

**PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
4 FEBRUARY 2016**

**CALL IN OF A DECISION BY THE CABINET –
HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL POLICY**

A request has been received to call in the decision for scrutiny by the following Councillors:

Councillor Waine
Councillor Howson
Councillor Bartington
Councillor Carter
Councillor Corkin
Councillor Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Councillor Matelot
Councillor Gill Sanders
Councillor Turnbull

The background and reasons given for the request by the councillors are:

Cabinet at its meeting on 19th June 2018 agreed all the recommendations in respect to Agenda Item 7 - Home to School Transport and Travel Policy. The resolutions to Cabinet made by the Extraordinary Meeting of the Education Scrutiny Committee were not directly referred to or responded to, and still stand.

Further to this, and more importantly, the Director of Children Services gave a range of verbal re-assurances and interpretations regarding the policy document to the Cabinet Meeting. These were not available to the Education Scrutiny Committee and materially changed the policy as written and discussed by the Education Scrutiny Committee.

The statement by the Director that no SEND child would fail to have a Post 16 placement at an appropriate school or college because of transport costs was not in the policy document or accompanying papers, and therefore not understood by the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Various funds, either held by OCC, schools or colleges, were referred to as being the necessary support for pupils ineligible for free transport under the proposed policy. This was not the understanding of the Committee, both in regard to normal travel from home to school or respite provision, as these funds were either discretionary or cash limited and thereby insufficient to guarantee to meet the needs of those children affected. No information was given in the document as to how this funding would operate and what levels of funding would be available to individual children. It is not now clear whether there is now additionally a cash fund for travel to and from education provision as well as respite care and the after school fund mentioned in the policy, all managed by the County Council using County Council funds.

In the absence of significant information, interpretations, and re-assurances to the Education Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 19th June we believe that further consideration needs to be given to the effectiveness of the proposed changes to the current Home to School Transport and Travel Policy agreed at Cabinet in relation to (POST 16) SEND Travel and Transport and ask that that the decision of Cabinet is Called-in so that the Education Scrutiny Committee can consider the additional information and interpretation presented at the Cabinet Meeting.”