



Committee and Date

Cabinet

20 March 2019

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2019

In the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

9.00 - 9.14 am

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak

Email: amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257714

Present

Councillor Peter Nutting (Chairman)

Councillors Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader), Nicholas Bardsley, Gwilym Butler, Lee Chapman, Robert Macey, David Minnery and Lezley Picton

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor S Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways.

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were declared.

3 Minutes

It was noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2019 would be presented to the Cabinet meeting on 20 March 2019.

4 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

5 Member Question Time

There were no Member questions.

6 Scrutiny Items

There were no scrutiny items.

7 Discretionary School and College Transport - Permission to Consult

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People presented a report of the Director of Children's Services. This requested permission to consult on changes to the Council's discretionary support for school and college transport.

In presenting the report he accepted that the proposals would be contentious and would merit very careful consideration at the conclusion of the consultation period. He emphasised that the proposals would not affect existing users of services but would be applied to new applicants from 1 September 2019. He also reported that recommendations had already been changed significantly following the production of the Equality and Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (ESIIA), noting the potential impact. An updated ESIIA reflecting the new proposals was attached to the report.

Concern was expressed by a Member of the Council that there would be a disproportionate impact on rural students. Attention was also drawn to lack of public transport in parts of the county. The Leader said that the proposals would impact on families living in both rural and urban areas and encouraged Members to respond to the consultation in writing.

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People reiterated that the consultation was genuine, the results of which could lead to changes in the proposals, as had been the case in other recent consultations on changes to services for children and young people.

In response to a query regarding the amount of savings that proposals might make, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People explained that the figure identified of £717k was not made up of savings from these changes alone but included a number of actions already underway to rationalise and achieve efficiencies.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approve a consultation on the following proposed policy changes:

- To increase the lower rate contribution to 50% of the cost of the mainstream scheme from £142.50 to £437.50, maintaining the upper limit of the scheme at its current £875 pa.
- To expand the contributions scheme to include SEND post 16 students, in line with the mainstream scheme.
- To withdraw the Council’s financial support for Nursery SEND pupil transport.

That Cabinet agree to receive a further report following the consultation process.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: