

I refer to the agenda for the special meeting of the Education & Communities Committee to be held on Monday 23 January 2017 at 3pm and attach report as undernoted which was not available on the day of issue.

GERARD MALONE  
Head of Legal and Property Services

**UNDERNOTE:**

2. **Outcome of Statutory Consultation on School Transport Review**  
Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

Enquiries to - **Sharon Lang** - Tel 01475 712112

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education and Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>23 January 2017</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/17/17/WB</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Wilma Bain</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712761</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Outcome of Statutory Consultation on School Transport Review</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Education and Communities Committee of the outcome of the recent statutory consultation on changes to the Council's school transport provision.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde Council currently operates an enhanced school transport policy. Secondary school pupils in Inverclyde who live more than 2 miles from their local catchment school receive free transport and primary school pupils who live more than 1 mile from their local catchment school receive free transport ("2/1" model). This exceeds the provision by many Scottish local authorities and lies well within the statutory requirements of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 for secondary and primary school pupils of 3 miles and 2 miles, respectively ("3/2" model).
- 2.2 At their meeting on 8 September 2015, members of the Education and Communities Committee decided that a full formal consultation exercise be undertaken based on the preferred option of changing to 2.5 and 1.5 miles for secondary and primary schools respectively and including an element for those pupils eligible for free school meals at 1.5 (secondary pupils) /1 mile (primary pupils) (option 3 – Schools Transport Policy Review Update Report) with a proposed implementation date of August 2017.
- 2.3 A consultation programme on the above proposal was agreed by the Education and Communities Committee at a meeting on 6 September 2016. A statutory consultation exercise was undertaken from 12 September 2016 to 31 October 2016 inclusive allowing consultees to access and respond to the consultation proposal document from a variety of sources such as use of an online facility and attendance at public meetings.
- 2.4 A copy of the Consultation Outcome Report is provided in Appendix 1.
- 2.5 The Consultation Outcome Report was published on the Council website on Thursday 22 December 2016 which meets the statutory timescale requirement of a minimum of 3 weeks between publication of the Consultation Outcome Report and decision-making by elected members on the consultation proposal.
- 2.6 To assist members of the Education and Communities Committee in coming to a decision

regarding the consultation process, a number of significant issues from the consultation responses have been identified and these are outlined in section 6 of this Committee report.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The recommendations of Council Officers are as follows:

1. The Education and Communities Committee consider the outcome of the statutory consultation on proposed changes to school transport as outlined in this report.
2. The Education and Communities Committee determine its views having regard to the statutory consultation outcome report.
3. Thereafter, if it is the decision of the Education and Communities Committee to implement the changes outlined in section 4.3 of this report, to:
  - (i) approve the proposal to increase the mileage limits for free school transport for secondary pupils residing more than 2.5 miles from their school
  - (ii) approve the proposal to increase the mileage limits for free school transport for primary pupils residing more than 1.5 miles from their school
  - (iii) not approve the proposal to introduce an element for those children and young people entitled to free school meals (FME and who are eligible for a clothing grant) to enable them to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) and 1 mile (primary pupils), and consequently approve the mileage limits for those pupils as outlined in recommendations 3(i) and 3(ii) above.
4. In the event of the proposals to change school transport provision not being approved (recommendations 3(i) and 3(ii) above), that the Education and Communities Committee address the issue of inequality of provision that currently exists for pupils in St Columba's High School, some pupils in Clydeview Academy and for some pupils who live in Inverkip through approving that the current school transport policy is implemented across all Inverclyde schools from August 2017.
5. In the event of the above recommendations being agreed, the Education and Communities Committee note that Education Services' officers will meet with contract bus companies to discuss the potential for specific paid provision in the areas not served by existing public transport routes.

**Wilma Bain**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Education Communities & Organisational Development**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Inverclyde Council currently operates an enhanced school transport policy. Secondary school pupils in Inverclyde who live more than 2 miles from their local catchment school receive free transport and primary school pupils who live more than 1 mile from their local catchment school receive free transport ("2/1" model). This exceeds the provision by many Scottish local authorities and lies well within the statutory requirements of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 for secondary and primary school pupils of 3 miles and 2 miles, respectively ("3/2" model).
- 4.2 On 8 September 2015, the Education and Communities Committee considered options which would increase the qualification of entitlement to free school mainstream transport to bring it in line with statutory requirement as outlined in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, and ensure equality in the provision of free school transport within Inverclyde.
- 4.3 At their meeting on 8 September 2015, members of the Education and Communities Committee decided that a full formal consultation exercise be undertaken based on the preferred option of changing to 2.5 and 1.5 miles for secondary and primary schools respectively and including a poverty element at 1.5/1 miles (option 3) with a proposed implementation date of August 2017.
- 4.4 The proposed changes to school transport provision were included in the Council's proposed budget savings for 2017/18 and were included in the package of savings proposals which were subject to public consultation in November/December 2015.
- 4.5 Under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, if a local authority proposes to discontinue arrangements for the provision of transport for pupils attending a denominational school, it must undertake a statutory consultation with key stakeholders affected by the proposal.
- 4.6 A consultation programme on the above proposal was agreed by the Education and Communities Committee at a meeting on 6 September 2016. A statutory consultation exercise was undertaken from 12 September 2016 to 31 October 2016 inclusive allowing consultees to access and respond to the consultation proposal document from a variety of sources such as use of an online facility and attendance at public meetings.

