

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Learning and School Effectiveness  
Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness –  
Councillor Nick Bennett on Monday 20 January 2014 at County Hall, Lewes

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Councillor Charlton spoke on items 4 and 5 (see minutes 33 and 34)  
Councillor Field spoke on items 4 and 5 (see minutes 33 and 34)  
Councillor Shuttleworth spoke on items 4 and 5 (see minutes 33 and 34)

### 31. MINUTES

31.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 9 December 2013.

### 32. REPORTS

32.1 A copy of the reports referred to below is contained in the minute book.

### 33. POST-16 TRANSPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES

33.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought the Lead Members' agreement to introduce a policy of means testing support with transport for post-16 students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) from September 2014. The proposed criteria were set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

33.2 Members present discussed the application of the policy for families with more than one child with SEND who would be required to make a contribution towards home to school transport costs, but whose children use the same transport.

#### DECISION

33.3 RESOLVED to agree a policy of means-testing support for post-16 students with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) from September 2014 so that free transport is only provided for those post-16 students with SEND who are from low income families, and to charge all other families a contribution towards the cost of transport for post-16 students with SEND who require transport.

33.4 The Lead Member noted the need for further work to be carried out when considering families with more than one child with SEND requiring home to transport services.

#### Reasons

33.5 The current situation of means-testing post-16 students without SEND and providing free transport to all those post-16 students with SEND is inconsistent and inequitable. Those students not from low income families will be charged a contribution, not the full cost of transport.

34. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN SHARED COMMUNITY AREAS IN EAST SUSSEX

34.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Interim Director of Children's Services which sought approval to implement the existing home to school transport policy as written in relation to children living in joint community areas.

34.2 Comments received from Heads of Schools serving joint community areas and information about first preferences for the 2013 intake and indicative figures for 2014 were circulated and discussed at the meeting.

DECISION

34.3 RESOLVED to agree that the existing home to school transport policy for children living in joint community areas is implemented as written, so that transport is only provided where the pupil attends the nearest school for all new applications from September 2014.

Reasons

34.4 The current practice of providing home to school transport to either qualifying schools serving a joint community area exceeds the obligations set out in the County Council's transport policy. The pressures placed on the County Council finances means that discretionary benefits such as these are no longer sustainable.