



Home to School Transport Saving Proposals

Consultation Options and Process

Colin Stewart



Current Legislation

- **Statutory responsibility to provide free home to school transport for certain children where**
 - **Child is eligible as defined by the Act**
 - **Child below the age of 8 living more than 2 miles from school / above 8 living 3 miles**
 - **Child lives within statutory distance but LA considers it necessary such as route to school is unsafe**



Current Context

- **Home to School and Post-16 Transport policies in Thurrock offer much more than statutory requirements**
- **Expenditure on transport is high compared with other LA's**
- **Expenditure on transport significant budget pressure within children's services**



Options for Savings

- **Intention is to consult on possible areas for saving within two discretionary aspects of current policy**
 - **Altering current provision on denominational grounds**
 - **Altering current level of charging on concessionary seats**



Denominational Transport

- **Current policy is much more than statutory requirements**
- **Current policy offers more than all other authorities in Eastern region**
- **Propose to consult on the following options**
 - **A – Only offering the statutory minimum**
 - **B – Implementing a concessionary offer requiring a contribution of £240 per student**



Spare Seat Scheme

- **Currently spare places on transport made available at reduced cost**
- **Current policy offers more than most other authorities in region**
- **Propose to consult on the following option**
 - **A – Increase charges from £240 to £300 per student per year**



Consultation Process 1

ACTION	DATE
1. Initial Consultation on Process and Options with Children's Overview and Scrutiny	Jan 2010
2. Draft final versions of proposals for publication	Early Feb 2010
3. Formal proposals for consultation published on Council website and in local media	Mid Feb 2010
4. Press release on consultation process, content and options to raise awareness and secure level of feedback	Feb 2010
5. Six week consultation begins for formal consultation with Parents and Carers, Children and Young People, Ward Members, Overview and Scrutiny, Youth Cabinet, School Councils, Thurrock Schools, Colleges, Out of Borough Faith Schools and Colleges, Youth Governing Bodies, Diocesan representatives, Community Forums, other LA's	Feb 2010

ACTION	DATE
6. Consultation period ends	Early April 2010
7. Responses to Consultation collated	May 2010
8. Report to Overview and Scrutiny on consultation outcomes	May / Early June 2010
9. Report to Cabinet on consultation responses and any recommended changes to policy. Agree policy for 2010-11 and 2011-2012 academic years	June 2010
10. Revise Secondary and Primary Admission Booklets to include reference to consultation on Home to School Transport Policy	August 2010
11. Implement any revisions to policy to secure full academic year effect	Sept 2011