

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, the Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date:	18 June 2015
Subject:	Proposal for a Scrutiny Review on the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in Relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport

Summary:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is invited to consider a proposal for a scrutiny review on the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to approve the request to establish a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review entitled "Review on the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in Relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport."

1. Background

Constitutional Background

It is a requirement of the County Council's Constitution that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee considers whether to approve each proposal from a scrutiny committee for a scrutiny review.

Decision Making on Proposals

This Management Committee has previously specified the following guidelines that it should consider when approving a scrutiny review:

"It is important that in-depth reviews are: -

- *deliverable within a set timetable*
- *sufficiently focused on a particular aspect of a service*
- *not duplicating other significant review activity*
- *not related to a specific individual grievance or complaint*

Reviews should also, wherever possible:-

- *contribute to the overall objectives of the organisation*

- *reflect community concerns*
- *lead to potential achievable outcomes or improvements for the people of Lincolnshire.”*

In order to reach a decision, the Committee is asked to consider the proposal, which sets out the purpose and benefits of the proposed review, the completion date and also includes comments from the relevant Executive Councillor and Executive Director.

Rationale for the Scrutiny Review

During the past year a group of parents in villages north of Grantham have campaigned for changes to the Home to School and College Transport policy in respect of transport to the county's Grammar Schools. As part of this campaign, Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services, has received representations from the parents and met with their representatives and the local MP. Councillor Mrs Bradwell attended the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 24 April 2015 and asked the Committee to review the grammar school entitlement policy and consider whether any changes could and/or should be made to meet the parents' requests, and what the implications of changing the policy would be on schools/cost/parents etc. At its meeting on 24 April 2015, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed that this should be considered as the next topic for the Committee's scrutiny review.

A draft proposal was then considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 June 2015, and the Committee agreed to recommend that a Task and Finish Group should be established to investigate the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in Relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport.

The draft proposal, attached at Appendix A, includes comments from:

- Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services
- Debbie Barnes, Executive Director for Children's Services

Councillors B Adams and Mrs J Brockway have expressed an interest in taking part in the scrutiny review.

Establishment of Task and Finish Groups

If this Committee gives its approval to the review, a Task and Finish Group will be formed to progress the review. In accordance with the Constitution, the Task and Finish Group will consist of between five and nine members and, as far as possible, it should be politically balanced. Group Leaders will be approached to nominate members for the Task and Finish Group and will be informed of the members who have expressed an interest.

2. Conclusion

A key role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is to consider the approval of in-depth scrutiny reviews. The Committee is therefore asked to consider the proposal and to decide whether to progress this review.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing is required for this report.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Proposal for a Review on the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tracy Johnson, who can be contacted on 01522 552164 or tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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