



## **SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 5 JULY 2013**

### **CONSULTATION ON HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICIES ON:-**

- a) 16+ transport to educational provision;
- b) transport to denominational schools;
- c) transport for pupils in moving to a new address in their final year(s) of each phase of their compulsory education.

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

#### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Commission of outcome of the recent public consultation into proposals to change some elements of the Mainstream Home to School Transport Policy. The Cabinet at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July will consider the responses to the consultation and decide whether to proceed with the proposed changes.
2. The Commission is asked to consider the outcome of the consultation and is invited to make comments on the proposals which will be taken into by the Cabinet.

#### **Proposals**

3. The proposed changes to the draft Mainstream Home to School Transport Policy that have been consulted upon involve changes to the policies as outlined below:-
  - (i) 16+ transport to educational provision - from September 2014 to continue to provide this at an annual charge for each pupil of £425 (up from £252 from September 2013) which recovers the full cost of provision. To introduce a new entitlement to free 16+ transport, for qualifying students from families on low income or in receipt of maximum Working Tax Credits, also from September 2014.
  - (ii) transport to denominational schools –
    - from September 2014 to continue providing this at an annual charge for each pupil of £450, (up from £252 from September 2013), with continuing concessions, at no charge, for students from families on low income;
    - from September 2015 onwards to cease this provision for any new students and also to phase it out for students part-way through their denominational education;
    - from September 2015 onwards, to apply full cost recovery at a yearly charge of £640 in 2015/16.
    - to continue to provide free transport for students from families on low income between 2 and 15 miles from school.

- (iii) Farepaying spaces – All farepaying spaces to be increased to £450 per academic year from September 2014 and then £640 in 2015/16 to be consistent with the proposed charge for denominational transport.
- (iv) Pupils in their final year(s) of each phase of their compulsory education, moving to a new address which is outside their current Transport Eligibility Area- from September 2013 these pupils will no longer be automatically provided with free transport.

### **Financial Implications**

4. Within the MTFs agreed by the County Council, a saving of £735,000 is built in against denominational and 16+ transport for 2014/15 rising to £1,100,000 from 2015/16 onwards (which breaks down as approximately £605,000 for 16+ transport and £350,000 for denominational school transport) and £145,000 for both the reduction in the final year cost for pupils moving address and an increase in the farepaying places.

### **Consultations**

5. The proposals outlined above have been the subject of consultation. The consultation commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> May and closes on 30<sup>th</sup> June. The Director of Environment and Transport will undertake an analysis of the consultation responses, the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment of the proposals and will be submitting a detailed report thereon to the Cabinet meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July. A copy of that report will be circulated to all members of the Commission as soon as it is published.

### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

6. A copy of the Cabinet report will be circulated to all Members under cover of the Members' News in Brief.

### **Officers to Contact**

Ian Drummond      Assistant Director, Transportation, Environment and Transport  
Department

Email: [ian.drummond@leics.gov.uk](mailto:ian.drummond@leics.gov.uk)      Tel: 0116 305 5990

Tony Kirk              Sustainable Travel Group Manager, Environment and Transport  
Department

Email: [tony.kirk@leics.gov.uk](mailto:tony.kirk@leics.gov.uk)      Tel: 0116 305 6270

### **Background Papers**

Mainstream Home-School/College Transport Policy (May 2012)

County Council minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013 approving the MTFs for 2013/14 to 2016/17