

## CABINET – 17 JULY 2018

### PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REFERRAL OF CABINET DECISION ON HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL POLICY

#### Background

1. At its meeting on 5 July 2018 the Performance Scrutiny Committee discussed the Call-In of Cabinet's decision to make changes to the Home to School Transport and Travel Policy. The Call-In specifically focused on the decision to end the automatic free travel policy for post-16 students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) whose nearest suitable placement is more than 3 miles from their home. In particular, the reasons for the Call-In were:
  - the discrepancy between the information considered by Scrutiny before the decision and what was available to the Cabinet when making the decision;
  - the availability of various alternative cash funds to support post-16 SEND student travel, where these are discretionary or limited and may already be used to support respite care and after-school activities;
  - the confusion about how families should access various sources of alternative funding to support home to school transport for post-16 SEND students.

#### Referral

2. Following discussion, the Performance Scrutiny Committee has agreed to refer the decision back to Cabinet for it to reconsider in light of the following material concerns:
  - a) There is insufficient information about the impact of the Policy change on the families of post-16 SEND children and on their education.
  - b) The capacity of schools' and colleges' discretionary bursaries to fund additional requests for support with transport costs is not well understood, including whether this will divert funding from support to meet other needs of SEND children.
  - c) There is a lack of clarity about the number of children expected to have their transport funded through bursaries and how this relates to the anticipated savings.
  - d) There is insufficient information about the costs of implementing the Policy change and a business case for how £300,000 saving will be achieved.
  - e) The effect of the change on the Council's duties in regard to participation of all post-16 students is not clear.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 3. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to reconsider its decision on the Home to School Transport and Travel Policy changes in respect of post-16 SEND students, in light of the material concerns raised by the Performance Scrutiny Committee.**

Cllr Liz Brighthouse  
Chairman of the Performance Scrutiny Committee

July 2018