

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Learning and School Effectiveness  
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Children and Families – Councillor Sylvia Tidy and the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness – Councillor Nick Bennett on Tuesday 18 June 2013 at County Hall, Lewes

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Councillor Charlton spoke on items 4 and 5 (see minute 3 and 4)  
Councillor Ensor spoke on items 4, 5 and 6 (see minute 3, 4 and 5)  
Councillor Field spoke on items 4, 5 and 6 (see minute 3, 4 and 5)  
Councillor Forward spoke on items 4, 5 and 6 (see minute 3, 4 and 5)

### 1. MINUTES

1.1 Councillor Bennett approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 14 March 2013.

### 2. REPORTS

2.1 A copy of the reports referred to below are contained in the minute book.

### 3. POST-16 TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

3.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought approval to consult on the introduction of a policy to means-test support with transport for post-16 students with special educational needs from September 2014.

#### DECISION

3.2 **RESOLVED** to (1) approve the proposal to consult on providing free transport for only those post-16 students with special educational needs who are from low income families, and to charge families a contribution toward the cost of transport for all other post-16 students with special educational needs who require transport.

#### Reasons

3.3 In order to promote equality, fairness, and achieve the required savings, it is proposed the County Council applies a charge that is still treating students with SEN more favourably than mainstream students as a reasonable adjustment. It is proposed that a full equality impact assessment is carried out as part of the consultation process.

### 4. POST-16 STUDENT GRANTS

4.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought approval to consult on the proposed policy for reduced post-

16 transport grants for mainstream students from low income families from September 2014.

#### DECISION

4.2 RESOLVED to approve consultation on the proposed policy for payment of reduced grants to post-16 mainstream students from low income families from September 2014.

#### Reason

4.3 The Authority is obliged to undertake consultation with stakeholders each year on the proposed policy. The consultation exercise will last at least four weeks, and will include all schools, FE providers and parents of students. It is proposed that any comments received will be reported to the Lead Member at the meeting in January 2014.

#### 5. PEER CHALLENGE: UPDATE

5.1 The Lead Members considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the Peer Challenge conducted by officers from Kent County Council.

#### DECISION

5.2 RESOLVED to note the update.

#### Reason

5.3 The report sets out the progress made to date in addressing the recommendations of the original Peer Challenge and the areas for consideration in the report of the follow up visit, together with the work already being undertaken to move forward.