

**Baugh, Ben**

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 10 January 2014 16:34  
**To:** Baugh, Ben  
**Subject:** Question for the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee 15/01/14, School Transport Policy

Dear Mr Baugh

I understand that you are collating questions for the above committee on 15/01/14. I would be grateful if my questions could be raised as my Son will be effected by this new policy.

Have the council staff responsible for drawing up and approving this change of policy fully calculated the outcome of this change, as I understand a council report states that they can't forecast precisely what the actual financial savings will be as its too hard to do. If unable to say how much this is going to save, is there a question that it may actually increase the spending on school transport? The options could throw up two or three buses visiting some villages to transport children to various schools when at the moment only one or two visit at present. Have bus and coach operators been approached to see if vehicles and drivers are available along with the existing committed routes they operate? The council may end up paying for three partly filled rather than two fuller buses- how would that circumstance create a cost effective saving? Will it save £300,00.00?

The above question is just about the transportation implications but my second is the wider effect of Herefordshire based children leaving the county to be state educated. I assume that each child attracts a sum of money from either central or local government when they attend school. If that money is diverted to a different Education Authority, what effect will this have on how existing Herefordshire schools are funded? Will staff be made redundant and the costs of that process need to be factored into the decision. In some cases will whole schools close because of viability and if so, how much will it cost to transport the pupils to a new school(s)

I urge the General Overview and Scrutiny committee to look very carefully and deeply into this new policy so they are without a doubt, absolutely sure this is the way to save money. The implications of this policy are flawed , are far reaching and detrimental to the future of this county.

yours sincerely

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