

Report

Report to: **Executive Committee**
Date of Meeting: **2 March 2022**
Report by: **Chief Executive**

Subject: **Recommendation Referred by Education Resources Committee**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval of the undernoted recommendation referred to this Committee by the Education Resources Committee at its meeting on 8 February 2022

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the recommendation referred by the Education Resources Committee that, with effect from 1 January 2022, the Council no longer charge pupils who access a privilege transport place be approved.

3. Background

3.1 **Recommendation Referred by the Education Resources Committee of 8 February 2022 – Proposal to Cease Charging for Privilege Transport Places on Mainstream School Transport - Extract of Minute**

A report dated 18 January 2022 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a proposal to remove charging for privilege transport places on mainstream school transport with effect from 1 January 2022.

Paid privilege transport, charged at a rate of £1.09 per day, was provided only when there was spare capacity on existing mainstream school transport contracts. The priorities for the allocation of available places were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Information was given on the Public Services Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR) which requires buses and coaches designed to carry over 22 passengers on local and scheduled routes, to incorporate features to enable disabled people to travel on them comfortably and safely, including wheelchair space and a ramp or lift. Those Regulations also applied to any coaches manufactured before 2005. Notification had been received that the date of enforcement of the PSVAR had been changed from 31 December 2021 to July 2022.

Not all school transport contract providers would be able to comply with the PSVAR, consequently, this would lead to an inconsistent charging approach whereby the Council would only be able to charge for privilege places on those contracts which met the terms of the Regulations.

Consideration had been given to:-

- ◆ the current national free travel scheme for children and young people aged under 22
- ◆ how the removal of charges might assist families who continued to face financial challenges due to the impact of the pandemic

In view of the above and, in advance of the new Regulations coming into force, it was proposed that, with effect from 1 January 2022, the Council no longer charge for privilege transport places.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee:

that the proposal for the Council to no longer charge for those pupils accessing a privilege transport place, with effect from 1 January 2022, be approved.

- 3.2 A link to the report submitted to the Education Resources Committee of 8 February 2022 is provided below for information.

[.Proposal to Cease Charging for Privilege Transport Places on Mainstream School Transport.docx](#)

4. Employee Implications

- 4.1. Any employee implications were highlighted as part of the original report to the Education Resources Committee.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Any financial implications were highlighted as part of the original report to the Education Resources Committee.

6. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 6.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. Any risks or other implications were highlighted as part of the original report to the Education Resource Committee.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. There is no requirement to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment or consultation in terms of the proposals contained in this report.

Cleland Sneddon
Chief Executive

15 February 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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