

Baugh, Ben

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 09 January 2014 21:36
To: Baugh, Ben
Subject: Submission to the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Regarding the call-in of the Cabinet decision on Herefordshire Schools Transport Policy.

I am pleased that there is to be a review of the above matter. I could go on at some length about the way in which this policy has been implemented, notably after we had accepted the recommended school for our son who starts in John Masefield next September.

However, as the basis on which this decision appears to have been made is becoming clearer, I think the main question I want to see answered is **how does this policy actually make economic sense and save money for the Council Tax Payers of Herefordshire?** Looking at it very simply, there may be a small reduction in the cost of bussing pupils from Cradley to their closest school. However, this must be insignificant (even if it was £720 per pupil), when set against the c.£4,000 capitation grant that will be lost by the Herefordshire schools that will see some of their best pupils exported to adjoining counties. This will impact on overheads, leading to the need to reduce costs further, incurring restructuring costs.

What consideration has been given to the "Yes We Can" initiative? My son has been looking forward to going to John Masefield, where he has been encouraged to build relationships, through sport and other activities. Whichever school he goes to, it will split the youngsters in our community.

Finally, what about the carbon and road congestion implications from increased car use for school trips? How does the decision align with sustainability and environmental policies?

Please apply some common sense and look at the overall picture for Herefordshire.

Regards

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