



**Committee and Date**

**Communities Overview  
Committee**

**20 October 2021**

**Item**

**Public**

**Rural and Community Transport**

**Responsible officer**

Danial Webb – overview and scrutiny officer

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**1.0 Summary**

1.1 This report complements the briefing session that officers recently held to support the work of the Communities Overview Committee scrutiny of proposals to reorganise and develop bus services in Shropshire

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that members of the Communities Overview Committee read the attached presentation and prepare questions that they might have for officers.

**3.0 Opportunities and risks**

3.1 This report is provided by for information only. Any recommendations that the committee makes would be subject to an analysis of their risks and opportunities before being put into action.

**4.0 Financial assessment**

4.1 This report is provided for information only. Any recommendations that the committee makes would be subject to a financial assessment for consideration before they are agreed.

**REPORT**

**5.0 Bus Back Better**

5.1 On 13 September officers held a briefing session for elected members that provided:

- An overview of current commercial, subsidised and community transport services in Shropshire.
- The challenges posed by the long-term decline in bus patronage.
- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on services.
- Proposals for Rural Connect – new services to link rural communities to scheduled bus and train services.

- 5.2 A recording of the briefing session is available in the Member Development section of The Members' Gateway. The presentation used to support the briefing is attached as Appendix 1.
- 5.3 Shropshire Council is conducting a public survey of the proposals for Rural Connect and to find out more about people's views of buses and public transport, and the improvements they would like to see in the future. A presentation on the interim findings of the survey is attached as Appendix 2.

**List of background papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

None

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure & Tourism, Transport

**Local Member**

All

**Appendices**

1. Rural and Community Transport – presentation
2. Shropshire Public Transport Survey - presentation