

**PARAGRAPH 2.6. OF THE FIRST STEPS ACTION GROUP REPORT**

1. Paragraph 2.6. (copy attached) was received in time for it to be tabled at the Student Services Panel on 5 December. This note sets out the officer advice given to the Student Services Panel.
2. FSAG propose an alternative to the longest extra journey rule. The FSAG approach is based on distances between home and the preferred school and home and the nearest school. The FSAG paper is self-explanatory.
3. The longest extra journey rule is based on distances between home and the preferred school and home and the nearest school with available places (defined on the basis of a school which is under-subscribed on first preferences).
4. Paragraph 8 of the report considers the issues associated with these two different approaches.
5. The FSAG report sets out an example of the application of their proposed distance rule. It will be noted that it results in:
  - a) pupils 1 and 3 being offered their preferred school – School A
  - b) pupils 2 and 4 being offered the school with available places – School C
  - c) the resulting home to school distance for each pupil is:

pupil 1	150m.
pupil 2	1,050m.
pupil 3	650m.
pupil 4	100m.
  - d) the total distance travelled by all pupils is 1,850m.
6. If the longest extra journey rule were to be applied, the following would take place:
  - All children wish to go to School A
  - There are two available places at School A.
  - School C is under-subscribed so it is the nearest school with available places
  - The children would be assessed as follows:

<b>Pupil</b>	<b>Distance to School A</b>	<b>Distance to School C</b>	<b>Longest Extra Journey</b>
1	150	1,200	1,050
2	750	1,050	300
3	650	300	0
4	900	100	0

- Pupils 1 and 2 have a longest extra journey but 3 and 4 have no extra journey.

7. The result of the above would be:

- pupils 1 and 2 being offered their preferred school – School A
- pupils 2 and 4 being offered the school with available places – School C
- the resulting home to school distance for each pupil is:

pupil 1        150m.  
pupil 2        750m.  
pupil 3        300m.  
pupil 4        100m.

- the total distance travelled is 1,300m.

9. As explained in the report (paragraph 8) one of the advantages of the longest extra journey rule is that it minimises distance travelled and reduces the chance of pupils travelling past a school to get to another school. The above shows this to be the case. It also allows the ranking system to be used.