

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Education and Skills held at 11.00
am on Thursday, 10 November 2016

Present:

Members: Councillor K Maton (Cabinet Member)
 Councillor P Male (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

People K Nelson, J Essex

Resources M Salmon

Apologies: There were no apologies

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable Pecuniary Interests declared.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the former Cabinet Member for Education held on 20th April 2016, submitted for information, were noted.

3. Education Travel Assistance Policy Changes - Public Consultation

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills considered a report of the Executive Director of People that sought approval for a public consultation on a revised Travel Assistance Policy (for school aged children and young people aged 5-16 years old) and an amendment to the existing post 16 Travel Assistance Policy that included the levying of a travel assistance charge for post-16 travel with exemption for low-income families.

Coventry City Council had statutory responsibilities for travel assistance for eligible children and young people. However, it currently over-provided traditional forms of transport for children and young people compared to statutory duties and the provision made by other local authorities.

There were two key consequences of this. Firstly, some children and young people were missing out on the opportunity to develop independent travel skills. Independent travel skills gained in adolescence could be taken forward into adult life. Secondly, there was significant forecast overspend on the Council's Home to School Transport budget (2016/17 quarter 1 forecast £3.5m spend against a £3.1m budget. Current policies and practice were not aligned with national statutory duties.

The Cabinet Member noted a revised timetable for implementation of the decision as follows:

Date	Action
21 st November – 13 th January 2017	Opportunities for children, young people and parents to respond to the consultation through a range of accessible events
13 th January 2017	Consultation ends (consultation guidance is that consultations should last at least 28 working days during term time and that the consultation should be extended to take into account of any school holidays that may occur during the period of consultation).
21 st November – March 2017	On-going analysis of consultation feedback leading to Cabinet report
7 th March 2017	Cabinet decision
1 April 2017 onwards	Phased implementation
1 September 2017	New policy applies for pupils starting at a new school
1 September 2017	New policy applies for post-16 students

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills approves a public consultation from 21st November 2016 to 13th January 2017, leading to a report back to the Cabinet on 7th March 2017, on the following:

- a) **A revised Travel Assistance Policy (Statutory School Age Children) which aligns the statutory walking distance eligibility criteria to national levels and has a stronger focus on the Council’s travel assistance on public transport and innovative travel options aimed at reducing dependence on minibus and taxi options as appropriate.**
- b) **A new Travel Assistance Policy for post 16 and post 19 students that fully reflects current statutory requirements. This policy includes a contributory charge towards the cost of travel assistance for all post-16 students whose families do not meet the criteria for low income household concessions.**

4. Outstanding Issues

There were no outstanding issues.

5. Any Other Items of Public Business

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 11.40 am)