1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Wirral Council Cabinet agreed new home to school and college transport policies in July 2013. Since the introduction of the policies there has been significant national developments relating to the assessment and determination of Special Educational Needs (SEN). This area is referenced in the policies.

1.2 In order to provide accurate up to date information to Wirral residents the policies have been refreshed to reflect the national changes. The terms for eligibility for transport agreed by Cabinet in July 2013 have not been amended.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 On the 11th July 2013 Cabinet adopted new 5-16 Home to School Transport Policy and the new post 16 School and College Transport Statement to apply to pupils and students commencing in September 2014 onwards at primary and secondary schools and colleges.

2.2 Since the introduction of the policies significant national developments have occurred relating to the assessment of SEN. This includes the introduction of new Education, Health and Care Plans. In order to ensure the policies provide accurate and up to date information the policies require refresh. The terms for eligibility for transport agreed by Cabinet in July 2013 have not been amended.

2.3 In the two policies the amendments are include the new EHC system ensuring the terminology used is correct in light of the new system in place. Additional information has been included in the policies related to Independent Travel Training (ITT) as the new SEN ITT programme is now in operation.

2.4 For reference an area in the Post 16 statement is brought to Members attention. In the Post 16 policy Cabinet agreed that in order for free transport to be provided students who were in receipt of a statement of SEN (or an EHC plan) prior to sixth form the following criteria are also met:
• The journey must be more than three miles from home to school/college.
• The student must be enrolled on a full-time course (above 15 hours per week) for a whole academic year at a school or college.
• The student must be following his/her course at the nearest school or college where that course is provided.

2.5 The changes to SEN assessment include the discontinuation of Special Needs Assessment Panels (SNAP). The SNAP was utilised as an independent Panel for Stage 2 Transport Appeals. A new independent SEND transport appeal panel has been convened. The Appeals Procedure guidance currently in use and available to residents on the Council website does not require a refresh to reflect this change.

2.6 If agreed the refreshed policies will replace the policies on the Council website and new Local Offer website to ensure accurate up to date information is provided to Council residents.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS
3.1 There are no relevant risks associated with the amendments.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED
4.1 No other options considered.

5.0 CONSULTATION
5.1 No consultation has been carried out for this report.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS
6.1 Not applicable for this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS
7.1 No implications arising from this report.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS
8.1 Not applicable for this report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS
9.1 The terms of the policies agreed by Cabinet have not been amended.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS
10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is published:


11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS
11.1 Not applicable for this report.
12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS
12.1 Not applicable for this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S
13.1 The Cabinet Member agrees the policy amendments related to new Special Educational Needs assessment and the introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans.

14.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/S
14.1 To ensure policies contain accurate information for Council residents.
14.2 To provide Member oversight of amendments to Council policies.

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APPENDICES
Appendix 1: Home to School Transport Policy for Children and Young People Age 5-16 2014-15 V2.

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL
BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Briefing Note</th>
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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cabinet</td>
<td>11 July 2013</td>
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