

The Highland Council

Community Services Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Education Transport Entitlement Review Sub Committee** held in Committee Room 1, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Tuesday 6 May 2014 at 2.30 pm.

Present:

Mr G Mackenzie (Chair)
Mr A Christie

Mr M Green
Mrs M Paterson

Local Members also present:

Mrs G Coghill (by video conferencing)
Mr W Mackay

Mr M Reiss (by video conferencing)

Officials in attendance:

Mr R MacKenzie, Head of Support Services, Care and Learning Service
Mr D Summers, Transport Development Officer, Community Services
Mrs F MacBain, Committee Administrator, Corporate Development Service

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mrs B McAllister.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. 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 1/14

There had been circulated Report No ETR 1/14 by the Transport Development Officer setting out the detail of a request to review transport entitlement in respect of 3 pupils travelling to Watten Primary School. The report gave details of the route, present transport provision and the parents' reasons for a review. It explained that the youngest pupil concerned would shortly reach age 8, and would no longer be entitled to concessionary transport at that time. A risk assessment was provided which had graded the route "green".

Following a presentation of the route, Local Members present and Members of the Sub Committee asked the Transport Development Officer

specific questions. It was clarified that the risk assessments had been undertaken on the basis that a responsible adult would be accompanying any children using the route.

The Local Members then presented their case in support for the review on the grounds of road safety, specifically:-

- the relatively high speeds of cars given the nature of the road and low volumes of traffic;
- poor visibility on certain sections;
- the C1029 being a low priority for winter maintenance;
- the exposed nature of the road and likelihood of high winds, especially in winter;
- the narrow width of the footpath over Watten Bridge; and
- the number of minor accidents which were reported to have taken place in the preceding 14 months, with photos circulated at the meeting by Mr MacKay.

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 appropriate signage had been installed and other minor mitigation undertaken, such as the removal of excessive vegetation on verges.

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.

The meeting concluded at 3.40 pm.