

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 May 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Paid Privilege Transport Scheme – Amendment to Policy
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update and seek approval on the proposed amendment to the policy of 'paid privilege transport' to allow free provision for pupils with free school meal entitlement.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the amendment to the policy on the paid privilege transport scheme, whereby pupils allocated a privilege space on school transport who receive free school meal entitlement (priority 3), will access that place free of charge be endorsed.
- (2) that the recommendation to amend the policy, for introduction in 2019, be referred to the Executive Committee for approval.

3. Background

- 3.1. On 1 February 2010, the Executive Committee approved income generation on dedicated school transport contracts through the introduction of a paid privilege transport scheme.
- 3.2. Paid privilege transport places become available where there is spare capacity on an existing dedicated school contract. Over time, the privilege scheme has been refined to take account of priority situations.
- 3.3. The Executive Committee on 8 May 2018, approved a further amendment to the priority allocation with the introduction of a new priority for those pupils in receipt of free school meals (priority 3).
- 3.4. The average cost of running school transport within South Lanarkshire is £3.62 per day, however, privilege transport is subsidised and currently charged at a rate of £1 per day, £190 per annum. This will increase to £1.05 from August 2019, £199.50 per annum.
- 3.5. It is worth highlighting that privilege transport may be withdrawn at short notice if there is a requirement to cater for an eligible child, and there is no spare capacity on the bus. It is only valid for the school session for which it is granted. Applications are held on file and reviewed each year, and assessed against the number of spare seats available on individual bus contracts.

4. Proposals

- 4.1. In school session 2018/19, allocated privilege transport places were available to 36 children within the new priority 3 category (potential income of £6,840). Only 17 children took up the places, which generated income of £3,230.
- 4.2. As part of the Council's commitment to tackling poverty, the Education Resources Committee is asked to endorse the proposal to waive the charge for a privilege transport place within priority 3 (for those with free school meal entitlement).
- 4.3. The current and proposed revised priorities for the allocation of paid privilege transport places effective from school session 2019/20 are outlined in Appendix 1.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. None.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The loss of potential income with regards free school meal entitled children receiving a free privilege transport place could be £3,230 per annum based on current uptake.
- 6.2. Given the average uptake number of privilege places available each year any anticipated loss of income would be managed from within Education Resources overall budget.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There are no significant risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 7.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. An equality impact assessment has been undertaken.
- 8.2. Consultation has taken place with a range of stakeholders.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

10 April 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- Raise standards in literacy and numeracy and close the poverty related attainment gap.

Previous References

- Education Resources Committee 24 April 2018
- Executive Committee 16 May 2018

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact
Lynn Sherry:- Head of Education (Support Services and School Estate)

Ext: 5620 (Tel: 01698 455620)

E-mail: lynn.sherry@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

South Lanarkshire Council

Paid Privilege Transport Scheme

Priority Allocation

- **Priority 1** - pupils whose family circumstances have been disrupted due to a health condition which affects their immediate carer. In these circumstances we will need supporting documentation from an appropriate agency such as the NHS or Social Work.
- **Priority 2** - pupils whose family circumstances have been disrupted due to a significant change to the child or young person's home life. In these circumstances we will need supporting documentation from an appropriate agency such as the NHS or Social Work.
- **Priority 3 - pupils who are entitled to free school meals. Places will be issued to pupils who live further from the school until all the places have been allocated. ****
- **Priority 4** - pupils whose permanent home address is within the catchment area. Places will be issued to pupils who live further from the school until all the places have been allocated.
- **Priority 5** - pupils whose permanent home address is outwith the catchment area. Places will be issued to pupils who live further from the school until all the places have been allocated.

**** Note**

Proposed change from school session 2019/2020 - Any privilege transport allocation made under priority 3 will be free of charge.