

Policy and Scrutiny

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	05 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:

This report sets out a proposal for a scrutiny review on the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport to be carried out by a Task and Finish Group. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider this potential topic for a scrutiny review, and decide whether it wishes to submit the proposal to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for approval.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

1. agree whether the proposal for a review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport is a suitable topic for a scrutiny review, taking into account the guidelines;
2. if agreed, to discuss and approve the Proposal for Scrutiny Review for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for approval;
3. identify any members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee who may be interested in participating in a potential scrutiny review if the topic is agreed.

1. Background

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.

At its meeting on 24 April 2015, the Committee agreed that this should be considered as the next topic for the Committee's scrutiny review.

Attached at Appendix A is a draft Proposal for Scrutiny Review for the Committee to discuss and approve looking at the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport. The draft Proposal details the proposed remit and lines of enquiry for the review, the benefits of the review and what will be excluded, and the proposed timescale for completion.

Outlined below are the guidelines which the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will use when deciding whether a proposed topic for a scrutiny review should proceed:

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*

If the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agrees that the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport will be the topic for the next scrutiny review, the Proposal for Scrutiny Review will need to be discussed and, subject to any amendments, approved by the Committee. The purpose of this section is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee with information to make a decision on whether a scrutiny review could proceed on this topic.

If the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agrees to the proposed scrutiny review at its meeting on 18 June 2015, then a Task and Finish Group will be established and nominations will be sought from the leader of each political group.

2. Conclusion

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the proposal for a scrutiny review on the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport and decide whether it wishes to recommend this topic for its next scrutiny 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	Draft Proposal for Scrutiny 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.

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