

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (2)

Meeting: Denominational Home-to-School Transport - rapid scrutiny exercise
Place: Council Chamber - Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham
Date: Thursday 8 September 2011
Time: 6.30 pm

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 31 August 2011. This supplement includes some information that was missing from the original agenda (details below).

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This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

5. **Denominational Home-to-School Transport** (Pages 1 - 6)

Doc C – Additional information – App 1 and 1a (Modelling of Financial Implications...)

The version included within the agenda (p. 37) was missing the spreadsheet showing Financial Implications for Primary Schools Budgets of Changes to Denominational Transport. This is now attached.

Doc B – Denominational Home-to-School Transport (report to Cabinet)

Please replace pages 10–11 of the original agenda with those enclosed here. They contain updated information about meetings with consultees not contained in the version of the Cabinet report circulated with the agenda.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2 September 2011

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	AWPU Value 2011/12
Year 7	£ 3,229.93
Year 8	£ 3,229.93
Year 9	£ 3,229.93

AWPU = Age Weighted Pupil Unit

School

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School	NOR Jan 2011	School Budget Share 2011/12	Potential Pupil Movement if all pupils return to "home" school				Total	Associated Movement in AWPU Funding in following financial year if ALL Yr 7-9 Pupils Move				Trigger Increase in Year?	Assume 25% from St Augustines and St Gregory's move
			Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9			Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Total		
								£	£	£	£		
1	730	3,612,773	0	0	1	1	0	0	3,230	3,230		0	
2	1200	5,717,491	1	1	1	3	3,230	3,230	3,230	9,690		2,422	
3	1427	6,551,621	10	0	0	10	32,299	0	0	32,299		8,075	
4	1312	5,924,623	0	4	2	6	0	12,920	6,460	19,380		4,845	
5	874	4,534,878	5	8	6	19	16,150	25,839	19,380	61,369		15,342	
6	1203	5,688,603	14	19	3	36	45,219	61,369	9,690	116,278		29,069	
	1114	5,379,037	16	10	30	56	51,679	32,299	96,898	180,876	yes	45,219	
	359	1,910,678	0	0	1	1	0	0	3,230	3,230		0	
	394	2,092,154	0	0	(1)	(1)	0	0	(3,230)	(3,230)		0	
	1218	5,968,940	3	1	3	7	9,690	3,230	9,690	22,610		5,652	
	972	4,507,602	(55)	(53)	(56)	(164)	(177,646)	(171,187)	(180,876)	(529,709)		(132,427)	
	1506	6,982,072	8	9	12	29	25,839	29,069	38,759	93,668		23,417	
	1081	5,067,608	9	9	5	23	29,069	29,069	16,150	74,289		18,572	
	1423	6,813,810	0	0	1	1	0	0	3,230	3,230		0	
			11	8	8	27	35,529	25,839	25,839	87,208		20,187	

Notes

- Figures used are those provided by Admissions Service in separate briefing note - assumes all pupils in year 7-9 return to "home" school. As yet no indication that this would be the situation. 25% movement of pupils from St Augustine's and St Gregory's (Bath) also shown.
- Only movements in pupil numbers associated with changes in transport are shown - this would not be the only pupil movement from year to year
- Overall increase in cost because assumes pupils return to Wiltshire from St Gregory's (Bath) and St Joseph's (Swindon) this increase would be funded in the overall DSG settlement for the following financial year
- Assumes all schools are maintained by the LA - some are, or will have, converted to academy status before the date of implementation and will be funded by the YPLA
- Increases/decreases in pupil numbers are reflected in the budget for each maintained school in the following financial year, changes for academies are reflected immediately as schools are funded on an academic year basis and reflect pupil numbers in the September at the start of the financial year
- 1 school may receive an in year increase in funding as a result of a significant increase in pupil numbers
- 25% movement assumes reduction equally spread across year groups

