

**TO: THE EXECUTIVE**  
**20 May 2014**

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**EDUCATION TRANSPORT POLICIES**  
**Director Children, Young People & Learning**

**1 PURPOSE OF DECISION**

- 1.1 To agree the Mainstream School Education Transport Policy 2015/16 and the Education Transport Policy for Post 16 for 2014/15

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Executive approves the Mainstream pupil Education Transport Policy 2015/16 attached as APPENDIX A.
- 2.2 That the Executive approves the Education Transport Policy for Post 16 students 2014/15 attached as APPENDIX B.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with statutory requirements to publish Education transport policies.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 No alternative option was considered

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Background

- 5.1 The LA's Transport Policy is a statutory document which has been split into three sections for ease for parents; two are attached. The policy for pupils with a statement of educational needs is amended and consulted on separately by the SEN Team.

- The Mainstream education Transport Policy is attached as APPENDIX A.
- The Post 16 education Transport Policy is attached as APPENDIX B

- 5.2 These policies set out the arrangements for providing assistance with education transport for children and young people who are resident in the Borough. The main texts of the policies have no significant changes apart from ensuring clarity on certain points.

Summary of the Proposed mainstream Policy

- 5.3 School transport is provided to assist children and young people to attend school or their place of education. Some children and young people are eligible by legislation for free assistance with transport. The Authority may provide assistance for other children and young people too, and the policies explain the circumstances in which such assistance may be offered. In accordance with legislation, its provisions are

based on the presumption that each young person's case and circumstances must be considered individually, and so it is expected that the authority will exercise its discretion in particular circumstances.

- 5.4 The policy relates to the provision of school transport to children of statutory school age, as from 1 September 2015. This date is chosen to allow adequate notice for people affected by it, especially those parents choosing secondary schools for their children during the autumn of 2014.
- 5.5 The policy explains which children and young people are eligible by legislation to receive assistance with transport. It also explains the types of transport that may be provided, how decisions about transport are made, how decisions can be reviewed and the standards of service expected.
- 5.6 The Government recently issues new guidance and the policy complies with this guidance.

#### Post 16 Policy

- 5.7 The Post 16 policy sets out eligibility for pupils aged 16 and over and under 19 on 1 September 2014, which is unchanged from the previous year.
- 5.8 The Government recently issues new guidance and the policy complies with this guidance.

#### Financial implications

- 5.9 The Children, Young People & Learning department is responsible for the cost impact from policy or legislative changes. Corporate Services are responsible for costs due to demographic changes. Any pressures will be dealt with through the Council's normal budget setting process.

#### Next Steps

- 5.10 The policy has been out to public consultation and there were no comments. The policy is unchanged (apart from updates to costs and dates) and it is now for the Executive to agree. Following this the next stage is to publish the policy.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### 6.1 Borough Solicitor

The relevant legal provisions are set out within the main body of the report.

### 6.2 Borough Treasurer

The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

### 6.3 Equalities Impact Assessment

Assessment has been carried out and is attached as Appendix C.

## 6.4 Strategic Risk Management Issues

Significant risks include:

ISSUE	RISK	COMMENT
1. Risk of parents/carers lodging transport appeals	LOW	Publishing transport policies which set out our approach and processes in detail protects the Council from appeals.
2. Risk of incurring home to school transport costs	MEDIUM	The transport policies clearly set out the circumstances under which transport would be payable which are in line with the government's guidelines.

## 7 CONSULTATION

The Policies were published in consultation with the Integrated Transport Unit Operations Manager. It was on the Bracknell Forest website from 31 January 2014 with comments invited until 14 March 2014

7.1 The following people and/or groups were also consulted:

- Home to School Working Group
- Dialogue Group
- Special Educational Needs Team
- Travel Plan Co-ordinator
- Commissioning Manager 14 Plus
- All students of 6<sup>th</sup> form age attending local Post 16 education establishments
- All local 6<sup>th</sup> form colleges
- Adviza

7.2 No comments were received in response to the consultation.

### Background Papers

- APPENDIX A Mainstream School Education Transport Policy 2015/16
- APPENDIX B Education Transport Policy for Post 16 2014/15
- APPENDIX C Equalities Impact Assessment

## 8 CONTACTS

### Contacts for further information

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