



**Report to Children, Young People and Family  
Support Scrutiny and Policy Development  
Committee  
24 January 2013**

**Subject:** Call-In of Cabinet Decision on the Home to School Transport Policy

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**Type of item:**

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	<b>x</b>
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Executive Director, Children Young People and Families submitted a report to Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, providing a summary of the responses to the consultation process on the proposal to withdraw the discretionary element of free transport that is currently approved for attendance at denominational schools with effect from September 2013. The report is attached at appendix A.
- 1.2 The Cabinet agreed to withdraw all current provision for discretionary transport with effect from September 2013, including the withdrawal of passes for pupils who are currently in receipt of them under the current policy. The reasons for the decision were as follows:
- (a) the current provision to fund denominational transport is discretionary. Under the current economic climate there is an urgent necessity to explore all areas of potential savings and efficiency.
  - (b) the proposed change in policy would also ensure that all children are treated more equitably. Under current arrangements a child may receive a free bus pass to attend a Catholic School even

though that may not be their nearest school. If a non-Catholic student wishes to attend an out of catchment area school that is beyond the statutory walking distance they are not provided with free transport.

- 1.3 As per Part 4, section 16 of Sheffield City Council's Constitution, this decision has been called in, preventing implementation of the decision until it has been considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.4 The Call-In notice is attached at appendix B, and asks the Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee to consider this issue for the following reasons:
  - The impact on pupils already on courses at Notre Dame and All Saints, and
  - The potential impact on other secondary schools from in-year transfers

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## **2 The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:**

As per the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, scrutinise the decision made by Cabinet and take one of the following courses of action:

- (a) refer the decision back to the Cabinet for reconsideration in the light of recommendations from the Committee;
- (b) request that the decision be deferred until the Scrutiny Committee has considered relevant issues and made recommendations to Cabinet;
- (c) take no action in relation to the called-in decision but consider whether issues arising from the call-in need to be added to the work programme of an existing Scrutiny Committee;
- (d) if, but only if (having taken the advice of the Monitoring Officer and/or the Chief Finance Officer), the Committee determines that the decision is wholly or partly outside the Budget and Policy Framework, refer the matter, with any recommendations, to the Council after following the procedures in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

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### **Background Papers:**

Report of the Executive Director, Children Young People and Families, to Cabinet on the 12th December 2012 (attached)  
Call-in Notice (attached)

**Category of Report:** OPEN