

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Decision making session **Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families) Decision Making Session**

Date of Decision **7 May 2010**

Report Title **Post 16 Transport**

Summary This report sets out proposed arrangements for Post 16 Transport in light of the decision by Elected Members to reluctantly reduce the level of support over a period of three years.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No

Background papers

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members CYP&F O&S Chair and Vice-Chair for information:
Cllr John Ross *“para 3.2 should apply to all in the low income bracket, and not just special needs”*

Cllr Carolyn Robbins

CYP&F O&S Spokespersons for information:
Cllr Jerry Roodhouse (on behalf of Cllr Balaam)
Cllr Carolyn Robbins
- Cabinet Member Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Decision Maker)
- Chief Executive
- Legal Jane Pollard “no comments”
- Finance David Clarke, Strategic Director, Resources
Directorate *“comments incorporated into the report”*
- Other Chief Officers Paul Galland, Strategic Director, Environment & Economy

- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION Yes

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

Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families) Decision Making Session

7 May 2010

Post 16 Transport

Report of Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

Recommendations

That the Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the arrangements as set out below.

1. Background

- 1.1 This report sets out proposed arrangements for Post 16 Transport in light of the decision by Elected Members to reluctantly reduce the level of support over a period of three years.
- 1.2 Discussions have taken place between Officers of the Children Young People and Families Directorate (CYPF) and the Transport Operations team, Environment and Economy (E&E) to consider options as to how savings may be met with a level of service continuing. Meetings have also been held with staff from Warwickshire College and Elected Members.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the following arrangements are introduced:

2. September 2010 - Post 16 students

2.1 Continuing Post 16 students in their 2nd year of study

Payment for transport will increase from £300 to £400 per student per year to allow Warwickshire County Council to continue to subsidise transport. In most cases, students will continue to travel using the same vehicle. Some students will instead receive a travel allowance.

Payment will be made to Warwickshire County Council either in one payment of £400 or termly payments of:

Autumn - £150
Spring - £150
Summer - £100

The annual charge will continue to be waived for Year 2 students from low income families.

2.2 Post 16 Students in their 1st year of study

The charge for transport will be £540 per year which is equivalent to £3 per day. This is intended to be in line with the figure proposed initially by Warwickshire College.

Payment will be made to Warwickshire County Council either in one payment of £540 or termly payments of:

- Autumn - £220
- Spring - £220
- Summer - £100

No daily fare will be available.

No additional help will be available to Year 1 students from low-income families. However, some young people may be eligible for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

Please note that for students in Year 1 in 2010/11 there can be no guarantee that Warwickshire County Council will subsidise transport costs in future years and that while Warwickshire will do all it can to maintain bus routes in the future we cannot be certain a bus will be available in 2011/12.

3. Students Aged 16-25 with Special Educational Needs

- 3.1 The Authority has a duty to take a more flexible approach for students aged 16 to 25 with special educational needs. While transport for these students will continue, the annual charge for continuing students in 2010/11 will increase from £300 to £400.
- 3.2 The annual charge will be waived for continuing students from low income families.
- 3.3 New applicants in 2010/11 will be expected to pay £540 in line with other post 16 students. There will be no assistance for new applicants from low-income families.
- 3.4 Students must be attending a full-time course of at least 16 hours per week.
- 3.5 Students who start a course while under the age of 25, currently continue to receive assistance past the age of 25. It is proposed that new applicants from September 2010 will only receive assistance up until the end of the academic year in which their 25th birthday falls.
- 3.6 New and continuing applicants from September 2011 will be required to pay the proposed charge of £630.

4. September 2010 - Students aged 14-16 attending offsite Learning Opportunities

- 4.1 Transport will continue to be provided for those eligible learners on year 2 (in Year 11) of an offsite learning course. The cost of this transport to schools will increase to £100 per learner. We know that schools have found it difficult

to manage the changes for September 2010. To assist schools we will continue to operate the policy for Year 10 students. If there is capacity within the current post 16 transport network, eligible learners will be able to apply for a bus pass, at a cost of £100 per learner.

- 4.2 For Diploma learners this cost will be met from the Diploma Formula Grant and will be paid directly to WCC on the schools behalf. For other offsite learners (NOVA/STAR/SWIFT) this cost will need to be met from the school's own budget.

5. September 2011 - Post 16 Transport

- 5.1 It is intended that the following arrangements will be introduced in September 2011. There will however need to be a consultation exercise which will be carried out shortly.
- 5.2 The Council anticipates that transport costs will be set by operators at commercial rates. The rate is likely to be in the region of £630 per annum. There will be no longer be assistance with transport to low-income families, although it is acknowledged that all students with a household income below £30,000 are entitled to an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to support continued education or training.
- 5.3 Warwickshire County Council will continue to operate a 'Vacant Seats' policy. These seats will be made available to all students attending sixth forms or colleges. Costs will need to be in line with the commercial rate outlined above (£630).

6. September 2011 – 14-16 attending offsite learning opportunities

- 6.1 In the forthcoming weeks we shall further develop our policy for 2011/12 and beyond. For September 2011 schools and colleges will be expected to organise and fund their own pre 16 offsite transport arrangements, for example, school minibuses, or later start times to allow all pupils to attend school before travelling together to offsite learning providers.
- 6.2 The Access and Transport Coordinator and 14-19 Area Development Officers will take on additional responsibility to support 14-19 Area Partnership working on transport issues. We aim to be able to be able to consult on future transport policy development in autumn 2010.

7. Cost savings

- 7.1 As part of the medium term savings plan, a cumulative target saving of £1.3 million from the Post 16 Transport budget has been set. The target date for the saving is the end of the 2012/13 financial year. The proposals outlined are designed to ensure that the Local Authority fulfils its statutory duty of ensuring students have appropriate access to post-16 education. However, due to the shared nature of much transport, and the loss of revenue from phasing out provision, the total savings are likely to be in the region of £795k. Officers will continue to work with all parties in order to maximise the savings. Yearly/cumulative savings are as follows:

Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Target in Medium Term Financial Plan	£379,000	£550,000	£371,000
Cumulative Target	£379,000	£929,000	£1,300,000
Cumulative Forecast Saving	£120,000	£549,000	£795,000

- 7.2 The shortfall in 2010/11 will be managed by the Directorate, through one-off savings. The ongoing shortfall will need to be addressed as part of the Authority's budget setting process.

MARION DAVIS

Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families
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 Council
 28 April 2010