

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Regulatory Committee (Sub-Committee)
Date:	25 January 2018
Title:	School Transport Appeal: Bishops Waltham to Swanmore College
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. **Summary**

- 1.1 The appellant has appealed, on safety of route grounds, against the decision to withdraw free school transport for his child, from Winchester Road, Bishops Waltham to Swanmore College, New Road, Swanmore.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 Bishops Waltham lies 2.9 miles North West of Swanmore College. The walking route is within the statutory three miles distance, beyond which free transport is provided for children over eight attending their catchment area school, or a nearer school.
- 2.2 During a review of walking routes to Swanmore College it was determined that there was an alternative walking route from the Bishops Waltham area to Swanmore College that meets the safe walking routes to school criteria, and was within the 3 mile walking limit.

This affected a number of pupils in the Bishops Waltham area, and to provide accurate measurements the routes were measured using a calibrated 'Trumeter' wheel.

Parents/guardians of 21 students were issued with a letter in July 2017 explaining the situation, and advising them that transport would be withdrawn at the end of the term in December 2017, providing a terms notice as required by the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

Any new applications received for transport to commence from September 2017 were rejected as being 'under distance'.

- 2.3 The appellant applied for transport for his child in September 2017, and the application was refused.

The appellant appealed the refusal in November 2017, and this was dealt with under Stage One of the appeal process, and his appeal was refused.

As part of the appeal the appellant raised concerns over the safety of the walking route to the school from the Bishops Waltham area, and indicated that he wished to proceed to the second stage of the appeals process.

- 2.4 There is a Hampshire County Council subsidised public bus service, number X10, between Bishops Waltham and Swanmore College that operates at school times. The cost of a weekly ticket is £7, or a daily return is available at £1.40

3. **The Appeal**

- 3.1 The route has to be considered against the national Road Safety GB criteria for the Assessment of Walked Routes to School (Appendix 1).
- 3.2 An on-site inspection was undertaken on by a representative from Hampshire County Council's Road Safety Team. The salient points of this report are in Appendix 2.

The inspection was undertaken in December 2016 as part of the initial process to determine safety of routes from the Bishops Waltham area.

4. **Conclusion**

- 4.1 Members will have had the opportunity to inspect the walking route. The County Council's position is that, under the criteria, the walking route is available.
- 4.2 It is for Members to consider, following the guidance of Appendix 1:
- (i) whether the nature of the route, or an alternative route, means that it is available for children if unaccompanied; and
 - (ii) if the answer to (i) is no, whether the route is available if accompanied.
- 4.3 If the answer to (ii) is yes, separate consideration by the Children's Services Department would be given to any representations by parents or carers who are unable to accompany their children by virtue of individual circumstances.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

This is an information report setting out the background to a Home to School Transport appeal, and therefore the impact on Crime and Disorder has not been measured as it is not applicable to the content.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

This is an information report setting out the background to a Home to School Transport appeal, and therefore the impact on our carbon footprint/energy consumption has not been measured as it is not applicable to the content.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

This is an information report setting out the background to a Home to School Transport appeal, and therefore the need to adapt to climate change is not applicable to the content.