## **5.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 5.1 Part of the statutory process for this consultation involves a role for Education Scotland. Colleagues from Education Scotland attended some of the public meetings and also met with a sample of stakeholders in the weeks following the public meetings. A collation of the responses received in relation to the consultation exercise was submitted to Education Scotland who considered the responses received along with the educational benefits statement which formed part of the consultation proposal document. Education Scotland's resulting report is included in our Consultation Outcome Report (Appendix 1).
- 5.2 The next stage in the statutory process was to agree a date for the outcome report to be published on the Council website. This must be for a minimum period of 3 weeks before the Education and Communities Committee make a decision on the school transport proposals. Education Scotland requires a minimum of 5 days' notice before the outcome report is published online. The Consultation Outcome Report was published on the Council website on Thursday 22 December 2016 which meets the statutory timescale requirement of a minimum of 3 weeks between publication of the Consultation Outcome Report and decision-making by elected members on the consultation proposal.

5.3 The Consultation Outcome Report (Appendix 1) includes the following appendices:

1. Consultation Document
2. List of Consultees
3. Consultation Response Form
4. Public meetings – Questions and Responses
5. 5a - Comments from public meetings  
5b - Comments from consultation response form submissions  
5c - letter responses
6. Report from Education Scotland
7. Safe Route pro forma
8. Sample Map

## 6.0 Significant Issues to be Considered

- 6.1 In reviewing the range of issues raised throughout the consultation, it is evident that there are significant concerns from parents around the personal safety of pupils with many parents/carers disputing the safe route assessments by Inverclyde Council's Road Safety Team.
- 6.2 A significant majority of parents indicated that the expectation of walking the proposed distances pupils were being asked to walk would have a detrimental impact on performance in school. This combination of distance, the steep gradients of many of the identified walking routes and above-average levels of rainfall in the Inverclyde area were consistently specified as sufficient reasons to maintain the status quo with regard to school transport limits.
- 6.3 There was also considerable disagreement with element 3 of the proposal which would give access to free transport for those pupils entitled to free school meals and clothing grants. This was clearly viewed as inequitable particularly for those families whose financial circumstance put them just above the threshold for access to these benefits.
- 6.4 Concern has been expressed by consultees about the availability of alternative public transport on some of the routes which currently have free school transport for pupils attending St Columba's High School.
- 6.5 Consideration must be given to addressing the issue of inequality of provision that exists at present for pupils in St Columba's High School, some pupils in Clydeview Academy, and for some pupils who live in Inverkip through ensuring that Inverclyde Council's school transport policy, be it current or revised, is implemented consistently across all Inverclyde schools.
- 6.6 The changes consulted on have the potential to allow the Council to make savings of around £170,000 each year thus avoiding the need for this level of required savings in other areas of education provision.
- 6.7 Access to a high a quality education provision which is fair and equitable is a crucial factor for the repopulation of Inverclyde.

## 7.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 7.1 Finance

#### Financial Implications:

One off Costs – If Committee were to accept Recommendation 4

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
SEMP		2017/18	Part Year £153,000  Full Year £245,000		

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings): If Committee were to accept recommendations 3 (i) and (ii) and to include the deprivation element by rejecting recommendation 3(iii).

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
Education	School Transport	August 2017	Part year £120,000  Full year £170,000		

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings): If Committee were to accept recommendations 3 (i), (ii) and (iii).

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
Education	School Transport	August 2017	Part year £225,000  Full year £320,000		

## 7.2 Legal

This consultation exercise has been carried out with due regard to the legislative requirements under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

## 7.3 Human Resources

N/A

## 7.4 Equalities

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes This was completed for the School Transport Review Report that was considered by the education and Communities Committee on 08 September 2015.

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No

This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

## 7.5 Repopulation

N/A

## 8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Extensive consultation has taken place in relation to this proposal as required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

## 9.0 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 In the current financial climate where the Council is facing severe financial constraints, it is appropriate to review our school transport provision as part of Education Services' contribution to the Council's required budget savings proposals.

9.2 The review of school transport will also enable us to ensure equality of school transport provision across all our schools.

## 10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Education and Communities Report (08 September 2015) 'Schools Transport Policy Review Update – Equality in Provision of School Transport for Inverclyde Schools'.

10.2 Education and Communities Committee (06 September 2016) 'School Transport Review – Proposals for Formal Consultation'.

**Outcome of the Statutory Consultation on the proposal to increase the mileage limits for free school transport:**

- to secondary pupils residing more than 2.5 miles from their school;
- to primary pupils residing more than 1.5 miles from their school; and
- to introduce an element for those children and young people entitled to free school meals (FME and who are eligible for a clothing grant) to enable them to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) and 1 mile (primary pupils).

**December 2016**

This report has been published by Inverclyde Council in response to the statutory consultation undertaken under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This report will be presented to the Education and Communities Committee of Inverclyde Council for consideration in January 2017.



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## **1.0 Purpose of the report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise all stakeholders on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the proposal to increase the mileage limits for free school transport:

- to secondary pupils residing more than 2.5 miles from their school;
- to primary pupils residing more than 1.5 miles from their school; and
- to introduce an element for those children and young people entitled to free school meals (FME and who are eligible for a clothing grant) to enable them to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) and 1 mile (primary pupils).

