

Baugh, Ben

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2014 09:10
To: Baugh, Ben
Cc: Harvey, Liz (Cllr)
Subject: RE: Scrutiny Meeting 15th Jan 14

Dear Ben,

Please accept these questions which I would welcome clarification on through the call-in process;

1. Has the decision taken into account the impact that may occur on people choosing to live in Cradley/Bosbury/Colwall if they need to pay for transport to their local Herefordshire school?
 - It is unclear that the families who moved to Herefordshire would have done so under a pay for school transport policy and there is a risk that the population mix in villages at county boundaries will be affected.
 - Changes in population mix could have an effect on the number of children attending local Primary Schools and potentially house prices and other aspects of community life.
2. Has the decision taken into account the effect of additional cars on the road travelling to John Masefield High School and particularly the safety aspects of a potentially significant number of cars entering and exiting the school entrance in the mornings and evenings?
 - This decision appear not to support the County transport policy.
 - The JMHS entrance is a narrow and complex junction on a busy through road in Ledbury. The mix of a large number of children and additional traffic could pose a danger to pedestrians.
 - The additional traffic may cause congestion and pollution effects.
3. Has the decision been informed by an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and has the modelling taken into account the financial impact on all affected groups?
 - It is clear that there are a number of affected groups including parents from a spectrum of social backgrounds, the schools both Primary and Secondary, communities, etc.
4. Have parents been asked if they are likely to drive their children into Ledbury or move them to the 'nearest' school, and what the impact on family life is likely to be of siblings going to different schools?
 - It is unclear that parents will pay a substantial amount of money for school transport when a low cost option might be to drive the student to school.
 - It is unclear that families would chose the option of zero cost transport to a new school for one child in a family of several children.
5. Have the predicted savings in the school bus budget been set against the financial impact of the loss of students out of Herefordshire and the potential economic impact of people with families moving out of county?
 - The county of Herefordshire will be paying for a student to leave the county and with them there will be revenue lost to a neighbouring county.
 - Schools losing students will have no choice but to reduce their costs. The fixed costs are likely to be inflexible. Variable cost will have to be adjusted. The largest component of variable costs is staff salaries.
 - It is likely that an immediate action will be to lose staff to balance the school budget. Jobs in Herefordshire will need to be lost.
6. Has the Council considered alternative options to make savings such as charging all students a proportion of the cost (it could be as low as £40 per year) to avoid discrimination against a chosen group who live in specific areas?

- Adopting an approach of supplying the statutory minimum transport in a student community which causes dramatically different treatment is not equitable.
7. Has the financial impact of the predicted loss of students been modelled for each of the affected schools year on year so that we are sure that the schools are financially robust to the loss and won't be caused to close which would create educational impacts?
 - Student numbers are the only source of financial income for schools. Creating a situation in which students leave the county means revenue will be lost to county schools.
 - It is not clear that all schools will be able to find a financial solution to the changing market conditions.
 - A school closure will increase the transport requirements on the county to transport affected students to their next nearest school.
 - A school closure would likely entail all students being transported to the next nearest school not just the lesser number who live beyond three miles.
 8. It looks like a simple financial model has been created to estimate the potential savings which it is recognised could be very unreliable. Has the question of how to make the required savings been discussed with all stakeholders including the affected school and the bus company to see what innovative solutions can be found that achieves the budget savings and maintains the current bus service.
 - For example, the school start and finish times could be changed to allow the bus company business to more efficiently deliver the students to school
 - The school could pay towards the transport costs where the effect of lost school revenue and potential staff redundancy cost make it economically viable to its business
 9. Has the model considered a set of statistical scenarios covering the likely behaviour of parents to the transport charges?
 - In any given affected community the parents have a finite number of discrete options. The student continues to use the current school bus at no cost to them, the student uses an additional bus to a new school at no cost to them, the student uses the current school bus and pays or the student is transported to school by car.
 - Only one option, the student uses the current school bus and pays, creates revenue for the council.
 - One option, the student uses an additional bus to a new school at no cost to them, increases the cost to the council.
 - Unless the revenue from the paying students is able to more than fund the additional bus the council will increase its cost.
 - A reasonable estimate might be that more parents will chose a zero (travel to another school) or low (travel by car) cost option than pay for transport.
 - Statistically it would appear that the outcome that council transport costs will be reduced in this scenario is low. At the same time it is certain that the likely outcome will lose students and revenue from Herefordshire.
 - The loss of every student is financially approximately 4 times more that the income from one student paying for transport.

I hope that all questions are valid and helpful to council members.

Please could you confirm receipt of the questions.

Regards



From: Baugh, Ben [mailto:bbaugh@herefordshire.gov.uk]
Sent: 07 January 2014 16:45
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Harvey, Liz (Cllr)
Subject: RE: Scrutiny Meeting 15th Jan 14

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the link to the agenda for the meeting is:

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=809&MId=5046&Ver=4>

You will see the following note:

Questions must be restricted to the grounds for the call-in - see pages 8/9 - and must be received no later than 5.00pm on Friday, 10 January 2014.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards, Ben

Ben Baugh
Governance Services
Herefordshire Council
bbaugh@herefordshire.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2014 08:54
To: Baugh, Ben
Cc: Harvey, Liz (Cllr)
Subject: Scrutiny Meeting 15th Jan 14

Dear Ben,

I have been passed your details by Liz Harvey.

I was wondering when you defined the 'no later than two working days before the meeting' for the meeting on 15th Jan (I am unsure of the time of the meeting).

I want to be very clear about the date and time you consider to be the cut off for answers to be generated for the meeting.

I am speaking with interested parents this Thursday in Cradley to make sure they are all away of the process in place and the types of question that can be submitted.

I look forward to your reply. Any helpful advice you can offer would be gratefully received,
Best wishes

[REDACTED]

“Any opinion expressed in this e-mail or any attached files are those of the individual and not necessarily those of Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG), Wye Valley NHS Trust or 2gether NHS Foundation Trust. You should be aware that Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG), Wye Valley NHS Trust & 2gether NHS Foundation Trust monitors its email service. This e-mail and any attached files are confidential and intended solely for the use of the addressee. This communication may contain material protected by law from being passed on. If you

are not the intended recipient and have received this e-mail in error, you are advised that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of it.”