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**Report to Council**

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**Date: 29 September 2011**

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**Subject: Home to School Transport Policy (Cambus Amendment)**

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**Report by: Head of Education**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. This report describes an unsustainable anomaly in the Council's Home to School Transport Policy. It recommends that Council should amend its Home to School Transport Policy to remove the anomaly.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council approves the amendment to the Council's Home to School Transport Policy proposed in this paper at Paragraph 3.9.

**3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. A report was presented to Council in June 2010 seeking to amend the Home to School Transport Policy in order to remove the anomaly. Approval was not granted in 2010. The anomaly referred to arises from a decision made when the current policy was approved in December 2004.
- 3.2. In December 2004, the Council, through its then Learning and Leisure Committee, approved a Home to School Transport Policy. The Policy was approved with an amendment that maintained the provision of free home to school transport to Lornshill Academy for pupils who are resident in Cambus.
- 3.3. The provision of free home to school transport to Lornshill Academy for pupils resident in Cambus is inconsistent with the rest of the Home to School Transport Policy. All other pupils who attend schools in Clackmannanshire are only entitled to free home to school transport if they live more than a certain distance from school, or if there is no suitable walking route to school. Current arrangements in Cambus apply to 11 pupils.
- 3.4. For secondary pupils to qualify for free transport to their catchment area school, they must either live more than 2 miles from the school or they must be unable to access a suitable walking route to school.
- 3.5. There are no residential properties in Cambus that are more than 2 miles away from Lornshill Academy. In May 2008 traffic lights and a Toucan

(pedestrian and bicycle) crossing were installed at the Cambus junction with the A907. Roads & Transportation have carried out a full assessment of the walking route between Cambus and Tullibody using the Council's guidance document 'Suitable Walking Routes to School Assessment Criteria' and have found that the route satisfies all criteria. The route is currently a 'safer route to school' for Abercromby Primary School.

- 3.6. At its meeting of 3 June 2010, Council approved the removal of transport for secondary pupils who live in Glenochil because their homes are within walking distance to Lornshill Academy. At the same meeting, approval to withdraw transport for pupils in Cambus was not granted. Concerns about pupil safety when crossing the A907 were raised and Officers were requested to investigate the erection of additional flashing signage to warn motorists approaching the Cambus junction.
- 3.7. It had been suggested that additional signing be provided on the A907 on the approaches to the Cambus junction. Advice from Roads & Transportation is that the existing signing is fully compliant and that no additional signing should be provided. The reason is that additional, unnecessary signing can cause driver distraction and confusion which could have an adverse impact on safety.
- 3.8. Free school transport from Cambus to Lornshill is not justifiable on grounds of distance or suitability. There is no justification based on local or other guidance for its specific inclusion in the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.
- 3.9. Therefore, it is proposed that the amendment included in the Home to School Transport Policy approved in December 2004 should be removed from the policy and that the provision of free home to school transport for pupils resident in Cambus, and who attend Lornshill Academy, should cease when the schools resume on 24 October 2011, following their October holiday. If approved, It is proposed that the amended Policy should read:

*Lornshill Academy: any pupil resident in the catchment areas of Clackmannan PS, Craigbank PS, Fishcross PS or Deerpark PS, or who is resident in the catchment areas of Abercromby PS, Banchory PS or St. Serfs PS and his/her residence is over two miles from the school, or nearest designated transport pick-up point, by the shortest suitable walking route will be entitled to free home to school transport.*

#### **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 4.1. There are no direct and significant implications for sustainability although the overall carbon footprint of the Council may be reduced slightly by the withdrawal of this provision

#### **5.0 Resource Implications**

- 5.1. Financial Details

The proposed amendment to the Council's Home to School Transport Policy would result in a full year saving of approximately £5,700.

Staffing

5.2. The report has no staffing implications

## 6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

## 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities 2008 - 2011** (Please tick ☒)

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are safer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vulnerable people and families are supported	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing	<input type="checkbox"/>
The environment is protected and enhanced for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence	<input type="checkbox"/>

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes ☐ No ☒

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

## 11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes ☒ (please list the documents below) No ☐

### Home to School Transport Policy; Clackmannanshire Council 2004

#### Author(s)

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#### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Belinda Greer	Head of Education	Belinda Greer (signed)
Elaine McPherson	Chief Executive	Elaine McPherson (signed)