## **2.0 Background on the consultation process**

2.1 A consultation proposal document was issued as a result of a decision taken by the Education and Communities Committee on 6 September 2016 to consult on the proposal below:

2.2 To increase the mileage limits for free school transport:

- to secondary pupils residing more than 2.5 miles from their school;
- to primary pupils residing more than 1.5 miles from their school; and
- to introduce an element for those children and young people entitled to free school meals (FME and who are eligible for a clothing grant) to enable them to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) and 1 mile (primary pupils).

2.3 Notice of the proposal and of publication of the proposal document was placed in The Greenock Telegraph to engage with the general community.

2.4 A copy of the proposal document (Appendix 1) was made available from Monday 12 September 2016 to Monday 31 October 2016 to statutory and other consultees as listed in Appendix 2. In addition further communications were made with parents, pupils, parent councils and Church representatives.

2.5 The consultation document was available from a variety of sources:

- Online survey
- Consultation document (with feedback form) to be made available online along with other relevant documents such as maps and details of safe walking routes to school
- Public meetings
- Hard copies of consultation document with a pre-paid envelope to assist anyone who wishes to make a response by paper

- 2.6 The consultation, in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 was carried out over the period 12 September 2016 to 31 October 2016 during which time all interested parties were invited to submit written representations. A copy of the consultation response form is attached to the report (Appendix 3).
- 2.7 As part of the consultation process there were also 5 public meetings held at 6.30 pm on:
- Wednesday 28 September 2016 – St Columba’s High School
  - Monday 3 October 2016 – Notre Dame High School
  - Tuesday 4 October 2016 – Port Glasgow Community Campus
  - Thursday 13 October 2016 – Clydeview Academy
  - Tuesday 25 October 2016 – St Andrew’s Primary School
- 2.8 In addition, a “drop-in” meeting was held towards the end of the school day on Monday 31 October 2016 in St Joseph’s Primary School.
- 2.9 A summary of the oral representations made at each meeting is included in Appendix 4 in this report.
- 2.10 Inverclyde Council sent a copy of the proposal document to Education Scotland on Monday 12 September 2016 as required, on Monday 7 November 2016 Education Scotland was provided with a summary of all relevant written responses (see Appendices 5a - c) and the oral representations mentioned previously.
- 2.11 Inverclyde Council received a copy of Education Scotland’s report on Wednesday 11 November 2016. A summary of this report is included in Section 5 of this report and a copy of the full report is included as Appendix 6.
- 2.12 Following the consultation period it is the Council’s duty to review the proposal taking account of the feedback received from stakeholders during the consultation period which includes online responses, written responses and oral representations made during the public meetings. The content of Education Scotland’s report should also be taken into consideration.
- 2.13 It should be noted that this consultation outcome report is published at least 3 weeks before it is formally considered by the Education and Communities Committee on 23 January 2017.

### **3.0 Summary of written responses**

- 3.1 The total number of responses received on the official consultation response form (via the online survey or hard copy) was 1,459. Below is a summary of the responses to the questions posed.

### 3.2 Proposal

The consultation proposal was:

Inverclyde Council is seeking your views on the proposal to increase the mileage limits for free school transport:

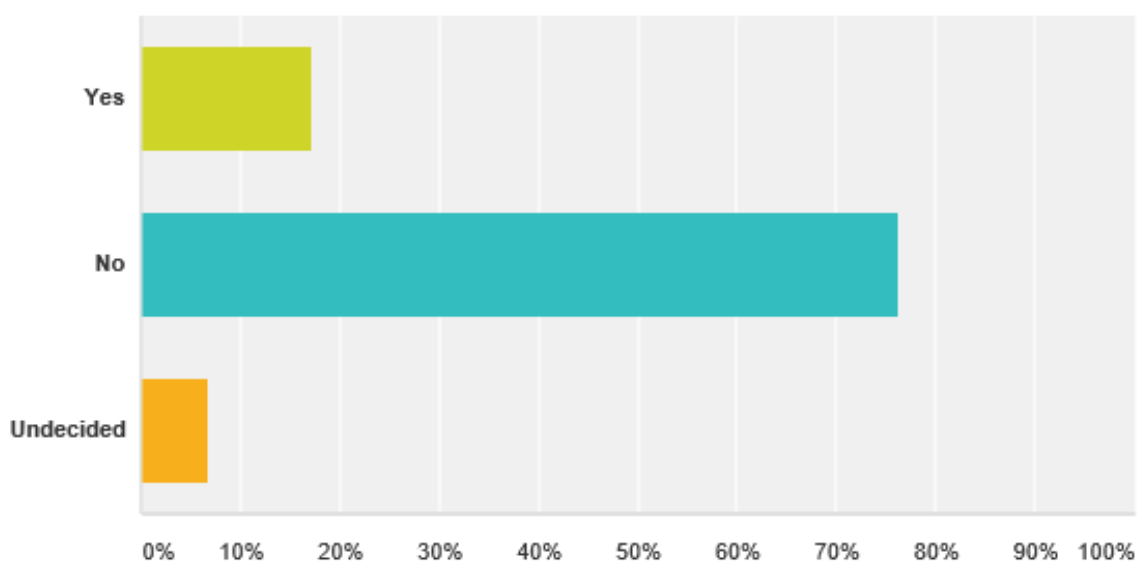
- I to secondary pupils residing more than 2.5 miles from their school;
- ii to primary pupils residing more than 1.5 miles from their school; and
- iii to introduce an element for those children and young people entitled to free school meals (FME and who are eligible for a clothing grant) to enable them to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) and 1 mile (primary pupils).

