

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny
Date:	4 June 2018
Subject:	Schools Transport
Purpose of Report:	Submit an update on actions following an Audit Report.
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Aled Morris Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr R G Parry OBE Frgs Cllr R Meirion Jones
Head of Service:	Arwyn Williams & Dewi R Williams
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Local Members:	Not applicable

1 - Recommendation/s

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to note:-

- 1.1 The significant progress in reducing the risks identified in the Audit report of September 2017
- 1.2 The Audit Committee's decision on 24 April 2018 to note that good progress has been made and that no further steps are required.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

Education is fundamental to the development of all children and ensuring their attendance at school aligns with the Council's objective to "Ensure that the people of Anglesey can thrive and realise their long term potential" (Council Plan 2017/2022).

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

- 3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [**focus on customer/citizen**]
- 3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [**focus on value**]
- 3.3 A look at any risks [**focus on risk**]
- 3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [**focus on performance & quality**]
- 3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

5 – Background / Context

A progress report was submitted to this Committee in January 2018. The committee resolved to accept the report and to request an update for this meeting.

Since January the Head of Audit and Risk have undertaken a follow-up Audit and reported as follows to the Audit and Governance Committee on 24 April 2018:-

“School Transport

	Original Issues / Risks		Outstanding Issues / Risks
	Report Date	September 2017	April 2018
Good Progress	Assurance	Limited	Reasonable
	Catastrophic	0	0
	Major	7	0
	Moderate	7	3
	Minor	2	2

1. *Our review confirms that significant progress has been made towards improving School Transport arrangements and addressing the Issues/Risks raised in our report.*
2. *Eleven of the risks identified from our audit report have been fully addressed. Three risks are partially implemented or are in the progress of being addressed; these are subject to the issuing of identification badges to all school bus drivers in September 2018, the Capita ONE system to be in operation and the review of the school taxis' eligibility criteria together with the review of the school taxis' budget.*
3. *Two risks remains outstanding, which are centred around the next procurement process when the Transport Section will be reviewing its current contractors terms and conditions.*
4. *Out of the outstanding actions (including actions that have been partially implemented), two are still within the target date of implementation. However, all target dates have been revised and extended based on updates reported. Where necessary, priority ratings*

have been re-assessed to take into account the actions taken to date and new target dates have been agreed for implementation.

*The Council has demonstrated ‘**Good Progress**’ in addressing the Issues / Risks and as a result the assurance rating has increased to ‘**Reasonable Assurance**’”*

The Committee **resolved** to note the situation and no further action was recommended.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

Any change to school transport will have an effect on children who attend school but there are no negative effects from implementing the Plan to date. The effects will need to be reassessed when the schools transport policy is reviewed. The new arrangements between the Learning and Highways Services have strengthened the Safeguarding assurance within the schools and learning environment and it can therefore be seen as having a positive effect. There are no negative effects on the Welsh language and it could have a positive impact when the specifications for the new contracts are written.

7 – Financial Implications

The current budget for school taxi provision in 2018-19 remains the same as 2017-18. During the financial year Capita One will be used to manage school transport and give access to route optimisation. An extension will be given to current taxi contracts during the 2018 Autumn Term, and new contracts will be awarded during the Spring Term in 2019. The Learning Service believe that reviewing the current policy and arrangements, together with the Transport One system will enable the financial implications to be assessed at that time.

8 – Appendices:

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):