

**REVIEW OF HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

*Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families*

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Executive Member: Robert Gordon

**1. Purpose of the Report**

Tanis Kent requested that this item be considered for scrutiny so that the Committee can comment on the consultation proposals for a home to school transport policy for children aged 5 to 16 years.

**2. Summary**

2.1 The proposed Home to School Transport Policy draws together existing practice and proposals to develop a more consistent approach.

2.2 Key features of the policy are :-

(a) Providing free transport

- To the nearest school beyond statutory walking distances
- Where routes are unsafe
- To the nearest faith school for children admitted on faith grounds
- For children with Statements of Special Educational Needs
- For children who move in their GCSE examination year
- For children looked after by the Local Authority who move home during the school year

(b) Providing discretionary transport on an individually assessed basis for children with:-

- Specific medical needs
- Exceptional social circumstances

- Respite Care needs
- (c) Making unused seats on vehicles available at a fixed cost for parents on a termly reviewable basis.

2.3 The main changes proposed are as follows :-

- (a) To phase out the community policy and replace it with arrangements based on distance and safety
- (b) To phase out assisted transport to denominational schools for children who are not admitted on faith grounds
- (c) To limit the length of journeys to a maximum of 45 minutes for children under 8 and 75 minutes for those aged 8 and over.

### **3. Conclusions**

The Committee should consider whether they wish to comment on the consultation proposals.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 A detailed review of the present home to school transport arrangements was undertaken by the School Places, Admissions and Commissioning Panel. This resulted in proposals to the Cabinet for an integrated policy which were considered on 28 January and launched for consultation on 6 February. Consultation closes on 15 March.
- 1.2 The proposals represent a consolidation of existing practice and a very gradual phasing in is being suggested. The main impact that is anticipated, if the proposals are taken forward are:
- (1) A limit on journeys to 45 minutes for children under 8 and 75 minutes for those aged 8 or over.
  - (2) A phasing out of community policy transport arrangements for Cuffley, Little Wymondley, Knebworth and South Oxhey.
  - (3) A phasing out of assisted transport for children attending denominational schools on non-faith grounds.

## **2. Financial implications**

The policy proposals are intended to be phased in on a gradual basis. It is anticipated that there will be incremental savings each year leading to a maximum saving of £460,000 per annum 5 years after implementation.

If you would like to know more about the issue referred to in this report please contact Alan Sapsford on 2 588500 or Nick Powley on 01992 555933