

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Diane Booth – Director of Children’s Services
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Cllr Graham Cain – Cabinet Secretary Resilient Communities Cllr Kath Benson – Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Philip Thompson – Head of SEND Kim Wood – Commissioning Manager
Implementation Date of Decision:	8 June 2018

HOME TO SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TRANSPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To outline changes to Blackpool Council’s Home to School and College Transport Policy with effect from 1 August 2018.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the updated Blackpool Council’s Home to School and College Transport at Appendix A noting the following amendments:

- Reference to use of motability vehicles has been removed from the policy document
- A decision may also be challenged on the basis of the transport arrangements offered
- Slight changes for clarity to paragraph numbering and page numbers

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Policy document will be updated to reflect statutory requirements and clarity.

To ensure that Home to School and College Transport is allocated in a fair and consistent manner and to comply with statutory requirements.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None as the proposals comply with statutory guidelines.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The proposed policy has been amended to remove references to mobility cars as this more accurately reflects the overall situation. Where there is a mobility vehicle available to the family, it is considered that reasonable that officers would ask if that vehicle can be used to take the child to school and work with the family to overcome any barriers to its use. The Council however cannot oblige a family use such a vehicle or use it as a reason to refuse transport assistance.

5.2 The policy has also been amended to reflect that a decision regarding Home to School Transport may also be challenged on the basis of the transport arrangements that have been offered and this has been added to comply with statutory guidelines.

5.3 The Home to School and College Transport Policy will be updated to reflect statutory guidelines and for clarity.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.5 List of Appendices:

Appendix A: Home to School and College Transport Policy – May 2018

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None, the proposals comply with Department of Education Home to School travel guidance and associated legislation.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultations were previously undertaken during May 2017 with parents/carers, these amendments reflect the outcome of the consultations. It is not considered further consultation is required as this amendment is for clarification purposes.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To approve the updated Blackpool Council's Home to School and College Transport at Appendix A noting the following amendments:

- Reference to use of motability vehicles has been removed from the policy document
- A decision may also be challenged on the basis of the transport arrangements offered
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Slight changes for clarity to paragraph numbering and page numbers

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 The Policy document will be updated to reflect statutory requirements and clarity.

To ensure that Home to School and College Transport is allocated in a fair and consistent manner and to comply with statutory requirements.