

Consultation Responses

No.	Paragraph in Policy	Summary of text	Comment
1	General Comments	<p>From: Grandparent of children receiving assistance</p> <p>Based on their experience 'of the excellent service provided' considers this to be a 'very fair policy document', etc.</p>	
2	General Comments	<p>From: Parent receiving transport</p> <p>'Have found the service to very useful and helpful'.</p>	
3	General Comments	<p>From: Parent receiving transport</p> <p>Supports existing special needs unit transport with escort.</p> <p>No issue with paying for siblings but cost can be prohibitive.</p> <p>Feels that paid (by parents) transport should be offered to all.</p>	
4	4.1. Fare Paying Scheme	<p>From: Parent receiving transport (Fare-payers within 3 miles walking route between Thatcham and Trinity school on transport exceptionally provided by Members.)</p> <p>Would prefer to keep paying in 3 instalments; first at expensive time of year and difficult with 3 children.</p> <p>Considers fare-paying scheme to be expensive with the second rise in charges.</p>	<p>Policy amended for 2010/11 year to move to 2 instalments to remove levels of non-payment for term 3.</p> <p>30% discount available for siblings.</p> <p>Exchequer able to consider payments in instalments after issue of invoice.</p>

		Request to keep to 3 instalments and bus pass is more expensive than previous public bus charge.	Application of inflation factor over the last year and proposed again this year. As above.
5	4.1. Fare Paying Scheme	From: Parent receiving transport (as above) Thinks fare is expense and would prefer 3 payments which are just about manageable.	
6	4.1. Fare Paying Scheme	From Parent (anon.) receiving transport (fare-payer) Querying move to 2 instalments; can only just afford 3. Request to be able to pay monthly. Feels that travel to school should be free if in catchment area – cost is ‘extortionate and unjustified’.	As above. Free transport is available to those attending nearest or catchment school in excess of the 2/3 mile limits.
7	2.1. Statutory Free School Transport	From: Parent receiving transport (Mortimer to Willink) This would not be an issue if there was a safe walking route footpath between the villages.	Investigation into the possibility of establishing a safe walking route between the villages will be undertaken over 2010/11.
	4.1. Fare Paying Scheme	Feels that this is a money making exercise to gain funds. Will be hard with 4 children.	Currently receiving free transport – will not be withdrawn unless a safe route is established.

8	3. Special Needs Transport	<p>From: Parent receiving transport (Special School)</p> <p>Disagree with policy as child unable to attend local school and cannot be afforded.</p>	<p>Misunderstanding of the proposed policy – no plan to remove free transport for children with statements of special educational needs at special schools that are unable to access the school within the normal 2/3 mile limits.</p>
9	5.1.2. Mileage Reimbursement for Parental Transport	<p>From: Parent receiving transport (mileage allowance)</p> <p>Current assistance appreciated. Query if there will be an inflationary rise in mileage allowances offered to parents</p>	<p>No proposal to increase mileage allowances. 2010/11 allowances was substantially increased from previous levels. The policy allows for negotiated levels of assistance if officers consider this to be a more cost effective way to provide transport – rather than provide a contracted vehicle.</p>
10	4.1. Fare Paying Scheme	<p>From: Parent receiving transport (Free)</p> <p>Query if the Council will be refunding money for days when schools are shut due to bad weather, etc.</p> <p>Reference to identified walking route in East Ilsley area being unsafe even though less than 3 miles distance.</p>	<p>No refund available for school closure. Council still incurs charges when schools shut due to bad weather.</p> <p>Misunderstanding. Free transport remains whilst Members consider route to be unsafe.</p>