

**Draft Bus Strategy for Shropshire 2011 – 2016 – Consultation Response****Responsible Officer** Jonathan Hayes

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**REPORT**

1. Shropshire Council faces difficult decisions in the short and medium term as financial pressures increase on the budget for the provision of subsidised local bus services. Operators also face financial pressures through increasing operating costs such as rising fuel costs and decreases in income through changes in concessionary travel reimbursement and Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) arrangements.
2. It is vital therefore, that Shropshire Council has a robust bus strategy clearly defining the principals and priorities on which the local bus network will be provided over the next five years.
3. A copy of the draft bus strategy can be viewed at;  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/transportconsultation](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/transportconsultation)
4. A comprehensive public consultation exercise has been undertaken detailing potential changes to local bus services across the county from adopting the minimum network detailed within the bus strategy. The consultation process also included service implications of the proposed withdrawal of subsidy from high cost bus services as defined within the budget strategy.
5. The full implications, on a service by service basis, of adopting the minimum level of service proposed within the bus strategy are given in Appendix 1.
6. The results of this consultation process and recommendations for service changes will be reported to Shropshire Council's Cabinet Committee on 11 May 2011. Papers for this meeting will be available at [www.Shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.Shropshire.gov.uk) from 3 May 2011.
7. Any changes to local bus services resulting from this process will be made in mid July. Any affected passengers will be informed through the usual channels including posters displayed on affected services and at main bus stops.
8. END.