

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 July 2011

Item No. 5 – Petitions Denominational Home to School Transport

Council is asked to consider the following petition which will be presented by Mr Michael Stevenson MBE, Chair of Governors, St Augustine's Catholic College, Trowbridge:

Petition to Wiltshire Council

In September 2007 Wiltshire Council changed the home to school transport from a free scheme to one where parents currently already make a substantial contribution of up to £418 per year per child. Our Catholic Secondary School St Augustine's Catholic College received a letter on the 5 May 2011 from Wiltshire Council informing them of their intention to cease discretionary home to school transport for students in Years 7-11 attending this college from September 2012. The Council wish to make savings of around £170,000. It states that Wiltshire Council will notify parents directly affected by this decision, in writing, in the next few days; their decision to do this will be taken at the Cabinet meeting in July 2011.

We are asking that Catholic communities across Wiltshire should have an open and fair consultation on this important matter; it is unacceptable to simply inform those affected when changing a key policy. The consultation should be thorough, it should set out to contact all interested parties including the families of current and prospective students, Catholic Parishes in Wiltshire, the Diocese of Clifton, our Catholic Schools and other faith schools and their respective organisations. The findings and the full implications should be published and any options fully discussed with our communities before a decision is taken.

Please sign below if you agree to a full consultation being conducted before any decision is made:

The petition has approximately 450 signatories, an updated figure will be provided at the meeting.