

## **HOME TO SCHOOL/COLLEGE TRANSPORT – DISCRETIONARY AREAS OF POLICY**

**Report By: Head of Policy and Resources**

### **Wards Affected**

Countywide

### **Purpose**

1. To approve the remit, membership and timetable of a group to consider discretionary policies on home to school/college transport.

### **Financial Implications**

2. The financial implications of current and possible changes will be considered by the group.

### **Report**

3. At the meeting on 14th July, 2003, this Committee resolved to establish a group to consider those areas in which the Council currently operates discretionary arrangements i.e.
  - walking distances to pick up points
  - travelling home on school transport
  - denominational transport
  - charges for post-16 transport
  - charges for vacant seats
4. The range of options for modifying these policies should be considered, with an assessment of their implications for:
  - a. enrolments at schools in the County
  - b. the provision of school places as set out in the School Organisation Plan
  - c. school budgets
  - d. parents and families
  - e. the environment, especially overall traffic volumes and effects on traffic flows around the start and end of the school day.

5. It is proposed that the group comprise 6 members of this committee, namely -
  - (i) the representative of the R.C. Diocese
  - (ii) the representative of the Church of England Diocese
  - (iii) a representative of parents
  - (iv) the vice-chairman of the Scrutiny Committee
  - (v) 2 other councillors not involved in current Best Value reviews
6. The suggested work programme and timetable are as follows -

**By 10th October, 2003** Meeting to agree content of initial consultation

**13th October - 7th November** Consultation with relevant groups.

**November** Consideration of responses from Consultation

**By 24th December** Report of Group completed.

**January** Report to Scrutiny Committee.
7. It is understood that the Local Government Association and the Government are planning to publish policy statements on home to school transport during the week beginning 15th September. It is possible therefore that the focus and the composition of the proposed working group will need to be reconsidered when those statements have been published. Further details will be provided at the meeting on 23rd September or in a supplementary report to follow.

## RECOMMENDATION

- THAT (i) the proposed working group be established as indicated in this report;**
- (ii) the members of working group be nominated where necessary.**

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.