

PROPOSAL FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW

(TO BE COMPLETED BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE)

The purpose of this scoping document is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) with information to make a decision on whether a scrutiny review could proceed on this topic. The following guidelines have been agreed as a basis for making decisions on topics for scrutiny reviews.

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:-

- *contribute to the overall objectives of the organisation*
- *reflect community concerns*
- *lead to potential achievable outcomes or improvements for the people of Lincolnshire*

DETAILS OF PROPOSED SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC

Title of Review	Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport
Committee	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Purpose of the Review	<p>To review Lincolnshire County Council's present policy on free transport to the County's grammar schools in respect of:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The existing entitlement criteria for home to school transport for grammar schools and the need for any geographical or other changes; b) Children across the County have access to grammar school education – does this automatically mean they are entitled to free school transport; c) Whether the policy creates any unfairness, real or perceived; d) The cost of the present policy; e) The potential costs or savings resulting from any changes; and f) Potential implications for all schools as a result of any changes.

Main Lines of Enquiry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consider key documents in relation to the grammar school transport policy. 2. To review the costs involved in providing the current level of transport to grammar schools. 3. To examine the current Designated Transport Areas (DTA's) for grammar schools and whether the DTA's stand up to scrutiny on the test of fairness. 4. To ascertain the views of parents, families and other stakeholders on the current grammar school transport policy and DTA's, and how the policy could be adapted to improve fairness. 5. To ascertain the views of schools in Lincolnshire on the current grammar school transport policy and DTAs, and the potential implications of any changes on the school. 6. To investigate potential savings or cost implications arising from any proposed changes to the grammar school transport policy. 	
Is there anything excluded from the review?	<p>This review is examining the discretionary transport support in relation to grammar schools. All other elements of the Home to School Transport Policy and Home to College Transport Policy, including all statutory provision and all other discretionary transport support, are excluded from this review.</p>	
Benefits of the Review	<p>This review will seek to ensure that the Council is providing a fair, consistent and affordable discretionary transport policy in relation to grammar schools across the county.</p>	
Risks and Implications (Legal / Financial / Resource)	<p>There will be a requirement for increased resources to support this review.</p> <p>There may be legal and/or financial issues identified during the course of the review and appropriate advice will be taken at the time.</p> <p>Personal data may be recorded during the review and this must be managed and reproduced in accordance with Data Protection legislation.</p> <p>Costs may arise from transport for councillors, officers and contributors and from holding meetings at alternative venues.</p> <p>An Impact Analysis will be required to support decision making in respect of the review.</p> <p>The major resource during this review relates to the time committed by Councillors, County Council officers and contributors from external organisations.</p>	
Deadlines for submission to:	Scrutiny Committee: 4 March 2016	Executive: 5 April 2016

Executive Councillor Comment	The Executive Councillor for Children's Services endorses the proposed scrutiny review. All Council policies must be seen to be fair and equitable, and a review of the transport policy that relates to Discretionary Grammar School Transport will allow current policy to be scrutinised.
Executive Director Comment	The Executive Director for Children Services supports this review. It is appropriate for the council to review if children who access grammar school education should automatically receive free school transport as per the current policy. It is important that the Council's home to school transport policy for grammar schools complies with legislation, is perceived as fair, is affordable, and doesn't disadvantage the sustainability of existing schools.
Any further information (including any relevant information relating to the guidelines)	<p>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. Following representations by the parents, and meetings with their representatives and the local MP, Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services, asked the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 24 April 2015 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.</p> <p>The Home to School and College Transport Policy is published annually by the County Council, in line with statutory requirements. It is amended as required by changes in the law or by decisions taken by the Council to change aspects of the policy. The Council may only amend those elements of the policy which are at its discretion. Statutory requirements in respect of school transport must always be met. Although the Council's policy comprises both statutory requirements and discretionary provision, the Council's grammar school transport policy is within the discretionary area of the policy. There is no statutory requirement to provide or pay for transport to a grammar school, unless the school is the nearest school over 3 miles to a pupil's home.</p> <p>The Council's Executive is not able to review the statutory elements of the policy, and as other discretionary elements of the policy are considered minor and as it is believed that the transport policy as presently constituted meets the needs of pupils, parents and young learners in the county, this request is therefore limited to an examination of the efficacy of the grammar school policy in meeting the needs of parents and children in the county and whether the scope of the present grammar school transport policy should be changed.</p>

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