In addition, the review of school transport would look to address the inequality of provision that currently exists due to historic factors resulting in an enhanced provision for pupils in St Columba's High School, Clydevie Academy and for some pupils who live in Inverkip.

### 3.3. Responses to Consultation Questions

#### Question 1

Do you agree with the elements proposed in the consultation?

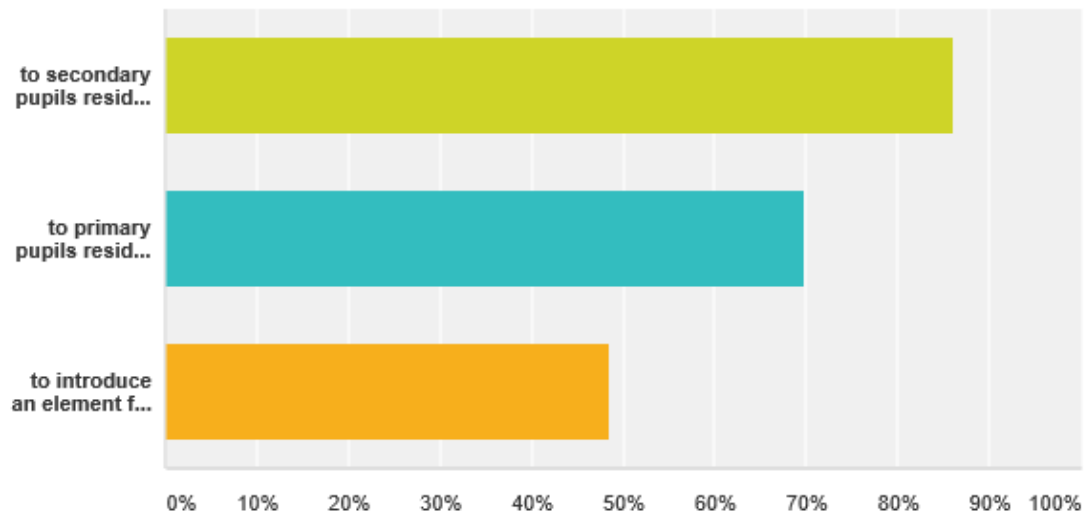


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	17.20%	251
No	76.22%	1,112
Undecided	6.58%	96
Total		1,459

The response to this question indicates that there is overwhelming rejection of the proposal.

### Question 1 – Elements

If “No” which element(s) do you not agree with?



Answer Choices	Responses	
to secondary pupils residing more than 2.5 miles from their school	85.94%	911
to primary pupils residing more than 1.5 miles from their school	69.72%	739
to introduce an element for those children and young people entitled to free school meals (FME and who are eligible for a clothing grant), to enable them to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) and 1 mile (primarypupils).	48.49%	514
Total Respondents: 1,060		

The response to this question indicates that the majority of respondents (86%) were opposed to changes to the transport limits for secondary pupils with a significant number (70%) also opposed to the changes to primary limits.

Almost half (48.5%) of respondents were opposed to the introduction of an FME and Clothing Grant element to be included in the proposal.

## Question 2 – Personal Details

For responses to be valid, participants were informed that their name and contact detail were required. Of the 1459 responses received 1122 provided their names while 1115 provided addresses.

Answer Choices	Responses	Responses
Name	Responses	100.00% 1,122
Address	Responses	99.38% 1,115

Names and details have been withheld to ensure confidentiality.

## Q3 Please state which school(s) your response relates to:

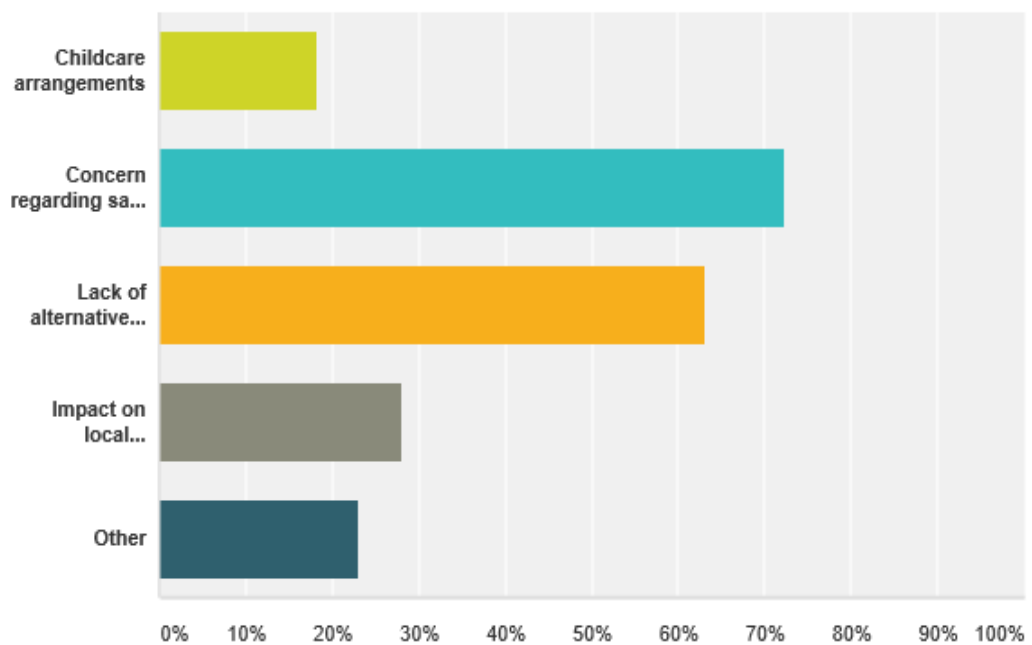
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Aileymill Primary School	3.19%	89
All Saints Primary School	2.47%	69
Ardgowan Primary School	2.51%	70
Clydeview Academy	5.34%	149
Craigmarloch School	1.69%	47
Gourock Primary School	1.94%	54
Inverclyde Academy	4.37%	122
Inverkip Primary School	3.26%	91
Kilmacolm Primary School	2.44%	68
King's Oak Primary School	2.04%	57
Lady Alice Primary School	2.01%	56
Lomond View Academy	1.51%	42
Moorfoot Primary School	2.65%	74
Newark Primary School	2.62%	73
Notre Dame High School	6.81%	190
Port Glasgow High School	2.87%	80
St Andrew's Primary School	5.09%	142
St Columba's High School	21.30%	594
St Francis Primary School	1.94%	54
St Johns Primary School	2.19%	61
St Joseph's Primary School	3.30%	92
St Mary's Primary School	2.01%	56
St Michael's Primary School	2.04%	57
St Ninian's Primary School	5.02%	140
St Patrick's Primary School	1.90%	53
St Stephen's High School	3.33%	93
Wemyss Bay Primary School	2.01%	56
Whinhill Primary School	2.15%	60
<b>answered question</b>		<b>2789</b>

