

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th November 2015
Report Subject	John Summers High School - Options for Home to School Transport
Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member for Education & Youth
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the meeting on 15th September 2015 Cabinet reaffirmed their commitment to review in detail options for future home to school transport arrangements for John Summers High School in the event of school closure.

Four possible options were outlined for further consideration. These are:

Option A: Apply current Home to School Transport Policy (attached as Appendix 1).

Option B: Apply current Home to School Transport Policy with consideration given to additional discretionary transport for families on income support who do not meet the mileage criteria and/or have large family groups over 2 children (in the current year groups) and are between 2-2.5 miles away from the school.

Option C: Apply discretionary transport arrangements for the full current pupil cohort to the partnering school (transport from home area).

Option D: Apply discretionary transport arrangements for the full current pupil cohort to the partnering school (transport provided from Queensferry campus only).

A ministerial decision regarding closure of the school from 31st August 2017 is expected in February 2016. By that time there would be 191 pupils on roll, according to current numbers. Although Hawarden High School would become the nearest school for some pupils, the majority of pupils within the existing John

Summers High School cohort would not gain a place through the admissions process at Hawarden High as most year groups in that school are already full. Therefore, Connah’s Quay High School is considered to be the “partnering” school.

An estimate of likely transport costs has been obtained for four possible transport options. It is based on the home addresses of the currently anticipated student cohort.

Individual mileage calculations to Connah’s Quay High School, taking in to account pupil’s home addresses, have been calculated using the Council’s “Routefinder” software and applied to each of the four options.

Projected costs should be treated with caution at this stage - although they provide an idea of likely costs. They are based on current tender prices and can fluctuate depending on fuel prices, insurance, wages etc. Transport from Riverside Caravan Park is included in each of the four options as this is considered to be a hazardous route to any school. Any other potentially hazardous routes would need to be assessed individually against the criteria if options A or B were agreed.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	That Cabinet considers each of the four options on transport provision.
2	That Cabinet agrees to support Option C, to apply discretionary transport arrangements for the full current pupil cohort to the partnering school from the student’s home area.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE SCHOOL TRANSPORT OPTIONS							
1.01	<p>Option A – Apply current Home to School Policy.</p> <p>Under this option, free transport would be provided for those living over 3 miles or between 2.5 and 3 miles and in receipt of income support/working tax credit. Under this option, approximately 140 pupils would be eligible for free transport.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Advantages</th> <th>Disadvantages</th> <th>Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Consistent application of current transport policy</td> <td>Excludes approximately 50 pupils, many of whom live over 2 miles from next nearest school</td> <td>£695/day or £132.050 per annum</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Advantages	Disadvantages	Cost	Consistent application of current transport policy	Excludes approximately 50 pupils, many of whom live over 2 miles from next nearest school	£695/day or £132.050 per annum
Advantages	Disadvantages	Cost						
Consistent application of current transport policy	Excludes approximately 50 pupils, many of whom live over 2 miles from next nearest school	£695/day or £132.050 per annum						
1.02	<p>Option B - Apply current Home to School Transport Policy with consideration given to additional discretionary transport for families on income support who do not meet the mileage criteria and/or have large</p>							

family groups over 2 children (in the current year groups) and are between 2-2.5 miles away from the school. Under this option, approximately 148 pupils would be eligible for free transport.

Advantages	Disadvantages	Cost
Free transport for children in large families	Excludes approximately 40 pupils, many of whom live over 2 miles	£695/day or £132,050 per annum

1.03 Option C - Apply discretionary transport arrangements for the full current pupil cohort to the partnering school (transport from home area). Approximately 191 pupils would be eligible (all pupils currently on roll).

Advantages	Disadvantages	Cost
Addressed concerns expressed by some consultees	Different pick up/drop off points depending on home address	£545/day or £169,100 per annum
All current pupils eligible	Most expensive option	

1.04 Option D - Apply discretionary transport arrangements for the full current pupil cohort to the partnering school (transport provided from Queensferry campus only). Approximately 191 pupils would be eligible (all pupils currently on roll).

Advantages	Disadvantages	Cost
Addressed concerns expressed by some consultees	Pupils would need to make own arrangements to arrive at Queensferry campus	£645/day or £122,550 per annum
All current pupils eligible		
Least expensive option		

2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

2.01 The estimated costs of transport options have been included above based on preliminary enquiries with transport operators. Actual transport costs can only be assessed accurately once all families have chosen their preferred school and numbers of pupils and routes are determined.

2.02 There is no specific budget allocated for the increased transport costs arising from either the closure of the 6th Form at John Summers High School or the consequences of closure of the school itself.

2.03 There is sufficient staff capacity in the Integrated Transport Unit to determine eligibility and arrange transport provision.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	No specific consultation is required at this stage. However, once Cabinet has agreed which transport option is appropriate, parents and pupils will be made fully aware of their transport entitlement in order that they may make informed decisions in the event that the school closes.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	A Programme Board is set up to oversee the implementation of the Chief Officer portfolio business plans and manage these risks in close detail, with reports being made to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny at key stages of decision-taking and, later, performance reporting and evaluation.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Home to School Transport Policy T:\Transport Policy 2015-2016.docx

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Not Applicable Contact Officer: Gill Yates Pupil Support Services Manager Telephone: 01352 704187 E-mail: gill.yates@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Routefinder: a mapping software system integrated in to the school admissions software which is used to measure distances accurately from home addresses to the front gate of a school. It measures using the shortest available route, taking in to account footpaths.