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To: **Scrutiny Committee – 13 October 2021**

Subject: Short Focused Inquiry – Home to School Transport

Classification: **Unrestricted**

1. Introduction

- a) At its meeting of 7 July 2021, the Scrutiny Committee agreed that the work programme for Short Focused Inquiries (SFIs) should include an inquiry into home to school transport in Kent.
- b) When considering whether to assist with home to school transport, local authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that suitable travel arrangements are made, where necessary, to facilitate a child's attendance at school. Kent County Council is the largest local authority in England, and the demands placed on its educational transport reflect its size, population and closeness to London.
- c) As a requirement of the SFI process, an initial briefing - that offers some background information and figures in relation to home to school transport in Kent - was recently provided by the relevant KCC Directorates (CYPE and GET).
- d) The briefing and information will aid the scoping meeting between representatives of the Scrutiny Committee, which is being arranged, where the inquiry's remit will be discussed and agreed.
- e) Following the scoping meeting, a limited number of evidence gathering briefings will be organised. This oral evidence will be complemented with the collection of written evidence from a variety of sources.
- f) Following the evidence gathering process, the Committee will reconvene to discuss its key findings and any recommendations it wishes to make. The key findings and recommendations will be included in a draft report which will be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee for formal consideration. If the report and its recommendations are formally agreed by the Scrutiny Committee, the report will be submitted to the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member(s) for a response within two months.

2. Recommendation

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to **note** the update on the Short-Focused Inquiry on Home to School Transport