The above table notes a significantly higher number of responses from parents/carers and pupils associated with St Columba’s High School (21.3%) than those from any other establishment.

#### Question 4 - Reasons for Rejection of Proposal

Respondents were asked to identify their reasons for rejecting the proposal with 1084 providing reasons with 311 providing comments in the “other” category.

#### Reasons for Rejecting Proposal



Answer Choices	Responses
Childcare arrangements	18.08% 196
Concern regarding safe walking routes for my child	72.23% 783
Lack of alternative transport modes	63.01% 683
Impact on local communities around the school	28.04% 304
Other	23.06% 250
Total Respondents: 1,084	

[Comments \(311\)](#)

The table below summarises the concerns raised by respondents in the “other“ category:

Concern Raised
Excessive distance from school
Extremities of weather
Safety of children (other than safe walking routes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal safety – walking alone;</li> <li>• Pedestrian crossing – lack of crossing-wardens</li> <li>• Careless driving</li> </ul>
Free Meal Entitlement (FME) viewed as inequitable
Impact on attendance levels
Financial impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport costs,</li> <li>• Multiple buses needed,</li> <li>• Multiple children in family;</li> <li>• Children at other schools (Primary/Early Learning and Childcare)</li> </ul>
Impact on attainment – children unable to perform in class due to tiredness caused by walking excessive distances
Placing requests to alternate schools - impact on school rolls
Impact on Health and wellbeing of children particularly with reference to capacity to perform well in school after walking 50+ minutes
Impact on parental employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• start times;</li> <li>• escorting children to school, etc</li> </ul>
Identification of children entitled to Free School Meals (stigma)
Environmental impact – pollution, congestion
Encourage population decline
ASN issues – Hearing impairment
Proposal not cost effective
Council decision to build schools in areas not served by public service routes and therefore responsible for transport provision

The response to this question shows that the significant issue for parents is both the safety of children when walking to school and the impact of perceived excessive distance and/or steep gradients on many of the routes on a pupil's performance in school over the course of the day.



## Question 5 - Comment and Alternative Proposals

Respondents were invited to make comment or suggest alternative proposals to be considered:

If you would like to make any comment on the proposal, or suggest an alternative option for consideration please do so in the space below.	
Answer Options	Response Count
	451

### Alternative Proposals

There were 451 comments given with a few alternate proposals lodged. These are listed below.

Proposals	Response
Review catchment areas	There are no current proposals to review school catchment areas. It is likely that this would prove to be a more contentious consultation proposal as it could result in family members attending different schools.
Available spaces allocated to pupils losing entitlement as bus is already available	It is not necessarily the case that the bus remaining on any route will be of the same capacity as this may be dependent on the contract arrangements prior and subsequent to the school pick-up. Privilege pass arrangements are available to pupils.
Money should be spent on more important areas	It will be for elected members to decide if there are more "important" areas in which to allocate or retain funding.
Reduce spending on pensioners and elderly	As above
Alternate transport payment arrangements – £1 beyond 2 mile limit, etc	Logistically difficult but worthy of consideration
Increase limits to statutory minimum	No currently part of this consultation proposal

### Comments

The main themes and concerns arising from respondent comments are listed below with Inverclyde Council responses also given.

