

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee

Cabinet

Date of Committee

28 April 2005

Report Title

Home to College Transport

Summary

Interim Report of the Home to College Task and Finish Group set up by the Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report was considered by the Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 10 March 2005.

For further information please contact:

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?

Yes.

Background papers

Cabinet Minutes – 24 June 2004, Briefing Papers provided at the Learning Overview and Scrutiny Meeting on the 23 September 2004, Terms of Reference provided at Learning Overview and Scrutiny meeting on the 9 November 2004

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees

Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Local Member(s)

Other Elected Members

Cllr Richard Grant, Cllr John Haynes and Cllr Mick Jones.

Cabinet Member

.....

Chief Executive

.....

Legal

Jane Pollard

Finance

Dave Clarke

Other Chief Officers

David Carter, John Deegan

- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Monica Fogarty
Mark Gore – comments included
Nick Williams

FINAL DECISION None

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS: Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Agenda No

Cabinet - 28 April 2005.

Home to College Transport

Report of the Chair - Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation of the Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

That the Cabinet approve an increase in the charge for Post 16 Transport to £175 (per annum) from September 2005.

1. Views of the Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Claire Sangster, Chair of the Home to College Task and Finish Group reported that the Home to College Task and Finish Group had held five meetings and highlighted the following points:

- i. The Group had received a fair response to the consultation sent out to all stakeholders.
- ii. A meeting had been held with four members of the Youth Parliament, supported by their Youth Workers, and their suggestions had been noted.
- iii. There was ongoing work being done to allow 14-18 year-old students to use their bus passes out of peak periods.
- iv. The recommended increase in charge to £175 per annum was still below the amount charged by most counties.

During the ensuing discussion the following issues were highlighted:

1. Members commended Claire Sangster's initiative to allow students to use bus passes out of peak times.
2. Members supported the initiative to bring in staged increases over a period of time.
3. At present families on income support or income-based job seeker's allowance had the charge for Post 16 Transport waived. From September 2005 all Post 16 students would have access to Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and the Task Group undertook to look into whether this would mean that all Post 16 students would have to pay towards transport.

Claire Sangster thanked the Officers and Members for their hard work.

The motion was carried with 6 in favour and two abstentions that the Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to the Cabinet that they

approve an increase in the charge for Post 16 Transport to £175 (per annum) from September 2005.

2. Background

- 2.1 Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified the area of spiralling costs in providing free and assisted Home to School and College transport as an area for in depth scrutiny within its programme of work for 2004/2005.
- 2.2 At their meeting on 24th June 2004, Cabinet suggested that the Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee could include in its examination: -
- The strategic decisions relating to satellite education venues being taken by colleges which involve transportation of students and/or lecturers
 - The liability for transportation costs and the financial implications for the Council
 - Environmental issues
- 2.3 At their meeting on 23rd September 2004, Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered briefing papers provided by Education Department regarding;
- Home to School Transport Policy
 - Provision for Pupils not entitled to Free Transport
 - Post 16 Transport
 - Seat Belt Policy
 - Procurement Arrangements
- 2.4 A Task and Finish Group was set up to focus on Home to School Transport. This was chaired by Councillor Susan Juned. Other party representation was provided by; Cllr Fowler, Cllr Hayfield, Cllr Alan Smith (replacement for Cllr Baldry) and School Governor Chris Smart completed the Group.
- 2.5 A Task and Finish Group was set up to focus on Post 16 students and their travel. This was Chaired by Claire Sangster, the Governor representative and each party was represented by the following Members; Cllr Booth, Cllr McCarney and Cllr McCarthy.

3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The aim of the scrutiny exercise was to consider and propose options that improve the arrangements for Home to School and College Transport while ensuring value for money.
- 3.2 Outcomes from both exercises could be that:
- All eligible pupils receive a value for money transport service, in accordance with legislation relating to length of journey and time spent travelling.

- The exercise produces a clear pricing/charging structure with appropriate schemes and routes for pupil/student travellers, in consultation with contractors and partners.
- The structure(s) consider the impact on costs and revenue and the environmental implications.

CLLR JOHN BURTON
Chair - Learning O&S
Committee

Shire Hall
Warwick

14 March 2005