

Divisions Affected - All

REPORT OF THE PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY WORKING GROUP

Cllr Nigel Simpson
Chair of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee
April 2023

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to —
 - a) Agree to respond to the recommendations contained in the body of the report of the Home to School Transport Policy Working Group report (Annex A), and
 - b) Agree that relevant officers will continue to update Scrutiny for 12 months on progress made against actions committed to in response to the recommendations, or until they are completed (if earlier).

REQUIREMENT TO RESPOND

2. In accordance with section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee hereby requires that, within two months of the consideration of this report, the Cabinet publish a response to this report and its recommendations.

SUMMARY

3. The Home to School Transport Policy Working Group was established by the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider the Home to School Transport Policy, to provide a review of the existing policy, identify financial pressures and the methods for achieving savings associated with the agreed 2022/23 budget, and to make recommendations to Cabinet in accordance with the Council's stated strategic direction particularly in relation to reducing its climate impact.
4. The Working Group acknowledges the significant financial pressures facing this policy area and supports the Council's commitment to equitable policies and agrees and supports the Council's commitment to decarbonise home to school transport as quickly as practicable.

5. Overall, the Working Group was assured of, and supports, the council's plans and progress and makes a number of recommendations to improve this work further.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The People Overview & Scrutiny Committee endorses the recommendations set out in the report of the Home to School Transport Policy Working Group (Annex A).

NEXT STEPS

7. The People Overview & Scrutiny Committee will review the published Cabinet response to this report and its recommendations at the meeting of the Committee after Cabinet's response in accordance with part 6.2, 13(f), of the Constitution of the Council.
8. The Committee does not intend to examine the provision of Home to School Transport again in this municipal year.

Annex:	A - Report of the Home to School Transport Policy Working Group B – Pro-forma template – response to recommendations
Background papers:	School Admissions Code 2021, DfE (statutory guidance) Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance, 2014, DfE Post-16 transport and travel support to education and training, January 2019, DfE (statutory guidance) Oxfordshire County Council's Home to School Transport Policy
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