	Comments/Issues Raised	Responses
1	Excessive distance from school	Current limit of two miles for secondary schools and one mile for primary schools has not been an issue of concern since its implementation. At that distance the

		average walking time to secondary schools would be approximately 50 minutes (average 3 miles per hour). The additional half-mile (800 metres) extension to that limit would increase that time by approximately 10 - 15 minutes.
2	Extremities of weather	While Inverclyde is perceived as being an area of high precipitation, the annual rainfall statistics suggest that while the Glasgow area has, on average, more days with rain/drizzle than Inverclyde the annual average rainfall is higher in Inverclyde (Met Office Data).
3	Safety of children (other than safe walking routes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal safety – walking alone;</li> <li>• Pedestrian crossing – lack of crossing-patrols</li> <li>• Careless driving</li> </ul>	All safe walking routes are assessed by Inverclyde's Road Safety Team using current national guidelines (West of Scotland Guidelines). Those guidelines take account of crossing-patrols and pedestrian crossings. It is stated in Section 1 of the West of Scotland Guidelines that parents have the right of appeal if they disagree with the assessment of a "Safe Walking Route". All schools across Inverclyde address Road Safety education in the Personal Social and Health education (PSHE) curriculum with input from Police Scotland and Inverclyde's CLD Team.
4	Free Meal Entitlement (FME) is viewed as inequitable	This element was introduced to address aspects of deprivation in some areas across Inverclyde Council and reflects recent national policy to target financial support through both the Attainment Challenge and Pupil Premium funding to areas of deprivation based on the 15% most deprived data-zones (SIMD 1 and 2) and Free Meal Entitlement respectively. It is however evident from a significant number of responses that this solution is perceived as inequitable given the capacity for almost all young people to walk the distances proposed.
5	Impact on attendance levels	See note 1. above – there is no evidence of any detrimental impact on attendance for those pupils living on the current transport limits.
6	Financial impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transport costs;</li> <li>• multiple buses needed;</li> <li>• multiple children in family;</li> <li>• children at other schools (primary)</li> </ul>	The families most likely to be impacted financially by these proposed changes would be those for whom school transport is currently provided due to lack of public transport. Those young people would be required to travel to school using two or more existing bus routes or a combination

		<p>of bus and train.</p> <p>To support families in addressing this issue, Inverclyde Council would look to facilitate and co-ordinate negotiations with private transport providers to implement contracted transport provision on routes without public service.</p> <p>The recent successful move to on-line payment for a range of school cost, e.g. school meals and trips, would assist in the management and logistics of this process.</p>
7	<p>Impact on parental employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• start times,</li> <li>• escorting children to school</li> </ul>	<p>While it remains the responsibility of parents/guardians that children attend school, reference should be made to note 6 above.</p> <p>Also, possible access to places allocated using the Privilege Pass scheme would be able to support a number of parents in this regard.</p>
8	<p>Impact on attainment – children unable to perform in class due to tiredness caused by walking excessive distances</p>	<p>See note 1. Above – there is no evidence that there has been any detrimental impact on the attainment for those pupils walking to school in the current transport limits.</p>
9	<p>Placing requests to alternate schools - impact on school rolls</p>	<p>While this is acknowledged as a possible impact of the implementation of this proposed change, Inverclyde’s Placing Request Policy will allow the Authority to manage the process to ensure that schools are not oversubscribed.</p>
10	<p>Impact on health and wellbeing of children particularly with reference to capacity to perform well in school after walking 50+ minutes</p>	<p>There is significant evidence to support the benefits of walking as an excellent part of increasing wellbeing, increasing fitness and reducing obesity. As noted previously, it is not uncommon for a significant number of children to travel independently to a school, particularly those at the edges of current transport limits, with no negative impact on health or wellbeing.</p> <p>Further, the consultation proposal document, the recent Sustrans research would indicate that active travel to school (even part of the way) can make children more alert and ready to face the school day than if they had arrived in a car: walking, cycling or scooting to school.</p> <p>Further information can be viewed at: <a href="http://www.sustrans.org.uk">www.sustrans.org.uk</a></p>
11	<p>Identification/stigmatisation of children entitled to Free School Meals or Clothing Grants</p>	<p>While many respondents acknowledge the principle behind this proposal, it is widely perceived that this is likely to the identification and consequently stigmatisation of those pupils accessing school transport through free meal or</p>

		<p>clothing grant entitlement.</p> <p>While, it is noted that this element reflects recent national policy to target financial support through both the Attainment Challenge and Pupil Premium funding to areas of deprivation, there has been no identifiable rise in stigmatisation of pupils from schools allocated additional funding through the Attainment Challenge Programme.</p>
12	<p>Environmental impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased traffic;</li> <li>• Pollution;</li> <li>• congestion</li> </ul>	<p>Of the twenty-six Inverclyde schools, ten are unaffected by the proposed changes with another seven totalling fewer than 60 pupils being impacted. Of the remaining nine schools, the average number of pupils impacted per school is 38.</p> <p>While the perceived impact on pollution and traffic may be offset to some degree by the reduced number of buses on school routes, increase in traffic is likely to be highest from those areas currently served by school transport where there is no alternate public bus or train provision.</p> <p>Consideration of Inverclyde Council facilitating and negotiating school transport provision in these circumstances is outlined in Note 6 above.</p>
13	Encourage population decline	<p>There is a view that implementation of this proposal is likely to discourage immigration to Inverclyde – an outcome contrary to the strategy underpinning Inverclyde’s school refurbishment and re-build programme.</p>
14	This proposal is unfair to some of the most deprived areas in Inverclyde	<p>While it is perceived that it will be the most deprived areas of Inverclyde which are more likely to be impacted negatively by the implementation of this proposal, analysis of the available data indicates that 37% of those affected reside in the most deprived 15% data-zones (SIMD 1 and 2). The total number of pupils currently impacted in the nine Attainment Challenge schools is 52 – 13% of those affected.</p>
15	Proposal not cost effective	<p>Throughout the consultation the emphasis has been on separating the three main elements of the proposal giving an overall saving of £170K. The full saving, if implemented, would provide a total saving £540K. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in transport limits;</li> <li>• Temporary provision to identified schools; and</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exclusion of deprivation element (FME)</li> </ul> <p>This should also be viewed in the context of this proposal NOT going to statutory limits of two and three miles respectively.</p>
16	Council decision to build schools in areas not served by public service routes and therefore responsible for transport provision	<p>While several respondents and contributors at consultation events commented on the Council's decisions to place new-build schools at outer-edges of school catchment areas, it is widely acknowledged that Inverclyde Council continues to develop a schools estate of the highest quality.</p> <p>A potential approach to the lack of public transport provision in some areas is addressed in Note 6 above.</p>

