

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT POLICY, THE PROPOSAL ON WHICH THE
CONSULTATION EXERCISE WAS CARRIED OUT AND
THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL**

Current:

- Free transport for primary pupils up to 5 miles
- Free transport for secondary pupils up to 10 miles
- Post-16 charged as others who qualify under the scheme
- Daily allowances payable to 'above distance' parents towards the cost

Proposed at 20th June 2006:

- Free transport for entitled primary and secondary pupils – eligibility by benefits to be determined
- Subsidised cost of £270 for primary pupils up to 5 miles (2 or 3 mile qualifying distance according to age)
- Free secondary transport for those eligible above (plus those who are eligible under general school transport policy from September 2007).
- Post-16 charged as others who qualify under the scheme

Alternative proposal at 5th September 2006:

The features of the alternative proposal are:

- (i) Confirmation that parents are 'adherents to and practising members of the religious denomination stated' would be reviewed annually by a Panel of representatives of the local church(es) and the school(s). An LEA representative would be invited to observe the working of the Panels.
- (ii) Three levels of charging are proposed:
 - primary pupils would be charged at £45 per term (six term year, ie £270 per annum) subject to living the minimum qualifying distance from the school
 - secondary pupils would be charged £45 per term (£270 per annum) if living between 3 and 5.99 miles from school
 - £55 per term (£330 per annum) if living between 6 and 9.99 miles from school and
 - £60 per term (£360 per annum) above that distance, providing the pupil is attending the designated denominational school.

- (iii) A facility for payment by standing order in eight instalments (August to March) for the total annual charge and for payments by credit card or cheque would be made available.
- (iv) The charges would apply only to those commencing Year R or Year 7 (as applicable) from September 2007 onwards ie the charges will not be applicable to those already attending.
- (v) These charges would rise annually in line with transport inflation costs but no higher than this.
- (vi) Families on lower income levels would be able to receive free passes, subject to the qualifying clauses to be specified in the Education and Inspections Act (anticipated at the end of this year).
- (vii) Free transport would also be available for those who qualify under the general school transport policy i.e. on opted grounds, shared site etc.
- (viii) The new arrangements would be reviewed after they have been in place for two years, in preparation for the 2010-11 budget.