

# Individual Executive Member Decision

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<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Home to School Transport Policy for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Individual Executive Member Decision
<b>Date on which Decision is to be taken:</b>	23 May 2013
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	ID2662

**Purpose of Report:** To determine the policy for entitlement to home to school transport.

**Recommended Action:** To approve the Home to School Transport policy for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

**Reason for decision to be taken:** It is a statutory requirement that any change to the policy is consulted upon and formally approved.

**Other options considered:** None

**Key background documentation:** None

Portfolio Member Details	
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## Implications

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**Policy:** None

**Financial:** The savings for the next 3 years are £300k in 2013/2014, £200K in 2014/2015, and £200k in 2015/16

**Personnel:** None

**Legal/Procurement:** Education Services review the policy, which is consulted upon and approved by Members. Under a Service Level Agreement, the actual procurement is undertaken by Transport Services in accordance with the corporate procurement rules.

**Property:** None

**Risk Management:** Implementation is key to future council savings. Transport will be minimised to reduce costs.

<b>Is this item relevant to equality?</b>	Please tick relevant boxes		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:				
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Outcome</b> (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)				
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at <a href="http://www.westberks.gov.uk/eia">www.westberks.gov.uk/eia</a>				<input type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Consultation Responses

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### Members:

**Leader of Council:** Gordon Lundie contacted – no response received

**Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:** Brian Bedwell contacted – no response received

**Ward Members:** N/a

**Opposition Spokesperson:** Alan Macro contacted - no response received

**Local Stakeholders:** N/a

**Officers Consulted:** N/a

**Trade Union:** N/a

<b>Is this item subject to call-in?</b>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
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## Supporting Information

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Home to School Transport budget must deliver considerable savings for the next 3 years (£300k in 2013/2014, £200K in 2014/2015, and £200k in 2015/16). Papers have been presented to Members with regard to the Home to School Transport savings requirements and the action plan to achieve the savings has been approved.
- 1.2 The policy for 2013/14 and 2014/15 has been reviewed and updated to minimise transport provision to the statutory minimum, with the exception of some provision for transport to the catchment school and transport for post-16 SEN pupils in specific circumstances. This wholesale revision of the policy has been conducted in partnership with colleagues in Education, Transport and Legal, and also takes account of the latest cases which have been reviewed by the Local Government Ombudsman. The same policy applies to both academic years.
- 1.3 The Local Government Ombudsman has been clear that there is no obligation on Councils to provide home to school transport for any reasons other than those covered by statute, and the restriction of and/or removal of provision to the minimum level is reasonable.
- 1.4 Where transport provision changes and this affects families, the Education Service will work with the Safer Modes of Transport team to engage the community and encourage safe and appropriate alternatives e.g. walking buses, cycle training.

### 2. Consultation

- 2.1 A public consultation on the revised policy has taken place. There were 14 responses within the timeframe.
- 2.2 Most responses were generic stating how parents rely on transport and are hoping that their entitlement will not change. However, the responses did not include any specific comments about the policy. Where parents have asked specific questions in relation to their circumstances, individual responses have been given.
- 2.3 One lengthy response, with photographs, commented on a walking route designated as unsafe, and was concerned that the Council might re-designate this route as a safe walking route. This is not relevant to the policy, and a full response has been provided.
- 2.4 Where relevant and applicable, any points of clarification have been incorporated into the final policy.
- 2.5 There were no substantial objections raised during the consultation period.

### 3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 There is no decision to be made and therefore no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Home to School Transport policies for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 are approved.

#### **Appendices**

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Appendix A – Home to School Transport Policy 2013/2014

Appendix B – Home to School Transport Policy 2014/2015

Appendix C – Consultation Responses (as Appendix C contains personal details of respondents to the consultation, this will only be provided as Part II information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998)