

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	04 March 2016
Subject:	Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport - Draft Final Report

Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider the draft final report arising from the scrutiny review into the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport. Subject to the approval of the Committee, the report will be submitted to the Executive on 5 April 2016 for its consideration and response. This response will be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to

- (1) approve the attached draft final report on the Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport.
- (2) agree that the final report should be submitted to the Executive on 5 April 2016 for its consideration and response.

1. Background

A Task and Finish Group comprising nine non-executive County Councillors has undertaken a review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to discretionary Grammar School Transport. Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway was appointed the chairman of the Task and Finish Group.

The review was undertaken between September 2015 and February 2016. As part of the review, the Task and Finish Group met eight times, during which it has reviewed the current discretionary Grammar School Transport Policy and the costs involved in providing this policy, examined Grammar School Transport policies at other councils with grammar schools, and held an engagement day with Headteachers and Chair of Governors of a selection of grammar and non grammar schools, parents, campaign groups, and the Youth Cabinet. The Task and Finish Group has also examined a range of options for changing the current Grammar

School Transport Policy to address the issues and concerns raised by parents, schools and young people.

The Task and Finish Group initially planned to undertake more extensive consultation through two surveys, one for schools and one for parents, on potential changes to the Grammar School Transport Policy. However, after seeking advice from the Community Engagement Team, the Task and Finish Group was advised not to undertake such extensive consultation, because if the Task and Finish Group recommended changing the Grammar School Transport Policy which was subsequently agreed by the Executive, then a formal consultation process would need to be undertaken. It was highlighted that such extensive consultation by the Task and Finish Group could jeopardise a formal consultation process which would need to be undertaken if the policy was proposed to be changed. As a result, the Task and Finish Group held an engagement day instead with a selection of stakeholders to ascertain the issues and views in relation to the current Grammar School Transport Policy.

Furthermore, Legal Services advised the Task and Finish Group that an Equality Impact Analysis was not required for the scrutiny review and would only need to be carried out if a decision is taken to potentially change the Grammar School Transport Policy. Therefore, if the Executive decides to propose changing the Grammar School Transport Policy, an Equality Impact Analysis would then need to be carried out.

2. Conclusion

The Task and Finish Group has produced a final report containing one recommendation and this is attached as Appendix A to this report. The Committee is asked to consider the attached draft final report and decide whether to adopt the draft as its final report, with or without amendment.

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	Review of the Council’s Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport - Draft Final Report

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, Senior Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 552164 or tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk