

Individual Executive Member Decision

Home to School Transport Policy 2017/18

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date ID to be signed:	20 th October 2016
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Lynne Doherty
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	
Forward Plan Ref:	ID3108

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To review and approve the Home to School Transport Policy for 2017/18 (statutory requirement) following public consultation

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the Home to School Transport Policy for 2017/18

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** The Policy for 2016/17 underwent substantial change with the objectives of achieving £400k in savings for the mainstream budget. Some elements were for immediate implementation and others were phased in over 4 years. Early indications are that savings have been made, although the target value has not yet been reached. The Policy now contains very little discretionary transport, with a focus on minimising costs whilst meeting our statutory duty.
- 3.2 **Policy:** The Policy underwent significant change for 2016/17 as a result of the budget cuts round. The Policy for 2017/18 contains additional definitions and clarifications, but the entitlement within the Policy is unchanged. One additional area of discretionary transport has been added.
- 3.3 **Personnel:** n/a
- 3.4 **Legal:** The Home to School Transport Policy meets the legislative requirements for the provision of transport. The Policy underwent significant change for 2016/17 as a result of the budget cuts round, and was subject to substantial scrutiny and input from Legal colleagues. The 2017/18 Policy includes additional definitions and clarifications as discussed with Legal.

- 3.5 **Risk Management:** This is a demand-led budget, and there is always a risk that costs will increase due to more eligible pupils qualifying for transport, under the Council's statutory duty.
- 3.6 **Property:** n/a
- 3.7 **Other:** n/a

4. Consultation Responses

Members: All Members and Parish Councils

Leader of Council:

**Overview & Scrutiny
Management**

Commission Chairman:

Ward Members: All Members

**Opposition
Spokesperson:** Refer to paragraph 5.1 – Summary Report

Local Stakeholders: All Head teachers in West Berkshire. Refer to paragraph 4.2 – Summary Report

Officers Consulted:

Trade Union:

5. Other options considered

5.1 None

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix A - Supporting Information

6.2 Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 Appendix C – Verbatim Comments from the Public Consultation

6.4 Appendix D – Home to School Transport Policy 2017/18