

Baugh, Ben

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2014 22:25
To: Baugh, Ben
Subject: Dear Mr Baugh,

Dear Mr Baugh,

As a resident who has a child affected by the proposed changes to school transport, I would like to express my deepest concern about Council's decision to transport children to the nearest school as opposed to the designated school. While I fully understand that savings need to be made, I feel strongly that Council has not considered the wider implications on their own resources.

With regard to Scrutiny meeting concerning school transport, please find below questions I would like ask.

The original consultation process did not appear to be widespread or far reaching.

Can assurance be given, that every opportunity, using more than one means of communication, has been taken to fully consult with all stakeholders, including parents/carers and transport providers, before this decision was made?

Can it be clarified, how council has taken the views of the consultation into consideration, to make an informed decision?

It is not clear whether the council has considered any other proposals that would maximise benefits and minimise impact.

Is it clearly demonstrate that consideration has been given to models from neighbouring counties who have gone through similar processes?

Can the cost per child presented, (£720) be justified given that it is disproportionate to the costs in other counties?

The cost savings are not clear.

Have Council presented clear financial models or analyses, which demonstrate the impact savings from this single budget will have on the budgets in other areas?

Has council given due consideration to the impact on Herefordshire school budgets and on the future economic viability of Herefordshire County?

How will Council members be held to account without viable forecasting evidence?

Can council clarify the additional cost of more buses that be needed to address different year groups going to different schools.

Long term, wide spread implications do not seem to have been considered.

At a further cost to council, how will widespread policies change to reflect this single change, as it leaves much confusion?

Have council considered the long term negative economic impact on Herefordshire communities where the designated school is not the nearest school?

Is council satisfied that future generations educated out of County may not return to Herefordshire?

I do have other concerns and issues but given the timescale for responses, I would like the above to be addressed in the first instance.