) issued a consultation White Paper in December 2018, on their plans to improve public transport in Wales, the document is entitled 'Improving Public Transport'. The purpose of the consultation is to seek views on WG's legislative proposals for reforming the planning and delivery of local bus services in Wales, together with the licensing of taxis and other private hire vehicles.

The closing date for responses is 27th March 2019. (Consultation reference WG36240).

This report includes the Council's formal response to the White Paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approves the response to the WG consultation document 'Improving Public Transport' shown in Appendix 1.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE AUTHORITY'S STATUTORY DUTY AND PROCESS UTILISED TO ASSESS THE TRAVEL NEEDS OF PUPILS.
1.01	Welsh Government (WG) issued a consultation White Paper in December 2018 entitled 'Improving Public Transport'. The purpose of the consultation was to seek views on the Welsh Government legislative proposals for reforming the planning and delivery of local bus services in Wales, together with changes to the process of licensing taxis and other private hire vehicles.
1.02	<p>There are 10 proposals within the White Paper which are summarised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A proposal to establish Joint Transport Authorities (JTAs) in Wales.2. Provide powers for Councils to enter Enhanced Quality Partnerships with transport operators.3. Revise legislation to make franchising bus routes a useable option for Councils.4. Revise legislation to allow Councils to operate their own bus service.5. Increase the eligibility age for the mandatory concessionary fares scheme, to bring it in line with a woman's pensionable age.6. Put in place information monitoring and sharing requirements on transport operators.7. Set national standards for taxi and private hire licensing.8. Allow a licensing authority to take enforcement action against any non-compliant vehicle operating their area (even if it is licensed in by another council).9. Create a mechanism to enable information to be shared to purposes of safeguarding.10. To redirect all existing taxi and private hire vehicles (PHV) licensing functions away from local authorities and into a national licensing authority through the JTA.
1.03	Proposals 1 – 6 were discussed by the Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting in February 2019. Details of the comments from the committee have been incorporated into the formal response.
1.04	Proposals 7 – 10 refer directly to taxi licensing and the Council's response has been discussed by the Licensing Committee at their February meeting and the comments of the committee have also been incorporated into the response.
1.05	The final detailed responses to each question within the consultation document are shown in Appendix 1.
2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Staff resources may be impacted if specific duties transfer to the proposed JTA's however without full details of the final working arrangements, the full impact cannot be evaluated at this stage.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	With Cabinet Members.
3.02	With Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – February 2019.
3.03	With Licensing Committee – January 2019.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Not applicable at this stage.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Response to the WG consultation.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Link to full consultation document</p> <p>https://beta.gov.wales/improving-public-transport</p> <p>Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Contact Officer: Andrew Farrow Telephone: 01352 703201 E-mail: andrew.farrow@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>JTA – Joint Transport Arrangement PHV – Private Hire Vehicle</p>