

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	19 January 2024
Title:	Proposed Changes to the School Transport Policy
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Jon Bramley, Head of School Transport

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1. The decision:

1.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services:

1.2. Gives approval to the recommended changes to the School Transport Policy (the Policy). The recommended changes are:

1.3. **Recommendation 1** - To update the Policy to reflect the following proposal:
For Personal Transport Budgets (PTB) to be available to families where a child or young person's needs or circumstances mean that suitable transport is difficult to find, or not available at all, in the local operator market.

1.4. **Recommendation 2** - To update the Policy to reflect the following proposal:
To allow for development and delivery of an Independent Travel Training service for children and young people with SEND who may be capable of travelling independently to their place of education.

1.5. **Recommendation 3** - To update the Policy to reflect the following proposal:
The require the regular review of the provision of Passenger Assistants.

1.6. **Recommendation 4** - To update the Policy to reflect the following proposal:
To increase the level of contribution to discretionary school transport arrangements (where parents are required to make a financial contribution) in line with inflation (Consumer Price Index) from September 2024 and inflation-linked increases applied in future years.

1.7. **Recommendation 5** – To update the County Council's School Transport Policy to reflect the current Department of Education statutory guidance on travel to school for children of compulsory school age.

1.8. All changes would be reflected within the revised School Transport Policy as of February 2024.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The proposed changes to policy would enable the County Council to be better able to provide flexible transport arrangements for children and young people that respond to changing needs, demand and external market pressures, as well as updating the policy to refresh it and bring it up to date.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Statutory guidance states that local authorities should consult on proposed changes to Policy and therefore, no alternatives to a public consultation have been considered.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: Not Applicable

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: Not Applicable

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not Applicable

7. Statement from the decision maker: None

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Edward Heron
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services

19 January 2024