

Baugh, Ben

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2014 14:26
To: Baugh, Ben
Subject: General Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting
Attachments: JMHS Newsletter January 2014.pdf

Dear Ben

CHANGES TO HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS AND POST 16 TRANSPORT POLICY

At the meeting on 19 December 2013 the Cabinet of Herefordshire Council decided to withdraw free home to school transport eligibility based upon **catchment** school and replace eligibility based upon **nearest** suitable school in England.

I live in Cradley and have four children, three who will be affected; one is in Yr 9 at John Masefield High School (JMHS), one is in Yr 7 at JMHS, and two are in Yr 5 at Cradley Primary School. Because the youngest three will not be eligible to free school transport from September 2014, I will have to send them out of the county which will disrupt and adversely affect their education. As I will have children attending different schools this decision will penalise my family financially, as well as **costing** Herefordshire Council **more** money to run **more** buses. Furthermore, JMHS will suffer reduced funding, affecting the quality of education provision and possibly jobs.

I understand that the decision has been 'called in' by the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

As a Herefordshire Council Tax payer, please would you instruct the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask the following questions:

1. I cannot see how running more buses from Cradley (and Colwall) to almost equidistant schools can possibly result in a cost saving; can the Council explain how their financial model predicts a cost saving in this specific case?
2. Have the Council consulted alternative transport providers or been in dialog with the current one to try to make the same level of savings?
3. The decision goes against the Council's *Yes We Can* plan to support children, young people and families. My family will be impacted financially and educationally. Can the council clarify how the decision better supports my children and family after it comes into effect?
4. How does the decision align with the Council's *Sustainable Modes of Transport Strategy for Schools* since more buses and/or more cars will necessarily be using, congesting and polluting Herefordshire roads after it comes into effect?

I would also like to see answers to the questions posed by the headmaster of JMHS (in the attached pdf) please!

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]