

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 5 September, 2016

Report of the Cabinet Member for Building Services, Highways and Transportation

School and College Transport Policy

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Cabinet of the results of the consultation exercise carried out in respect of an amended school/college transport policy and to seek approval for the amended policy to be implemented from 1st September 2017.

Recommendations

1. T H A T Cabinet consider the feedback from the consultation exercise attached at [Appendix A](#).
2. T H A T Cabinet approves the publication of the revised school and college transport policy attached at [Appendix C](#) by 1st October 2016.
3. T H A T the use of article 14.14 of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised to enable the publication of the revised school and college transport policy attached at [Appendix C](#) by 1st October 2016.
4. T H A T Cabinet approves the revised school and college transport policy attached at [Appendix C](#) and agrees its implementation from 1st September 2017.

Reasons for the Recommendations

- 1-3 To ensure the policy is published by October 2016 so that it can be implemented from 1st September 2017.
4. To enable one transport policy document to be used for mainstream, additional learning needs and college transport.

Background

2. At present three distinct policies exist for mainstream school, additional learning needs and Post 16 College transport. On 9th May 2016 (Minute number C3175 refers) Cabinet agreed to undertake a consultation on a revised School and College Transport Policy and that the results of that consultation process be reported back to Cabinet.

3. The consultation process took place from Monday 13th June 2016 until Wednesday 20th July 2016. The relevant consultation documents were made available bilingually on the Council's website and also on request in paper format. Colleges, schools, parents/pupils, the Welsh Government, neighbouring authorities and community councils were all advised that the consultation process was taking place.
4. Scrutiny Committee (Environment and Regeneration) also considered the proposed revised policy on 17th May 2016 and agreed with Cabinet's recommendations made on 9th May 2016.

Relevant Issues and Options

5. Official written responses to the consultation were received from Barry Town Council, Welsh St Donats Community Council, Penarth Town Council, Vale of Glamorgan Youth Cabinet and an individual parent. Communication was also received verbally from neighbouring authorities and Welsh Government officials.
6. The written responses received can be found in [Appendix A](#) to this Report. Please note that all personal details in the responses have been redacted.
7. Although not many responses were received, this was expected as the combined policy saw little change with no effect on the majority of residents in the Vale of Glamorgan.
8. As a result of the representations received several changes have been made to the Draft Policy. The changes to the Draft Policy are tracked and shown at [Appendix B](#).
9. Although the response from a parent has been included as part of the responses to the consultation, this matter is being dealt with separately as it forms part of an education admissions issue.
10. [Appendix C](#) contains the final proposed Policy taking into account all of the consultation comments received.
11. The changes made to the Policy as a result of the consultation exercise enhance its clarity adding additional references to legislation and clearer definitions.
12. The Policy will be enacted from September 2017.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

13. There will be little immediate impact with the new policy as it will not be operational until September 2017. However, potential savings could be made with a reduction in the number of students that can claim Post 16 College transport.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

14. School and College transport assists in sustainability and helps to reduce car use for the journey to school and reduces traffic congestion. Accepting the change in policy could see a reduction in the numbers using school and college transport. This will be carefully monitored.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

15. The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure specifies that an Authority should only change an existing transport policy and /or arrangements at the beginning of a school year with the policy needing to be published by 1st October the year before it is to be implemented.

Crime and Disorder Implications

16. There are no crime and disorder implications as a result of the changes to the policy.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

17. Due to the amalgamation of the policies there is no impact on equal opportunities of the school transport policy. An equal opportunities scoping assessment has been undertaken on the Draft Policy and there was found to no adverse impact on the protected characteristics. The changes to the Policy made as a result of the consultation exercise are minor and do not therefore require a further equal opportunities assessment.

Corporate/Service Objectives

18. The relevant well being outcome is "An Environmentally Responsible Vale (W02)" and the relevant Objective is "O4 Promoting Sustainable Development and Protecting our environment". The objectives in this Report form part of the Transport Savings Project which intends to reduce the amount spend by the Council on passenger transport services.

Policy Framework and Budget

19. This is a matter for Executive decision.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

20. As this report affects all wards, individual members have not been consulted.

21. Relevant colleges, school, parents/pupils, Welsh Government, neighbouring authorities and community councils were all made aware of the consultation process.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

22. Environment and Regeneration

Background Papers

[Appendix A](#) - Consultation Responses received

[Appendix B](#) - School and College Transport Policy - Tracked Changes August 2016

[Appendix C](#) - School and College Transport Policy - Revised August 2016

Contact Officer

Kyle Phillips - Passenger Transport Manager

Officers Consulted

Committee Reports

Access and Policy Manager Education

Complex Needs and School Liaison Officer Education

Accountant Visible Services and Transport

Responsible Officer:

Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services