

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Home to School Transport Policy 2011-12
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	15 July 2010
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2140

Purpose of Report: To approve the Home to School Transport Policy for 2011-12

Recommended Action: Approval of policy

Reason for decision to be taken: Statutory requirement

Statutory: **Non-Statutory:**
Other:

Other options considered:

Key background documentation: Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance - DCSF
West Berkshire Home to School Transport Policy 2010/11
C&YP PDC Review Report - Executive Report Item 12
12.3.09
Proposed West Berkshire Home to School Transport Policy 2011/12
West Berkshire Consultation Document - May 2010

Portfolio Member Details	
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Contact Officer Details	
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Implications

Policy: As set out in the report

Financial: The removal of discretionary denominational transport from 2010/11 will result in continued savings totalling an approximate £22,000 over a 5 year period - Fare Paying charges have been increased by approximately 1.9%

Personnel: None

Legal/Procurement: None

Environmental: None

Partnering: None

Property: None

Risk Management: None

Community Safety: None

Equalities: None

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Graham Jones

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Brian Bedwell

Select Committee Chairman: Irene Neil

Ward Members: N/A (All members received consultation document)

Opposition Spokesperson: 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

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 OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 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 each September.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the 2011/12 policy remains unchanged from the 2010/11 policy other than to apply an inflation factor of approximately 1.9% to the charges made for the fare-paying scheme, the details of which were clearly identified in the consultation document.
- 1.3 The consultation on proposed policy changes for the previous 2010/11 academic year was led by the outcomes from a Children & Young People Policy Development Commission Task Group, whose findings and recommendations were endorsed by the Executive in March 2009. As the effect of such a wide ranging policy review will not be fully seen prior to the 2010/11 year it is considered appropriate to keep the policy unchanged. The full proposed policy is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.4 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 2011), parents of pupils in Year 5 (due to transfer to secondary education in September 2011) and Parents of pupils in Nursery Schools and Nursery classes due to enter school in the 2011 following notification via schools. It was also issued to parents currently receiving assistance.
- 1.5 Responses to the consultation are summarised in Appendix C. Officer's comments are alongside the responder's comments.
- 1.6 Following the consultation responses it is proposed that the policy for 2010/11 with the inflationary factor applied to fare-paying charges is approved for 2011/12 without amendment.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Home to School and College Transport Policy 2010/11
- Appendix B – 2011/12 Consultation Document
- Appendix C – Consultation Responses