A copy of all comments received is available in Appendix 5

### Question 6 - Response Groups

Contributors were asked to identify the capacity in which they were responding:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Parent/carer of a child at primary school	29.43%	309
Parent/carer of a child at secondary school	28.76%	302
Parent/carer of a child in nursery	1.43%	15
Parent Council member (primary school)	1.33%	14
Parent Council member (secondary school)	0.57%	6
Member of staff at primary school	0.57%	6
Church representative	0.10%	1
Elected member	0.29%	3
Trade Union	0.00%	0
Member of the public	9.90%	104
Member of community council	0.38%	4
Other (please specify)	<b>Responses</b>	27.24% 286
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,050</b>

### 3.4 Other Written Responses

Several groups submitted responses in letter format. These included responses from Student and Parent Council groups and covered similar issues as listed in the above comments summary table. The groups responding were:

1. All Saints Pupil Council
2. Diocese of Paisley
3. Inverclyde Academy Parent Council
4. Moorfoot Primary P7 Feedback
5. Notre Dame HS Parent Council
6. Notre Dame HS Parent Response
7. PGHS Student Council
8. St Andrew's Primary – 81 copies submitted
9. St Andrew's Primary – Parent Forum Questions
10. St Columba's HS Parent Council Objections – 357 copies submitted
11. St Columba's HS Parent Council
12. St Mary's Primary – Pupil Council
13. St Ninian's Primary – Pupil Council
14. St Stephen's HS – Pupil Council
15. Whinhill Primary Parent Council

As these responses are from representative groups there are no issues with regards to confidentiality and consequently copies are included in this report (Appendix 5c)

#### **4. Summary of oral responses from public meetings**

- 4.1 During the public meetings, there was a presentation which provided information on the proposal and statutory consultation process, described the financial challenges being faced by the Council and the need to make savings, and gave an overview of the format of the public meeting.
- 4.2 Part of the presentation included details of the methods used to identify safe walking routes to schools by Inverclyde's Road Safety Team. This included access to sample route maps and copies of the West of Scotland Safe Walking Route Guidelines were also available.
- 4.3 The opportunity to request an individualised route map (appendix 8) and to raise concerns about perceived poor road conditions or safety issues was available to those present using a pro-forma return (appendix 7) or by email. These concerns were answered by the Road Safety Team directly
- 4.4 A question and answer session then followed involving members of the public and Council officers.
- 4.5 As noted, Appendix 4 provides notes of the oral representations from each of the eight public meetings.

## **5.0 Response by Education Scotland**

5.1 Section 4 of the consultation document outlined the educational aspects of the proposal by Inverclyde Council, these are summarised below:

- 1 Given the current financial climate in which Inverclyde Council is operating and the associated financial challenges faced, Inverclyde Council holds the view that it can no longer afford to provide free mainstream school transport at a more generous level than required under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. This view is also informed by the fact that revenue budgets are expected to fall sharply over the next 5 years resulting in the need for further significant budget savings to be made. To support all children and young people to achieve their full potential, Inverclyde Council's focus must remain on protecting the use of resources that are required to ensure high quality learning and teaching across all of Inverclyde's schools and early years' establishments.
- 2 If this savings proposal was not to be implemented then it would have an adverse impact not only on Education Services' financial position and future provision, but also on the financial position and provision of other important and valued Council services, as savings would be required to be taken from other areas.
- 3 Our health and wellbeing policies recommend increased physical activity for all and encourage children and young people to become more active including walking where possible especially when evidence suggests an increase in sedentary life style. Nationally almost 20% of children are overweight/obese. In Inverclyde this figure is 25%.
- 4 Sustrans ([www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)) report that research shows that active travel to school (even part of the way) can make children more alert and ready to face the school day than if they had arrived in a car: walking, cycling or scooting to school wakes up the mind and body. Sustrans' report states that active travel to school can increase concentration by up to 4 hours. Active travel also allows children to develop a greater awareness of traffic and the ability to travel independently and safely. In the longer term, this proposed change in school transport policy will encourage more walking and will positively assist in the health of the local population.

## **5.2 Report by Education Scotland - Summary**

Below is a summary of the report from education Scotland addressing the educational aspects of the consultation proposal by Inverclyde Council

- 1 The proposal to increase the qualification for free mainstream primary school and secondary school transport to children and young people residing more than 1.5 miles and 2.5 miles from their school respectively

and to enable those children and young people entitled to free school meals to access transport at closer distances of 1 mile (primary pupils) and 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) has some potential educational benefits.

