

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 5TH DECEMBER, 2022

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

**“C76 AMENDED SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TRANSPORT POLICY (DL/SP)
(SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

Following a complaint that was made to the Council regarding school transport from the Rhoose area to Cowbridge Comprehensive school, recommendations were made by the Public Services Ombudsman in March 2022 in relation to amending the School and College Transport Policy to make it clearer.

The Ombudsman requested that the Policy be updated to ensure consistency, clarity, and accuracy of phrasing in relation to the purchase of bus passes, school catchment areas and transport entitlement.

The proposed revised School and College Transport Policy was therefore published on the Council’s website on 12th July, 2022:

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/transportation/school_transport/School-and-College-Transport-Policy-2022-consultation.aspx

A total of 16 responses were received to the consultation which ran from Tuesday, 12th July, 2022 to Friday, 12th August, 2022.

Most responses to the consultation required clarification with only two leading to changes to the Policy document as well as a revised spare seat purchase form (Appendix D). The minor changes to the Policy were in red text within the proposed Policy document (Appendix A).

In order for the Revised Policy to be in force from 1st September, 2023, the new Policy needed to be placed on the Council’s website by 1st October, 2022.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the consultation responses and replies to each as contained at Appendix B to the report be agreed.

(2) T H A T the Revised School and College Transport Policy as attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.

(3) T H A T the use of paragraph 15.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be approved to allow the revised policy to be published on the Council's website by 1st October, 2022.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure Cabinet acknowledges the responses from the public consultation and subsequent answers to each.

(2) To ensure the revised policy document, which clarifies eligibility for free school transport, can be introduced.

(3) To ensure the Policy can be implemented from 1st September, 2023."