

## CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 June 2007 at County Hall, Lewes.

1. PRESENT - Councillor Reid (in the Chair)  
Councillors Bentley, Glazier, Kirby, Lock, Simmons, Mrs Stroude and B Tidy

The following members spoke on the items indicated:

|                      |   |               |
|----------------------|---|---------------|
| Councillor Birch     | - | item 8        |
| Councillor Daniel    | - | item 10       |
| Councillor Elkin     | - | item 10       |
| Councillor Freeman   | - | item 8        |
| Councillor Mrs Healy | - | item 10       |
| Councillor Howson    | - | item 8        |
| Councillor Tutt      | - | items 7 and 8 |
| Councillor Webb      | - | item 7        |

### 5 REVIEW OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT – ASSISTANCE WITH TRANSPORT FOR PUPILS ATTENDING DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS

5.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Children's Services.

5.2 On the motion of Councillor Glazier (duly seconded) it was RESOLVED – to

(1) agree that a new policy to provide transport for new entrants into denominational primary and secondary schools be introduced from September 2008 with the following components:

(a) children from low income families attending denominational secondary schools receive free transport in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 but with no upper distance limit applying (subject to religious qualification);

(b) children from other families attending denominational secondary schools will qualify for limited assistance provided that they live more than three miles from the nearest denominational school or the designated school, subject to qualification on religious grounds;

(c) children qualifying for support under (b) will be required to contribute towards to the cost of transport, the charge being half that related to the vacant seat scheme;

(d) children from low income families (children eligible for free school meals, etc) as defined in the Education and Inspections Act attending primary schools continue to be entitled to free transport based on a two mile minimum distance (subject to religious qualification); and

(e) children attending a denominational school in July 2008 will continue to receive assistance based on the current policy and if their circumstances change entitlement will be determined based on the current policies; and

(2) agree that authority be delegated to the Director of Children's Services to prepare the detailed policy based on the components set out in (1) above.

#### Reason

5.3 There is no legal obligation for the County Council to provide assistance with transport to denominational schools other than that required by the Education Act 1996 as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which is effective from September 2008. The County Council has discretion to provide assistance for transport for children who do not qualify automatically for support, where it considers it necessary to do so. Save that also when exercising this discretion, the Council has a duty to have regard to any wish of a parent for the child to be educated at a particular school where that wish is based on the parent's religion or belief. In the light of the need to make financial savings and to maintain good relationships with the diocese and the schools, it has been agreed to introduce a new policy in relation to children attending denominational schools as set out above.