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**Subject:**

Review the cost of SEN Home to School/College Transport

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**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Donna Martin, Children, Schools & Families

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**1. RECOMMENDATIONS / DECISION REQUESTED**

- 1.1 It is recommended that members agree to a review of the cost of SEN Home to School/College Transport with a view to identifying alternative ways of delivering the service at a reduced cost.

**2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. The Local Authority currently spends over £2m on home to school and home to college transport for children with SEN and disabilities. In the current economic climate there is a need to explore how this amount can be reduced.

**3. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 None

**4. BACKGROUND & SUMMARY**

- 4.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that children are provided with a school/college place suitable to their needs. If this school is not the nearest school/college to their home address (for example a special school/college) then the Local Authority has a duty to ensure the child reaches this provision. Historically this has been via the provision of free home to school / home to college transport. It is now important to review whether this is the most efficient way of delivering our statutory duty for the full population. We will look at whether parents can be more involved and reimbursed or whether there needs to be a charging policy for the majority of parents. Another option to be explored is the withdrawal of transport for journeys under the statutory limit of two miles for primary-aged and three miles for secondary-aged/college children as well as an increased use of independent travel training to enable those students who can to travel independently on public transport.

**5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN / REQUIRED**

- 5.1 None to date  
5.2 There would need to be full consultation with any stakeholders on any proposals.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 **Theme** – savings  
6.2 **Proposal Title** – Review the cost of SEN Home to School/College Transport  
6.3 **Breakdown of Savings from the Service**  
Service Name: Support for Learning

Area of Service: Special Educational Needs Assessment Team, Special Educational Needs & Children with Disabilities Service

Cost Centre affected:

Is this a cost or additional saving: saving

	Savings 2013/14 £000		Savings 2014/15 £000		Savings Total £000	
	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off
Employees						
Other Costs						
Income lost (Show as minus)						
Net Savings						
Additional Income Generated (show as a positive figure)						
<b>Total Savings</b>						
Implementation Costs						
<b>Total Savings less Implementation Costs</b>	<b>200</b>				<b>200</b>	

6.4 **Financial Impact on another service?** Yes – SEN & CWD Service commission Environmental Management to provide home to school/home to college transport on their behalf. Any reduction in overall costs of the transport would reduce the central costs to Environmental Management for this service.

6.5 **Details of the Financial Impact on another service:** See above

6.6 **Voluntary Sector Financial Impact:** None

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The authority must ensure whichever proposal may be adopted as the outcome of this paper is compliant with its overriding statutory duty to those pupils with SEN and CWD.

## 8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1. The proposals in this report may have staffing implications and therefore formal consultation may be required when the full details are identified.

8.2.

## 9. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 See 8.1 above

9.2 There is a risk that children's attendance at school / college will be affected if the transport which is available is less accessible or more costly. In the post-16 sector this could result in more young people becoming NEET (not in employment, education or training).

## 10. ASSET IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific asset implications for members to consider arising from this report.

## 11. JOINT WORKING

11.1 None

## 12. EQUALITIES IMPACTS

- 12.1 **Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment:**
- 12.2 **Equality/Community Impact Assessments:** An equality/community impact assessment will be completed for this proposal.

## 13. VOLUNTARY SECTOR IMPACTS

- 13.1 There is no impact on the voluntary sector as a result of this proposal.

**Background Papers:** There are no background papers relating to this report.