

## Highland Council

## Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Education Transport Entitlement Review Sub Committee** held in Committee Room 1, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Tuesday 19 December 2017 at 11.00 am.

**Present:**

Dr I Cockburn	Mr R MacWilliam
Mr W MacKay (also Local Member for ETR 1/17)	Mr G Adam

**Local Members also present:**

For ETR 1/17:-

Mr R Bremner (by video conferencing)

For ETR 2/17:-

Mr K Gowans  
Mr D Macpherson

**Officials in attendance:**

Mr D Summers, Principal Transport Officer, Community Services  
Mr M Cooper, Senior Transport Officer, Community Services  
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Chief Executive's Service

**Business****1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A Henderson and from Local Members Mr A Sinclair, Ms N Sinclair, Ms C Caddick and Mr A Jarvie.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**3. Preliminaries - Appointment of Chair**

Mr R MacWilliam, having been duly nominated and seconded, was unanimously appointed Chairman.

**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 1/17**

There had been circulated Report No ETR 1/17 by the Principal Transport Officer setting out the detail of a request to review transport entitlement following a change of vehicle between Staxigoe and Noss Primary.

The report gave details of the distances to the school, the provision of transport on the route and the safety assessment. In addition, a video was shown of the route. In summary, it was explained that, following a review, only 3 of the children using the 16-seat vehicle previously provided were entitled and alternative provision had consequently been made. However, a local bus provider had decided to provide a service on a trial basis, available to the public and non-entitled pupils as fare based passengers with the Council paying the fare of the entitled pupils. The question before Members was what would happen to those non-entitled pupils if the service was withdrawn.

Sub Committee Members were of the view that, on the grounds that approval would set a precedent and that the route was paved, there was no justification to grant the review. This was supported by the Local Members present.

Following discussion, the Sub Committee **REFUSED** eligibility for school transport on the Staxigoe to Noss Primary Route for those pupils not meeting the age and distance criteria in the Home to School Transport Policy.

(ii) Transport Review No 2/17

There had been circulated Report No ETR 2/17 by the Principal Transport Officer setting out the detail of a request to review transport entitlement from Sunnyside to Balloch Primary, including the Feabuie branch road, and to assess the suitability of a road crossing at an address at the edge of Balloch. As a previous review also considered Culloden Academy pupils, entitlement to Culloden Academy was also considered.

The report gave details of the route, distances to school and the reasons for the review. Risk assessment had been carried out for the routes and had been graded as “green”. In augmentation, a video was shown of the routes

Local Members put forward a case supporting the request, on the grounds of road and personal safety. However, the Sub Committee were of the view that there had been no material change in circumstances since this application had been considered previously.

Thereafter, the Sub Committee **AGREED**:-

- i. pupils living south of the Feabuie junction (C1028/U1148) but within the entitlement distance limits should remain entitled to free school transport;
- ii. that the Feabuie branch road (U1148) was a suitable walking route, except in the winter months; and
- iii. that the C1028 within the Balloch 30mph limit can be crossed safely.

The meeting concluded at 12.50 pm.