

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Home to School Transport Policy 2012-13
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	20 July 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2297

Purpose of Report: To approve the Home to School Transport Policy for 2012-13

Recommended Action: Approval of Policy

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 2011/12
C&YP PDC Review Report - Executive Report Item 12
12.3.09
Proposed West Berkshire Home to School Transport Policy 2012/13
West Berkshire Consultation Document - May 2011

Portfolio Member Details	
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Implications

Policy:	As set out in the report
Financial:	Fare Paying charges have been increased by approximately 2.0%
Personnel:	None
Legal/Procurement:	None
Environmental:	None
Property:	None
Risk Management:	None
Equalities:	Equality Impact Assessment is to follow

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Councillor Graham Jones
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	Councillor Brian Bedwell
Ward Members:	N/A
Opposition Spokesperson:	Councillor Alan Macro
Local Stakeholders:	Wide consultation on proposed policy amendments including all in receipt of assistance - responses summarised in Appendix C
Officers Consulted:	Ian Pearson; Caroline Corcoran
Trade Union:	N/A

Is this item subject to call-in.	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

1. Background

- 1.1 Regulations require Local Authorities to determine a Home to School and College Transport Policy annually and publish details in an admissions composite prospectus (West Berkshire Parents Guides to Admissions) to enable parents to consider transportation implications when choosing preferred school places. These guides are published by September each year.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the 2012/13 policy remains unchanged from the 2011/12 policy other than to remove all sections that refer to, the availability of the Transport Partnership Funding in the Post 16 section of the policy. It is also proposed to apply an inflation factor of approximately 2.0% to the charges made for the fare-paying scheme, the details of which were clearly identified in the consultation document.
- 1.3 The government previously provided funding through the Post 16 Partnership Fund administered by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA). The Local authority, in the same way as other local authorities, received the funds and used them to support Post 16 students encountering difficulty with transport costs, on a needs basis. The government has withdrawn this funding and now gives it directly to the providers of the courses, that is, colleges and sixth forms through the new Bursary scheme. While the Council will continue to meet its obligation to Post 16 students through the Post 16 Travel Scheme as it did before, providers now have the obligation to give extra support in cases of additional need. The 2012/13 policy provides this information to students.
- 1.4 As the effects of the wide ranging policy review by the Children & Young People Policy Development Commission Task Group are not yet fully seen it is considered appropriate to keep the policy unchanged. The full proposed policy is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.5 A consultation document (Appendix B) outlining proposed fare-paying scheme charges was released as in previous years. The document was also 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 2012), parents of pupils in Year 5 (due to transfer to secondary education in September 2012) and Parents of pupils in Nursery Schools and Nursery classes due to enter school in the 2012 following notification via schools. It was also issued to parents currently receiving assistance.
- 1.6 Following the consultation responses it is proposed that the policy for 2012/13 with the inflationary factor applied to fare-paying charges is approved for 2012/13 with only the amendment described in 1.2 and 1.3 above relating to coming into line with changes in funding legislation and that all fare payers continue to be offered the opportunity to pay in two instalments as in the previous year.

Appendices

Appendix A – 2012-13 Home to School Transport Policy-proposed

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