



TRANSPORT AND STUDENT SUPPORT PANEL

TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2017

3.00 pm COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

MEMBERSHIP - Councillors Godfrey Daniel, Kathryn Field and Francis Whetstone

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes (*Pages 3 - 4*)
- 3 Disclosure of Interests
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- 4 Urgent items
Members wishing to raise urgent items are asked to notify the Chair to state the special circumstances which they consider justify the matters being considered urgently.
- 5 Changes to the operation of the Transport and Student Support Panel (*Pages 5 - 8*)
- 6 Any other non-exempt items considered urgent by the Chair
- 7 Exclusion of the public and press
To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting for the remaining items of the agenda on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in Category 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to any individual.
- 8 Exempt minutes (*Pages 9 - 16*)
- 9 To consider transport arrangements for pupils as exceptions to the normal policy (*Pages 17 - 26*)
 - Case number 05/17
- 10 Report back on previous cases - 33/16, 38/16 and 44/16 (*Pages 27 - 30*)
- 11 Any other exempt items considered urgent by the Chair
- 12 Date and time for future meetings

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13 March 2017

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TRANSPORT AND STUDENT SUPPORT PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the East Sussex Transport and Student Support Panel
held on 8 February 2017

Present - Councillors: Field, Daniel and Whetstone
Officers: I Crudge, E Haynes and R Doran
Observer: L Carter

1 Apologies for absence:

1.1 None

2 Public minutes:

2.1 RESOLVED to approve as a correct record the public minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 December 2016.

3 Disclosures of interests:

3.1 None.

4 Urgent items:

4.1 The Chair allowed to consider one late application under item 10 as to defer it would not be in the interest of the family concerned.

5 Any other non-exempt items:

5.1 None.

6 Exclusion of the press and public:

6.1 It was RESOLVED - to exclude the public and press from the meeting for agenda items 7, 8, 9 and 10 on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to an individual.

7 Exempt minutes:

7.1 RESOLVED to approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 December 2016.

8 Consideration of transport provision in individual cases:

8.1 The Panel considered and reached a decision on the following transport provision case numbers: 01/17 and 02/17.

[The full decision is set out in an exempt minute]

9 Reconsideration of transport provision in individual cases:

9.1 The Panel reconsidered and reached a decision on the following transport provision case numbers: 25/16, 27/16, 30/16, 33/16, 38/16, 44/16 and 54/16.

[The full decision is set out in an exempt minute]

10 Any other exempt items:

- 10.1 The Panel considered and reached a decision on the following **late** transport provision case numbers: 03/17.

[The full decision is set out in an exempt minute]

11 Date and time for next meeting:

- 11.1 Agreed to meet on: Tuesday 21 March 2017
at 3pm
in the Committee Room, County Hall

Report to: Transport and Student Support Panel

Date of meeting: 21 March 2017

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: Changes to the operation of the Transport and Student Support Panel

Purpose: To recommend to Governance Committee to amend the Terms of Reference for the Transport and Student Support Panel and agree a name to reflect its modified purpose

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel recommends that Governance Committee resolves to:

- 1) Agree to the amended Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 1
 - 2) Agree that the Panel formally changes its name to Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel
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1 Background

1.1 The Transport and Student Support Panel was created when the school transport panel merged with the awards panel. Its purpose is to determine travel arrangements (under discretionary powers) for children who are not otherwise eligible and to award financial payments to further and higher education students to assist them with their studies.

1.2 The further education and higher education landscape has changed significantly in recent years. Higher education loans and grants are now administered by Student Finance England (formerly Student Loan Company) and financial support to further education students is dealt with by the education provider through Bursary Schemes. These superseded Education Maintenance Allowances (EMA) which were phased out in 2012.

1.3 The 'student support' function of the panel is therefore obsolete and there is the need to amend the terms of reference.

1.4 There remains the need to have in place a review/appeals procedure for parents to follow should they have a disagreement about the eligibility of their child for travel support.

1.5 The Transport and Student Support Panel is constituted for this purpose. However, its name is ambiguous. Members have also recently expressed a wish to rename this Panel to make it clearer for parents.

1.6 It is therefore proposed to change the name to the Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel.

2. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Panel recommends to the Governance Committee that it resolves to adopt the amended terms of reference to reflect the current and ongoing role of the Panel.

2.2 It is also recommended that the Panel recommends to the Governance Committee that it resolves to rename the Transport and Student Support Panel to Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel. This will better reflect the Panel's purpose and make clearer to parents that they are in an appeals process.

2.3 If approved, a report will be submitted to the Governance Committee.

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

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Terms of reference

Current

Transport and Student Support Panel

Terms of Reference

(i) To exercise the powers and duties of the County Council in relation to (i) the provision or payment of boarding and tuition allowances for individual pupils and (ii) awards to individual students for further and higher education, in both instances where the Director of Children's Services refers the case to the Panel for resolution rather than dealing with it under their delegated powers.

(ii) To consider individual cases and make arrangements on behalf of the County Council to pay for or provide transport to and from school for pupils whom the Director of Children's Services does not consider to qualify either statutorily or under the normal policy of the County Council for such transport.

Membership

Three members of the Regulatory Committee.

Proposed

Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel

Terms of Reference

(i) To consider individual cases and make arrangements on behalf of the County Council to pay for or provide transport to and from an education provider for pupils and students and whom the Director of Children's Services does not consider to qualify either statutorily or under the normal policy of the County Council for such transport.

Membership

Three members of the Regulatory Committee.

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Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Agenda Item 9

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