

Children and Young People Commission Special Meeting 17 July 2007

Draft note arising from a planning meeting of Cllr Poulter, Chair, Cllr Rawson, Vice Chair, and Cllr Allen, Liberal Democrat nominee held on 4 July 2007.

After discussion it was AGREED that a special one-item meeting of the Children and Young People Commission shall be held on Tuesday 17 July. The meeting will start at 5.30 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to scrutinise the Key Decision on School Transport. That decision appeared on the agenda of the 3 July meeting of the Council Cabinet but has been deferred until 31 July to enable the Commission to consider the issue.

The issue straddles two Cabinet portfolios and two Council Departments. Invitees to explain and/or express their views on the policy are to be:

- The Council Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and for Planning and Transportation – though they are welcome to agree between them that one represent the other.
- The Corporate Directors for Children and Young People and for Regeneration and Community (or a senior manager nominated to represent them)
- Appropriate officers from both departments having technical/operational knowledge of the proposed policy *plus* a finance officer
- Mr Edward Hayes of the Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service *plus* Mr John Honey if he wishes to participate as a witness
- Representatives of local bus operators proving the current/future service.

The meeting will consider the entirety of the proposed policy, including these aspects:

- The amount of the increased fares from September 2007 and September 2008
- The proposed requirement for payment-in-advance and the impact on low income households
- The impact on faith schools and their present and potential pupils
- Environmental impact of potential modal shift

Experience in other local authorities who have made similar policy changes will be drawn on; the Chair and Vice Chair are contacting elected members in one or more other councils.

In conducting this scrutiny exercise on 17 July the intention is to consider the various aspects of the proposed policy with reference to the Council's Principles of Decision Making; namely:

- a) proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome)
- b) due consultation and the taking of advice from professional officers
- c) respect for human rights
- d) a presumption in favour of openness
- e) clarity of aims and desired outcomes
- f) a record of what options were considered and giving the reasons for the [proposed] decision

Although no formal finishing time has been set it is hoped that the meeting – including formulation of any recommendations – will be completed by 7.15 pm.