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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education &amp; Lifelong Learning Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>17 March 2009</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education and Social Care</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUC/36/09/CL</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Colin Laird</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712824</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>School Transport – Paying for Privilege Passes: Approval to Consult</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose the introduction of a scheme in Education Services, whereby parents and carers could pay for a privilege pass on a school transport contract.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 At present there are approximately 100 privilege places available on existing school contracts. Pupils who live more than one mile from their local primary and two miles from their local secondary are entitled to free transport.
- 2.2 These places become available when the operator provides a vehicle with more seating capacity than is required by entitled children.
- 2.3 At present these seats are allocated free to children through a ballot into which all applicants are entered.
- 2.4 In a small number of other authorities the Council charges a daily fee for the allocation of a privilege place. This presents an opportunity to generate some income and offset the heavy costs of school transport to the Council.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that:
- Approval is given to consult with head teachers and parents/carers on the use of payment for privilege passes.

**Ian Fraser**  
**Corporate Director : Education and Social Care**

#### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 There were approximately 100 privilege passes available on this year's school transport contract.
- 4.2 The number of privilege passes may expand as the distance between schools increases because of amalgamations. The number of children entitled to school transport is also likely to increase.
- 4.3 It is unlikely that it would be profitable to enter into new contracts solely on the basis of privilege passes.
- 4.4 Administrative support would be necessary to handle the application process.

#### **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 It is proposed that a full consultation exercise be conducted with parent bodies and head teachers.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial

100 privilege passes sold at £1 per day would bring in £19,000 annually.

Cost centre	Budget Heading	Funding	Virement	Other comments
Primary and Secondary General	Income	£19,000	N/A	Subject to administrative costs

- 6.2 Human Resources

Some hours of officer time would be allocated to managing the application process if approved.

- 6.3 Legal

There is no legal reason why pupils cannot be charged for a privilege pass.

#### **7.0 PROPOSAL**

- 7.1 It is proposed that a fully consultation exercise be carried out. The closing date for set for late April with a further report brought to Committee in May 2009.

#### **8.0 BACKGROUND**

Nil