

## **SCHOOL TRANSPORT REVIEW - INTERIM REPORT**

**Report By: HEAD OF POLICY AND RESOURCES**

### **Wards Affected**

Countywide.

### **Purpose**

1. To inform the Committee about the work of the School Transport Review Group.

### **Financial Implications**

2. None at this stage.

### **Report**

3. The School Transport Review Group met on Tuesday, 3rd February and Monday, 15th March, and is due to meet immediately before the meeting of this committee.
4. Councillor B. Ashton has assumed the Chair for the working group. The Group is aiming to produce recommendations on discretionary policies for consideration by this Committee on 22nd June 2004 and on proposals for a pilot scheme to the meeting in October.
5. The Group has considered the Council's discretionary policies that currently apply in the following situations.

Boarding points - locations

Year 10/11 pupils who change home address and school catchment area.

Transport for pupils with church places at denominational schools.

Travelling times on routes

Vacant seats for all age groups

Post-16 Transport

Transport provision for under 5s

Public Service Routes – subsidy

Transport for pupils with Special Educational Needs

6. As part of the review, it was decided that there should be consultations with schools and colleges, neighbouring LEAs, the Learning and Skills Council, and Diocesan Education Authorities because of their obvious interest in matters relating to daily access to education. Those consultees were asked if they saw a need to amend any of the discretionary policies. The pattern of responses is set out in the table below.

	<b>Responses in favour of</b>	
	<b>(a)Status quo</b>	<b>(b) change</b>
1. Boarding Points	<b>29</b>	9
2. Yr 10/11 pupils changing address	<b>31</b>	6
3. Denominational Policy	15	<b>22</b>
4. Travelling Time	<b>39</b>	0
5. Vacant seats for all age groups	<b>34</b>	5
6. Post 16 Transport	<b>32</b>	6
7. Transport provision for under 5s	<b>26</b>	12
8. Public Service Route subsidy	<b>27</b>	3
9. SEN Transport - statutory aged	<b>16</b>	14
- Post 16	<b>16</b>	14
	<b>Responses in favour of</b>	
	<b>(a) Participating in Pilot</b>	<b>(b) Not participating in Pilot</b>
Pilot scheme	<b>24</b>	9

7. The group have asked for further reports to be prepared for and for further consultation on the alternative policy options that could be considered in the following areas: -
1. Denominational Transport
  2. Post 16 Transport
  3. Transport provision for under 5s
  4. Transport for children with SEN.
8. The options for change to be considered in a further round of consultation are to be discussed at the meeting to be held immediately preceding the meeting of this Committee on 5th April. If the group accept those options, they will be tabled at the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Committee note the report.**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**