	Total places req'd	Estimated Impact on AWPU Funding if ALL Pupils move to "home" school	Estimated Impact on AWPU Funding if 25% Pupils move to "home" school
1	8	20,279	5,070
2	1	2,522	631
3	2	5,045	1,261
4	4	10,052	2,513
5	3	7,704	1,926
6	1	2,522	631
7	1	2,522	631
8	4	9,984	2,496
9	1	2,522	631
10	1	2,522	631
11	5	12,681	3,170
12	12	30,332	7,583
13	1	2,522	631
14	4	10,227	2,557
15	1	2,522	631
16	2	5,045	1,261
17	1	2,522	631
18	2	5,045	1,261
19	1	2,522	631
20	2	5,045	1,261
21	2	5,045	1,261
22	-1	(2,522)	(631)
23	-30	(76,034)	(19,009)
24	-9	(22,702)	(5,676)
25	-3	(7,567)	(1,892)
26	-3	(7,567)	(1,892)
27	-3	(7,567)	(1,892)
28	-9	(22,702)	(5,676)
29	-1	(2,522)	(631)
		0	0

Spread across a number of schools in one town

Notes

- 1 Figures used are those provided by Admissions Service in separate briefing note - assumes all pupils transfer to "home" school. As yet no indication that this would be the situation. 25% movement of pupils also shown.
- 2 Only movements in pupil numbers associated with changes in transport are shown - this would not be the only pupil movement from year to year
- 3 **Assumes all schools are maintained by the LA** - some are, or will have, converted to academy status before the date of implementation and will be funded by the Education Funding Agency
- 4 Increases/decreases in pupil numbers are reflected in the budget for each maintained school in the following financial year, changes for academies are reflected immediately as schools are funded on an academic year basis and reflect pupil numbers in the September at the start of the financial year
- 5 25% model assumes numbers spread across year groups equally

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet
13 September 2011

Subject: Denominational Home-to-School Transport

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dick Tonge - Highways and Transport

Key Decision: Yes

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for a change to the Council's Education Transport Policy in respect of denominational home-to-school transport in order to achieve financial savings.

Background

2. As a result of significant budget pressures, the Council has had to review all the services it currently provides. As far as is possible, it is seeking to make savings from improvements in efficiency and procurement, but these are not enough on their own and it has also been necessary to consider whether it can continue to afford to provide services that are discretionary – i.e. not required by law.
3. Currently, the Council provides subsidised home-to-school transport for children attending a denominational school on grounds of their religion; this is over and above that provided for children not attending a denominational school. This assistance is discretionary and was reviewed in 2006/7, at which time a charge was introduced. Information about the current scheme (number of pupils benefiting, the schools attended, and the cost of the transport) is attached as **Appendix 1**. It can be seen that the current charge to parents only covers a proportion (on average around half) of the cost. The law requires local authorities to provide free home-to-school transport for children attending the nearest denominational secondary school where the child receives free school meals or the parent receives the maximum level of Working Tax Credit for their case, and where the school is at least two miles, and no more than 15 miles, from home. In all three options the Council will continue to provide free transport in these circumstances.
4. A letter was sent on 5 May to all parents receiving denominational transport assistance, to the headteachers of affected schools, and to the Clifton Diocese, explaining the Council's proposals and stating that Cabinet would be asked to approve proposals at its meeting in July. In order to make it clear what channels were available for representations to be made to the Council about the proposals, a further letter was sent to the parents and headteachers on 27 May giving details of the date and venue of the Cabinet meeting and of the rights to attend that meeting, and explaining how representations could be made. A letter was subsequently also sent to the Bath and Wells and Salisbury Church of England Dioceses in respect of the small number of Church of England children also affected.

5. At the Cabinet meeting on 24 May the Leader of the Council emphasised that no decision had been made by Cabinet, and that the decision would be made at their meeting on 26 July. It was later decided to defer consideration of the proposals until the Cabinet meeting on 13 September, so that it would not coincide with the school holidays. The deadline for written comments on the proposals was also extended to 8 August.
6. The proposals were considered by the Children's Services Select Committee at its meeting on 22 July. The Committee resolved to set up a Rapid Scrutiny Task Group, the recommendations of which will be reported to Cabinet on 13 September.
7. There have been two meetings involving, variously, the Chairman of Governors and the Headmaster of St. Augustine's School, the Chairman of Governors and other representatives of St. Patrick's School, Corsham, representatives of the Clifton Diocese and the Parish Priest of Devizes. The Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members, the Portfolio Holder and officers of the Department for Children and Education and Department of Neighbourhood and Planning attended.
8. A summary of the representations received, and the issues raised (together with the Council's response to these), is attached as **Appendix 2**.
9. Following consideration of the representations received, and of the financial, environmental, legal and equalities impacts outlined below, three options are now put forward for Cabinet to consider: