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**Joint Meeting of the  
TRANSPORT POLICY PANEL  
and the  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION POLICY PANEL**

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Tuesday, 23rd July 2002 at 9.30 a.m.  
at Bodlondeb, Conwy

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**PRESENT:** Councillor A. Barrett (Chairman for the Meeting)

Councillor E. G. Davies JP (Cabinet Member for Transport)

Councillors Mrs A. W. Booth-Taylor, I. Griffiths, J. R. Hughes, T. W. Jones MBE, W. E. Jones, P. Murray, Mrs H. M. Pearce-Geary, W. P. Roberts and R. G. Waters.

**In Attendance:** Councillors Glyn Jones JP and D. W. Smith.

**OFFICERS:** Messrs G. Wild (Director of Environmental and Planning Services), D. H. Peel (Chief Highways Officer), R. E. Saxby (Public Transport Officer), R. H. Jones (Transport Co-ordinator) A. Jones (Translator) and Miss S. Hall (Committee Clerk).

201. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR MEETING**

**RESOLVED-**

**That Councillor A. Barrett be appointed as Chairman for the Meeting.**

202. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Dr S. H. Anderson, J. Finch, L. A. Tobin and K. J. G. Toy.

*(Note : The following item minute 203 had not been specified on the agenda, but was considered as a matter of urgency with the agreement of the Chairman under the provisions of paragraph 100(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order to avoid unnecessary delay)*

203. **AMERICAN STYLE YELLOW SCHOOL BUS SERVICE**

*(In attendance for this item: Mr I. MacKintosh, Ms C. Hewitt and Mr R. Jones of First Group)*

Members were afforded the opportunity to view one of the American Style Yellow Buses, which were now being used for school transport by Wrexham County Borough Council. Representatives from First Group, the company responsible for the service, informed the Panel that the Yellow Bus Service was working very well in Wrexham. The buses were designed specifically for school transport and among other features incorporated a roll cage, CCTV and high seats. Furthermore, the Yellow Bus Service had an excellent safety record throughout the United States as well as in Britain. Members agreed that the concept merited further discussion and it was hoped that the scheme could be financed in the future.

**RESOLVED**

**That the information be noted.**

204. **SNOWDONIA GREEN KEY INITIATIVE**

The Director of Planning and Environmental Service informed Members that the original Green Key Initiative Strategy had been subject of public consultation at community level and with interest groups. Following that consultation considerable concern was expressed in relation to the “park and ride” and “gateway” concepts, it was felt that investment in the “gateway” towns and villages would be too concentrated and that a greater spread of benefit was needed. As a result of the public consultation a re-appraisal of the Green Key Initiative had been produced by RPS Consultants. In response to the re-appraisal, and in consultation with the Conwy Members of the Executive Group, a reply had been drafted to the consultants in response to the re-appraised proposals. The main aims of the initiative were to secure sustainability for tourism in the area by supporting various development strategies for each of the settlements within Northern Snowdonia. To provide alternative travel by improving the public transport system and to alleviate traffic congestion by providing park and ride facilities. Members welcomed the re-appraised Initiative, as it contained not only the opinions of the consultants, but also the public and interested parties.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) **That the Panel support the reappraisal proposals, in particular:-**
- (i) **That a further round of public consultation to canvass these recommendations throughout the North Snowdonia community be progressed.**
  - (ii) **That early discussion with the Welsh Assembly Government’s Minister for the Environment to seek revenue funding support in the principal at this stage for the revised Initiative be secured, in particular, for the proper upgrading of the SHERPA network.**
  - (iii) **That in the event of support being secured a detailed assessment of the practicalities, costs and management implication of establishing a SHERPA system be commissioned, which would provide a legitimate alternative to the motor car, particularly for staying visitors, as a means of travelling around the various attractions of Northern Snowdonia.**
  - (iv) **That a study to evaluate the quantum of parking needed be commissioned, both in the core area and settlements, and the most appropriate locations for such facilities, including advice on the related services to be offered, the charging mechanisms to be applied, and even if necessary the securing of the planning permission.**
  - (v) **That funding support for defining, designing, assembling the necessary land, and implemented a network of low-level and long distance footpaths and cycle routes throughout Northern Snowdonia be commissioned.**
  - (vi) **That funding support to develop further the individual Development Strategies for each of the settlements within the Northern Snowdonia be secured.**
- (b) **That future funding of a partnership costs be sought, in the first instance, through transport grants.**

(the meeting concluded at 3.30 p.m.)

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