

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 15TH APRIL, 2019

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 14TH MARCH, 2019

“ WITHDRAWAL OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDING FOR FARE PAYING
SCHOOL TRANSPORT SERVICES (REF) -

Cabinet had referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration which sought Cabinet approval to undertake a consultation on the withdrawal of Council funding for fare paying school transport services as the Local Authority had no absolute statutory duty to provide.

It was noted that the withdrawing of the funding would assist in the savings that the Neighbourhood Services and Transport Section were expected to make in 2019/20 and would assist the Council in funding statutory free school transport for pupils who qualified by virtue of distance from school and availability of walking routes.

The report identified that the public consultation would inform a further report that would present public views on the proposal and list any potential alternative solutions that could achieve the desired income.

In considering the report a Member noted that the report referred to an Equalities Impact Assessment but that this had not been attached to the report. The Group Manager for Transport Services advised the Committee that an initial Impact Assessment had been undertaken and that following the consultation a follow up EIA would be undertaken. The Member considered that in any event the EIA should have been attached to the report for the consultation.

Following a query from a Member with regard to the format of the consultation, the officer stated that an online consultation would be undertaken, this would target schools and operators seeking comments and a highlight report detailing the conversations undertaken with operators would subsequently be produced. Initial conversations had also been undertaken with all operators being advised of the need to be part of the consultation. The officer commented that it was a genuine consultation with all options, feedback and comments having been requested.

The Chairman asked if a ward by ward breakdown of routes could be provided and in response the officer stated that this was feasible.

Having fully considered the report it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the comments of the Scrutiny Committee be referred to Cabinet for their consideration during the consultation process.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the comments made at the Committee.”