
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	12 May 2009
Report By:	Corporate Director Education and Social Care	Report No:	EDUC/43/09/CL
Contact Officer:	Colin Laird	Contact No:	01475 712824
Subject:	Consultation on School Transport – Paying for Privilege Passes		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the responses received on the above consultation.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee on 17 March 2009 approved the above consultation with a tight timescale, so that a further report could be brought to the Committee on 12 May 2009.
- 2.2 The previous report indicated that income of around £19,000 per school year could be generated if there were 100 privilege passes available at £1 per child per day.
- 2.3 There are responses both in favour of and against the proposal. A synopsis of the views received is included in section 4 of the report.
- 2.4 The level of response was low. There is a majority against the proposal.
- 2.5 The questions asked in the exercise were simply whether there should be a charge for privilege passes and if so, how much. Other comments were also invited.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the comments received, both for and against paying for privilege passes, and takes note of the potential to offset other transport costs. Given the savings identified in the budget process the Committee decides to proceed as planned and effect the savings.

Ian Fraser
Corporate Director : Education and Social Care

4.0 SYNOPSIS OF VIEWS RECEIVED

4.1 Views expressed in favour of paying for privilege passes were:

- The charge should be substantially less than public transport
- £1 per day is a reasonable price
- Only if the service is extended and available to all who require it
- Would accept the daily charge – there should be an opportunity to pay for safe travel to school, especially when some children narrowly miss the 2 mile limit but still have to travel along the main trunk road through Greenock in dark and very wet weather
- Maybe a charge for secondary schools but not primary
- I would have to pay for local buses anyway

4.2 Views expressed against the proposal were:

- Lone parents would find this very expensive
- It is dangerous for my child to walk
- I was forced to put my child into this school
- School is expensive enough
- It should be free – I am a single parent
- Has the cost of collecting the daily charge been identified?
- Unthinkable for one parent families
- If charge brought in, it should be for everyone
- Already pay Council tax
- Council decided to move the school therefore should fund transport