

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Education Transport Entitlement Review Sub Committee** held in the Committee Room 1, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Tuesday 3 September 2013 at 2.00 pm.

Present:

Mr A Christie
Mr M Green

Mr G MacKenzie
Mrs M Paterson

Local Members also present:

Mrs C Caddick)
Mr J Crawford) For ETR 2/13
Mr T Prag)
Mr K Gowans)

Mr D Fallows)
Mr B Lobban) For ETR 3/13
Mr G Rimell)

Officials in attendance:

Mr D Summers, Transport Development Officer, Transport, Environmental and Community Services
Mr D McKechnie, Integrated Transport Manager, Transport, Environmental and Community Services
Mr R MacKenzie, Head of Support Services, Education, Culture & Sport Service
Mrs F MacBain, Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Office

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated from Mrs E McAllister and Ms J Douglas, local Member (ETR 3/13).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Appointment of Chair

The Sub-Committee **APPOINTED** Mr G MacKenzie as Chair, having been nominated by Mr A Christie and seconded by Mrs M Paterson.

4. Education Transport Review

The Review Sub Committee **RESOLVED** that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government Scotland Act 1973 the public be excluded for discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

(i) Transport Review No 2/13

There had been circulated Report No ETR 2/13 by the Transport Development Officer setting out the detail of a request to re-review transport entitlement for a number of pupils between Sunnyside and Balloch Primary/Culloden Academy where entitlement had been withdrawn due to the

opening of a new footpath.

The report gave details of the present transport provision, the parents' reasons for a further review, the number of pupils involved and a description of the route. In addition, a risk assessment was provided which had graded it a "green" on the basis that the route was entirely along footpaths which were either adjacent to the road or separated from it and that the road crossings had adequate visibility to be used safely by children accompanied by an adult.

A DVD and several photographs of the route were shown to the Sub-Committee, after which the Transport Development Officer summarised the situation, pointing out that children under the age of 8 from both estates were still eligible for transport, improvements were planned for the Feabuie road crossing during the school holiday in October 2013 and the risk assessment report assumed that an adult was accompanying the child on the route. Numerous questions from local Members and Sub-Committee Members were responded to, after which the local Members all spoke in favour of upholding the review.

Following a full discussion by the Sub Committee, Mrs M Paterson, seconded by Mr M Green **MOVED** that the review be upheld. As an **AMENDMENT**, Mr G MacKenzie, seconded by Mr A Christie, moved that the review be dismissed as recommended but that this be deferred until after improvements had been undertaken to make the Feabuie road crossing straight rather than diagonal and signage installed to indicate that it was a crossing point, these to be undertaken during the school holidays in October 2013.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 2 votes and the **AMENDMENT** received 2 votes. There being an equality of votes, the Chairman exercised his casting vote in favour of the **AMENDMENT**, which was therefore carried and the Sub Committee **REFUSED** the request for transport but **AGREED** this be deferred until the stated improvements had been undertaken.

(ii) Transport Review No 3/13

There had been circulated Report No ETR 3/13 by the Transport Development Officer setting out the detail of a request to re-review transport entitlement for a number of pupils between Newtonmore and Kingussie High School. Entitlement had been withdrawn when the distance between the north-eastern part of Newtonmore to Kingussie High School had been measured more accurately and when it was found that it was less than 3 miles. Pupils who had originally been given eligible status would continue to be provided with transport until they left school.

The report gave details of the present transport provision, the parents' reasons for a review, the number of pupils involved and a description of the route. In addition, a risk assessment was provided which had graded it a "green" on the basis that the route was along footpaths throughout and, outwith built-up areas, was separated from the road. Although further consideration might be needed for winter conditions, the route was designed for walking/cycling.

The Sub Committee **AGREED** to uphold the review.

The meeting concluded at 3.05 pm.