CABINET STATEMENT

TITLE: UPDATE ON THE INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE FINDINGS OF THE INDEPENDENT HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT INQUIRY

DATE: 14th January 2009

BY: Councillor Andrew Morgan, Cabinet Member for Transport and Customer Care

Members will have received a copy of the detailed statement from the Leader of the Council and I, which outlines our initial responses to the independent Inquiry into Home to School Transport.

In advance of the report's publication next week, we felt it was important to set on record our proactive actions already taken in response to the difficulties of September 2008.

Alongside the inquiry process, in consultation with the Leader and I, a number of robust measures have been implemented by the Corporate Management Team to strengthen the management arrangements of the unit, to avoid a recurrence of the problems experienced in 2008:

- The introduction of the Council's Strategic Projects Director to take over the management of Highways, Transportation and Fleet Division
- Appropriate action taken against two Senior Officers
- A comprehensive programme of business re-engineering designed to address the deficiencies identified within the Home to School Transport service
- A commitment to improve Officer accountability

They are far reaching and demonstrate the Council's commitment to tackle and address the Council's deficiencies within the service.

These measures have been taken in advance of the report's publication next week. When the report is published Members will see the evidence, chronological order of events and rationale that have backed our decisive actions.

The report will be made publicly available on Tuesday 20th January and will be considered by Cabinet on Monday 26th January and Overview and Scrutiny directly after.

Contrary to press comments made in recent days the report has not been held back and has always been scheduled to be made fully available on these dates, as outlined when the investigation was announced.