

ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 20 NOVEMBER 2001

BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW – SCHOOL TRANSPORT UPDATE

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

Abstract

This report outlines progress in implementing the BV Improvement Plan in respect of School Transport and identifies some further improvements which can be made to the Service.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- a) notes the contents of this report; and
- b) notes that ongoing corporate deliberations about the future implementation of the Council's Best Value strategy may require further consideration to be given to this report in the near future.

2. BACKGROUND

Members will recall Report 80/00 'Best Value Service Review – School Transport' which was approved at the meeting of the Education Committee on 25 January 2000. (Article 13 of the note of the meeting refers). The review, which was undertaken jointly by the Education Department and the Planning & Transport Department, contained an Improvement Plan which set out ways in which it was intended to improve school transport services.

While on the whole the service has improved, the arrangements for School Transport for the current school year have identified that further improvements can be made in procedure and in particular, communication with parents and schools. It is proposed therefore to simplify arrangements for parents seeking concessionary places and to provide additional information to parents who may be affected by school transport vehicles registered to carry fare paying passengers.

3. SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

A number of improvements have been made to the service including:

- development of risk assessment for improved safety
- introduction of new integrated IT System
- introduction of walking buses at both Friockheim and Rosemount Primary Schools

(**Note:** The attached Appendix sets out in more detail progress against each specific target outlined within the Action Plan).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no Human Rights implications arising directly from consideration of this report.

6. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law & Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

The Committee is also reminded of the continuing work of the Best Value Member/Officer Group. That group is currently considering how best the Council can ensure effective scrutiny of a range of B V initiatives, including Service Reviews and the follow-ups to them. Depending on the group's recommendations and any subsequent Council decision, it may be that further consideration will have to be given to this particular report.

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DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.