

SCHOOL TRANSPORT EXCEPTIONAL ARANGEMENTS

Mole Valley Local Committee 11 September 2002

KEY ISSUE:

To advise the Committee on the Executive decision in respect to School Transport exceptional arrangements, which were considered at the Local Committee on 22 May and on which a submission was made.

At its meeting on 22 May, the Local Committee considered proposals to terminate a number of cases of school transport arrangements which were being provided as exceptional cases. As a result detailed comments, with recommendations to retain the arrangements in a number of cases, were submitted to the Executive.

At the Executive meeting on 22 July, Members agreed "that all 31 Transport Anomalies ...be ceased from September 2003 and beyond for all new pupils." This item was subsequently called in by the Children and Young People Select Committee, which considered the papers including the submission from Mole Valley Local Committee, at its meeting on 30 July.

The Select Committee recommended "that the Executive carry out further work before deciding which exceptional arrangements should be retained and which should be removed, including consultation with the Diocese, Local Committee and the Children and Young People Select Committee."

The Select Committee's recommendation was considered by the Executive at a special meeting on 2 August. The Chairman of the Select Committee advised that they were concerned not so much with the decision which had been taken by the Executive, but more with the consultation process, and more particularly with the timing of the consultation in relation to the school holidays.

The Executive considered the impact of deferring the decision but was satisfied that the original consultation was sufficiently robust and that the adoption of its original decision would lead to a more consistent and equitable application of the Council's policy across the whole county. It was also understood that there would still be

MOLE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE, 11 SEPTEMBER 2002, ITEM 9

opportunities for children to benefit from free transport or assisted transport to their nearest school.

It was therefore resolved that "the Executive reaffirms the decision taken at its meeting held on 22 July 2002 (Minute No. 170/02) to cease all 31 transport anomalies identified in annexe 1 of the report to that meeting, from September 2003 and beyond for all new pupils."

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: Kevin Gill, Local Director, Mole Valley

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01372 363918 / 07968 832369

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Mole Valley Local Committee, 22 May 2002