

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                      **12 MAY 2020**                      **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2**

**REPORT OF:**                              **Chief Officer (Education and Youth)**

**SUBJECT:**                                **REVIEW OF POST 16 SCHOOL / COLLEGE  
TRANSPORT CHARGING POLICY**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**

- (1) To note the implications of the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulation (PSVR) on the Council's Post 16 Discretionary Transport Policy;
- (2) To reverse the Cabinet decision made in June 2019 to introduce charging for Post 16 transport from September 2020; and
- (3) To note the financial impact of the recommended change of policy on our Medium Term Financial Strategy.

**DECISION:**                                As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS  
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**

All consultation was carried out at the time of the original proposal in line with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. Feedback from that consultation was that no charge at all would be preferable but there was an understanding of the Council's decision based on its financial circumstances. This would indicate that a removal of the charge would be welcomed by key stakeholders.

All Councillors and members of the public had the opportunity to provide any representations to the Democratic Services Manager before the Cabinet Member took the decision.

The Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which for this report was Councillor Dave Healey, Chair of Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee, commented as follows:

'I have read the documentation regarding the Review of the Post 16 School/College Transport Charging Policy. I know a number of Councillors, including myself, were not comfortable with the policy decision but we felt that we had little choice at the time.

Now the new PSVAR legislation gives us no choice but to reverse the decision taken. It is comforting to see that our good working relationship with Coleg Cambria is ensuring that the financial impact of this reversal can be mitigated.

I support the proposal which is under discussion'.

Councillor Dave Mackie had also made representations as detailed below:

'The Cabinet decision on 18 June 2019 in outline states that the charge be set at a maximum of £150 per term and students entitled to free school meals should not be charged.

Paragraph 1.13 of that report to Cabinet shows at Table 1 that at the £150 per term charging level and allowing for 15%FSM the income to the Council from Coleg Cambria students would be £574k. The current report states that Coleg Cambria have agreed to pay the Council the amount they intended to use to reimburse students, so that amount should still be received. I presume that the £215k which Coleg Cambria

normally pay to the Council will not be paid in addition to this.

Table 2 of paragraph 1.13 shows that at the £150 per term level and allowing for 15%FSM the income to the Council from Secondary Sixth Form students would be £172k.

I therefore feel that, bearing in mind the offer from Coleg Cambria, the financial implications of the decision to withdraw post 16 transport charging will be a reduction in income to the Council of £172k'.

In addition, he said:

SEPARATELY AND NOT PART OF THE CONSIDERATION HERE:

If this report was going to Scrutiny I would also ask a question based on paragraph 1.07 of the current report which reads "However it would not be reasonable or consistent for the Council to charge some students and not others i.e. to charge students attending secondary school sixth forms and not students attending Coleg Cambria". My question would be that as we now know that Coleg Cambria intend to refund travel costs to their own students, if secondary schools are not able to do the same then we will have the situation where some students will have to pay and others will not.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

Charging for Post 16 School Transport was one the reported "open risks" at the time of setting the 2020/21 budget.

The budget for 2020/21 provides for expected additional income of £0.449M based on the assumption that charging would be introduced from September

2020. The impact is £0.770 in a full financial year from 2021/22 onwards.

The developing financial solution through effective partnership working with Coleg Cambria will assist with mitigating the financial risk for 2020/21.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None.

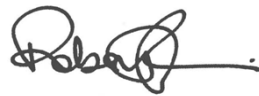
**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**SIGNED**



**(Proper Officer)**

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