

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

8 APRIL 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>HOME TO SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TRANSPORT DEMAND MANAGEMENT REVIEW</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b><i>DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</i></b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 In July 2013 Cabinet approved new home to school transport policies including a new approach for pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND). Cabinet approved a change to the original budget savings arising from the Post 16 SEND policy, resulting in a savings shortfall of £560,000. It was resolved that the remainder of the savings would be met through a range of demand management initiatives. The Council commissioned iMPower consultancy to carry out a review of SEND Transport to identify new ways to meet the budget reduction of £560,000 and to assist in taking forward existing plans. The SEND review report is provided to the Committee for review. This demand management approach directly addresses the Council principles. Through it we will promote independence working to equip families with the tools and knowledge to make the best choices, and drive aspiration and achievement in young people.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 iMPower carried out a review of SEND Transport from September to December 2013. This was to support the Council in identifying new ways to meet the budget reduction of £560k in relation to the new policy changes and to assist in taking forward existing plans.

2.2 The review findings included the extensive work carried out by the Integrated Transport Unit in recent years to increase efficiency in the SEND transport service which has resulted in a low average cost of transport per SEND pupil. From September 2014 the introduction of new policies and the introduction of new Independent Travel Training (ITT) will reduce overall transport costs by reducing the numbers transported.

2.3 The iMPower analysis indicated that due to the efficiencies already in place and the plans being implemented related to the new policy approaches, the £560,000 saving gap could not be closed through transport measures alone. Instead the underlying demand drivers require addressing. These include the high statementing rates (Wirral has 20% higher rate of SEND than statistical neighbours) and the high proportion of students attending Special Schools (10% of Wirral schools compared with 4%, 4% 5% for statistical neighbours, England and North West respectively).

2.4 In addition the review puts forward recommendations for reducing transport demand and findings from consultation with service users. The review report is included in Appendix 1.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

3.1 Full risk analysis will be carried out where applicable for all initiatives piloted or introduced.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 Not applicable for this report.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 The review involved consultation with service user parents/ carers.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

6.1 Not applicable for this report.

### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

7.1 The introduction of some new initiatives may require additional staff resource.

### **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Legal advice will be sought where applicable for all initiatives piloted or introduced.

### **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review can be found via the following link:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

### **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 If more young people are able to access public transport this will reduce carbon emissions through reduced use of other vehicles.

### **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 Not applicable for this report.

## 12.0 RECOMMENDATION

12.1 The committee consider the review findings.

## 13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To inform the committee of the review.

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## APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Home to School SEND Transport Demand Management Review.

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>11 July 2013</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> March 2013</b>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> February 2013</b>
<b>Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> February 2013</b>