

# Individual Executive Member Decision

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<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Home to School Transport Policy 2013-14</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Individual Executive Member Decision
<b>Date on which Decision is to be taken:</b>	10 May 2012
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	ID2485

**Purpose of Report:** Statutory consultation process for the Home to School Transport Policy 2013-14

**Recommended Action:** To approve the consultation arrangements for the Home to School Policy 2013-2014

**Reason for decision to be taken:** Statutory requirement

**Other options considered:** None

**Key background documentation:** Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance - DfE  
West Berkshire Home to School Transport Policy 2012/13

Proposed West Berkshire Home to School Transport Policy 2013/14

Portfolio Member Details	
<b>Name &amp; Telephone No.:</b>	Councillor Irene Neill - Tel (0118) 971 2671
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	ineill@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details	
<b>Name:</b>	Mwazwita Mundangepfufu
<b>Job Title:</b>	Place Planning, Transport & Finance Team Leader
<b>Tel. No.:</b>	01635 519031
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	mmundangepfufu@westberks.gov.uk

## Implications

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<b>Policy:</b>	As set out in the report
<b>Financial:</b>	Fare Paying charges are currently under review and will be subject to Member scrutiny. The charges will be published in Autumn 2012, but it is anticipated that the increase will take account of commercial rates and inflation. Therefore, the price of the fare-paying scheme will be less than or equal to commercial rates, but is likely to represent an increase greater than the rate of inflation when compared to 2012-2013 rates.
<b>Personnel:</b>	None
<b>Legal/Procurement:</b>	None
<b>Environmental:</b>	None
<b>Property:</b>	None
<b>Risk Management:</b>	None
<b>Equalities:</b>	None

## Consultation Responses

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### Members:

<b>Leader of Council:</b>	Councillor Graham Jones
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:</b>	Councillor Brian Bedwell
<b>Ward Members:</b>	
<b>Opposition Spokesperson:</b>	Councillor Alan Macro
<b>Local Stakeholders:</b>	All West Berkshire schools, Early Years providers and Nursery schools, all parents of pupils currently in receipt of Free Home to School Transport
<b>Officers Consulted:</b>	Ian Pearson; Caroline Corcoran
<b>Trade Union:</b>	N/A

<b>Is this item subject to call-in.</b>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by O&SMC or associated Task Groups within preceding six months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>

## Supporting Information

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 Regulations require Local Authorities to consult annually on the Home to School Transport Policy before determining the policy and publishing the details in a school admissions composite prospectus (West Berkshire Parents Guides to Admissions). The information enables parents to consider transportation implications when choosing preferred school places. The Guides to Admissions are published by September each year.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the 2013/14 policy remains unchanged from the 2012/2013 policy as far as it meets statutory requirements. There are a few clarifications regarding the application of the policy.
- 1.3 In the previous year, funding to support Post 16 students was redirected to colleges and sixth forms through the new Bursary scheme. While the Council continues to meet its obligation to Post 16 students through the travel opportunities in the Post 16 Travel Scheme, providers now have the funding and obligation to provide support in cases of additional need. The 2013/14 policy will continue to include information for Post 16 students in this respect.
- 1.4 As part of Member scrutiny, a review of Home to School Transport provision is being undertaken to ensure cost effectiveness and efficiency. Outcomes from this review which affect the policy itself will be incorporated into the Home to School Transport Policy 2014-2015. Outcomes which lead to improved efficiencies and cost effectiveness within the boundaries of the policy will be implemented as quickly as possible.
- 1.5 In relation to the fare paying scheme, the pricing is under review as part of the Member scrutiny. The charges for 2013-2014 have not been confirmed but will be published in the Admissions Guides. It is anticipated that the increase will take account of commercial rates as well as inflation. Therefore, the price of the fare-paying scheme will be less than or equal to commercial rates, but is likely to represent an increase greater than the rate of inflation when compared to 2012-2013 rates.
- 1.6 Proposed amendments are directed towards Cost effectiveness while maintaining the Council's ability to meet its statutory obligations. Legislation on which the policy is based already takes account of a wide range of needs including provisions for 'Low Income Families'. The full proposed policy with proposed changes is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.7 The document for consultation will be placed on the Council's Website for wider access by parents of pupils in Year 10 (due to transfer to post-16 education in September 2013), parents of pupils in Year 5 (due to transfer to secondary education in September 2013) and Parents of pupils in Nursery Schools and Nursery classes due to enter school in the 2013 following notification via schools. A summary is also provided to parents of pupils currently receiving Free Transport and emailed to all schools for further distribution to pupils.
- 1.8 It is proposed to carry out the consultation from 11 May - 15 June 2012.

Appendix A – 2013-14 Home to School Transport Policy - proposed

Appendix B – 2012-13 Home to School Transport Consultation Document