

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 Wednesday 20 June 2018 at 2.00 pm.

Present:

Dr I Cockburn
Mr A Henderson (by tele conferencing)

Mr W MacKay (by video conferencing)
Mr R MacWilliam (Chair)

Local Members also present:

Mr J Finlayson
Mr C MacLeod

Officials in attendance:

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 G Adam and from Local Members Mr J Gordon and Mr R MacDonald.

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 this 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 1/18

There had been circulated Report No ETR 1/18 by the Principal Transport Officer providing information relating to the withdrawal of school transport in Skye following a historical agreement coming to an end. The report gave details of the distances to the school, the provision of transport on the route and details of the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy. In addition, a letter was tabled sent on behalf of the parents of South Skye whose children attended Plockton High School.

The Senior Transport Officer provided background information leading to the request and of a useful and constructive meeting held between officers and parents on 19 June 2018.

There then followed a period of questioning of the officer by both the

Members of the Sub Committee and Local Members present. At the conclusion of this, Local Members then put forward their case in support of the Appeal. They provided various reasons why the route should be retained including the negative impact on educational outcomes and the environment and the detrimental effects on health and wellbeing and families etc. In addition it was highlighted that the parents were willing to explore alternative options including the possibility of paying for the service.

Following discussion, where it was hoped that discussions would continue prior to the commencement of the new School session in August 2018, the Sub Committee **REFUSED** transport as per Highland Council Home-to-School Transport Policy for pupils out of catchment on parental placing requests.

The meeting concluded at 2.30 pm.