

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 Monday 2 June 2014 at 3.00 pm.

Present:

Mr A Christie
Mr M Green
Mrs B McAllister

Mr G Mackenzie (Chair)
Mrs M Paterson

Local Members also present:

Mr H Wood

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 H Carmichael (Local Member for Review No 2/14).

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 2/14

There had been circulated Report No ETR 2/14 by the Transport Development Officer setting out the detail of a request to review transport entitlement in respect of a pupil travelling between Bun-Sgoil Inbhir Nis and the north side of Strathnairn. The report gave details of the route, present transport provision and the nature of the parents' request for a review which related to shared use and interchange arrangements. Photographs of the route, various items of correspondence relating to the matter and the risk assessment that had been carried out for the route were included. A report on the interchange arrangement was presented at the meeting and a photograph of the interchange layby was tabled.

The Transport Development Officer gave a summary of the situation which involved shared use of transport with the public and pupils from a secondary school. This was in line with Council policy and common practise across the Highlands. Interchange arrangements were also explained.

In response to questions from the Local Member present and Members of the Sub Committee, assurances were given that contingency plans were in place to ensure children would not be left unattended if buses were delayed at the interchange point and that younger children were encouraged to sit in reserved seats near the driver. The Local Member sought a specific assurance that the parents would be kept informed of any transport issues that were likely to affect the interchange arrangements. It was clarified that when the contract was due for renewal, additional time would be built into the process to communicate any proposed changes in transport arrangements with parents. A request for the secondary school to consider the implementation of a school bus prefect system had been made and would be followed up.

Following a brief discussion, the Sub Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** that shared use of a bus as described in the report was in line with Council policy; and
- ii. **AGREED** that the transfer arrangements between buses near Balnafoich were suitable, subject to the comments made during discussion.

The meeting concluded at 3.15 pm.