

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** **EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **THURSDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**REPORT BY:** **EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FACILITATOR**

**SUBJECT:** **SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY – TASK & FINISH GROUP**

**1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To seek the Committee's views on setting up a Task & Finish Group to review the School Transport Policy.

**2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 In May 2013, Cabinet agreed to change discretionary denominational school transport policy. On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014, the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered an update report on progress made on the implementation of the revised school transport policy. During consideration of this report, the Committee resolved to note the update.

2.02 The Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee also considered the School Transport Policy at its meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, where the Committee noted the current Policy.

**3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 During the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, whilst considering the Education and Youth Improvement and Modernisation Strategy 2015-16 a number of questions were raised around Post 16 transport provision.

3.02 During the discussion, Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer proposed that a Task & Finish Group be set up to review the current School Transport Policy. The Committee resolved that:-

- That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to consider setting up a Task and Finish Group on school transportation.

3.03 A detailed review of the current School Transport Policy is being undertaken by officers within the Education and Youth Portfolio, focusing particularly around discretionary entitlement and costs.

3.03 A copy of the current School Transport Policy is attached at Appendix 1. The Committee is asked to consider whether to set up a Task & Finish Group to review the School Transport Policy.

**4.00 RECOMMENDATION**

4.01 That the Committee considers whether to set up a Task & Finish Group to review the current School Transport Policy.

**5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 None as a result of this report.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 None as a result of this report.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None as a result of this report.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None as a result of this report.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None as a result of this report.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None as a result of this report.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 The Member Engagement Manager has responded to being consulted on this report by drawing the committee's attention to paragraph 2.02 of the standard Forward Work Programme covering report which is submitted to all six overview & Scrutiny committees. This reads:

11.02 In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:-

1. will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and /or objectives?
2. Is it an area of major change or risk?
3. Are there issues of concern in performance?
4. Is there new Government guidance or legislation?
5. Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators /Internal Audit?

11.03 As has been noted within the report, this issue has already been considered by the committee twice in the past and noted. There is also a detailed review of the current School Transport Policy being undertaken by officers within the Education and Youth Portfolio, focusing particularly around discretionary entitlement and costs. In the circumstances, he has suggested that it would seem premature to set up a task and finish group.

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 – Current School Transport Policy

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

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