

<u>Date of Cabinet</u>	<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Cabinet Decision</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>	<u>Written Response</u>
23 July 2024	Learner Travel Policy	The Cabinet determined to progress Proposals 1, 2, 3 and 4 choosing to defer Proposal 5 - The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) the option of a 'personal transport budget', pending further investigation.	<p>SOSC 1 considered the Pre Decision report on <b>Learner Travel Consultation Outcome</b> at its meeting held on 18 July 2024 and made the following Recommendations to Cabinet, which were presented to the meeting of <b>Cabinet on 23 July 2024</b> by Cllr Winstanley as Acting Chair of SOSC 1 for the meeting:</p> <p><b>General Recommendations:</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 1</b> The Committee highlighted that as Corporate Parents, all Councillors have a responsibility to Care Experienced Children and young people and recommended that consideration of how they might be affected by the HTST proposals be explored as part of the Cabinet's decision.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 2</b> Evidence at the meeting suggested that the proposals could have a potential impact on attendance and educational outcomes of pupils, particularly in areas of higher social deprivation. Members recommended that if possible, prior to the decision of Cabinet, information and analysis be sought from other Local Authorities to understand the level of this impact in order to inform Cabinet's decision.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 3</b> The Committee highlighted the importance of communication with parents as well as children and young people regarding any potential changes or ways in which they may be affected and recommended that this be a priority following any decision, in order to ensure they are aware at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p><b>Proposal 1</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 4</b> The Committee highlighted various concerns regarding some of the routes to school currently regarded as safe, such as some areas having no pedestrian crossings, routes not being maintained and the lighting along them insufficient for dark winter evenings. The Committee therefore recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That all safe routes to schools be reviewed termly;</li> <li>• That a mechanism be provided for parents to provide feedback on any issues with the routes so that they can be rectified quickly.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendation 5</b> Members discussed the issue surrounding children and young people having to walk to school, potentially 3 miles under the new proposals, in various bad weather conditions, and then some pupils</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 1</b> The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 identifies the local authority's responsibilities to assess the transport needs of looked-after children. This is reflected in the current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy and is not proposed to change under the current policy proposals presented to Cabinet.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 2</b> It is not possible to directly associate poor attendance with school transport provision as there are multiple factors that can contribute to attendance rates. Unfortunately, given the timing of the Cabinet meeting (that is on 23 July 2024) which was shortly after the meeting of the SOSC 1 Meeting (that is 18 July 2024), there was insufficient time for officers to undertake any meaningful analysis of information or research that would satisfy the recommendation by the committee.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 3</b> Following the Cabinet decision, the earliest any policy change could be implemented would be from the start of the 2025-2026 school year in September 2025. Therefore, the local authority will ensure that during the course of the 2024-2025 school year, there is detailed communication to pupils, parents and carers on the impact of the policy changes.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 4</b> Previously, as identified in the report, routes were assessed by an independent consultant at considerable cost to the local authority. It would not be practicable or cost effective to assess routes on a regular basis unless there are significant changes to the route, for example, significant extra traffic caused by a large residential development.</p> <p>The mechanism for the assessment of routes is covered by the Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014 and this statutory guidance identifies the responsibilities on the local authority to allow challenge by pupil, parents and carers over the local authority's assessment of available walking routes to school.</p> <p><b>Recommendation 5</b></p>

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