- 2 Financial savings made in this area may reduce the need for savings in other areas, including resources for learning and teaching. Valuable resources required to ensure high quality learning and teaching across all Inverclyde schools will be secured. Children and young people will benefit through increased physical activity and active travel to and from school. There is however, almost universal opposition to the proposal from parents, school staff, children and young people across the council area.
- 3 In taking forward the proposal, the council needs to address the concerns of many stakeholders who responded to the survey or met with HM Inspectors, specifically:
  - a. To address the concerns of young people and their families about the safety and security relating to walking routes;
  - b. issues of increased congestion around schools;
  - c. the concerns of teaching staff with regard to the potential disruption to learning;
  - d. The impact on improving attainment that any increase in late coming might generate.

The council should also engage directly with the Diocese of Paisley to address concerns expressed about the possible detrimental impact on Inverclyde's Catholic schools provision both in terms of the asymmetrical placement of Catholic schools within their catchment areas and the lack of public transport connecting Catholic schools with their communities.

The full report from Education Scotland can be found in Appendix 6.

### **5.3 Council Response**

In response to the points raised in the consultation report by Education Scotland's the Council has considered the range of concerns expressed both the survey comments (Question 5), other format written responses and those raised at public meetings: these are summarised in Section 5 of this report.

Those respondents requesting individualised route maps or raising concerns about safety issues on identified routes using the pro-forma return available at public meetings have received a response from Inverclyde's Road Safety Team.

A copy of the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum Guidelines was available to all stakeholders attending the scheduled public meetings and is also



available on the Council website. The Council will continue to undertake further road safety assessments if requested and, if not already undertaken, will continue to provide transport where a route is deemed unsafe. The Council will monitor traffic congestion around schools should the proposal be implemented.

While noting that concerns were raised through the consultation process about the potential impact on attainment, Education Scotland not indicated that they would have concerns in this regard should the proposal be accepted. Issues around the impact on learning and improving attainment through the potential for late coming would be addressed by each establishment. There is no data/evidence to indicate that late coming is impacted significantly by the distance children travel to school.

While highlighting the focus on “Closing the Gap” through additional funding to areas of deprivation through the Attainment Challenge, the Council will continue to work directly with the Diocese of Paisley and other denominational representatives should this proposal be implemented through it’s close working relationship with Church representatives on the Council’s Education and Communities Committee.

The availability of alternative public transport provision remains an issue of concern for many consultees.

## **6.0 Review of proposals by Inverclyde Council**

- 6.1 The Council has consider the original proposal and reflected upon all responses received. Council responses to the specific issues raised can be found throughout the text of this report with identified themes covered in Section 3 (page 10).
- 6.2 The exact statutory requirement in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 relates to the provision of free school transport for primary school pupils aged 8 years and under who live more than 2 miles from their local catchment primary school, and 3 miles for those pupils aged 8 years and over attending a catchment primary or secondary school. The current school transport policy in Inverclyde does not apply the different ruling for primary pupils under and over 8 years of age and the Council has no intention of changing this factor now or in the future. All primary school pupils have the same mileage limits for free mainstream school transport. The proposals as stated in the published consultation document would not take the school transport limit to the statutory maximum i.e. 3 miles for secondary school pupils and 2 miles for those in primary education.

- 6.3 As part of the process of setting a balanced budget each year, the Council approves a package of savings proposals. Through this exercise, it can be demonstrated that, over a number of years, protection has been given to education as it contributes proportionately a substantially lower amount of savings rather than other Council departments.
- 6.4 This deliberate approach of protecting education has meant that the focus remains on maximising the use of resources to facilitate teaching and learning.
- 6.5 Further, the report states that the financial saving would "... enable the Council to support all children and young people to achieve their full potential and in doing so protect the use of resources that are required to ensure high quality learning and teaching is maintained across all Inverclyde schools".
- 6.6 The report also notes that the proposal "... has potential health and wellbeing benefits for children and young people through increased physical activity and active travel to and from school. As a result, this proposal offers potential benefits to children and young people across the whole Council area".

## **7.0 Significant Issues to be Considered**

- 7.1 In reviewing the range of issues raised throughout the consultation, it is evident that there are significant concerns from parents around the personal safety of pupils with many parents/carers disputing the safe route assessments by Inverclyde Council's Road Safety Team.
- 7.2 A significant majority of parents indicated that the expectation of walking the proposed distances pupils were being asked to walk would have a detrimental impact on performance in school. This combination of distance, the steep gradients of many of the identified walking routes and above-average levels of rainfall in the Inverclyde area were consistently specified as sufficient reasons to maintain the status quo with regard to school transport limits.
- 7.3 There was also considerable disagreement with element 3 of the proposal which would give access to free transport for those pupils entitled to free school meals and clothing grants. This was clearly viewed as inequitable particularly for those families whose financial circumstance put them just above the threshold for access to these benefits.
- 7.4 Concern has been expressed by consultees about the availability of alternative public transport on some of the routes which currently have free school transport for pupils attending St Columba's High School.

- 7.5 Consideration must be given to addressing the issue of inequality of provision that exists at present for pupils in St Columba's High School, some pupils in Clydeview Academy, and for some pupils who live in Inverkip through ensuring that Inverclyde Council's school transport policy, be it current or revised, is implemented consistently across all Inverclyde schools.
- 7.6 The changes consulted on have the potential to allow the Council to make savings of around £170,000 each year thus avoiding the need for this level of required savings in other areas of education provision.
- 7.7 Access to a high a quality education provision which is fair and equitable is a crucial factor for the repopulation of Inverclyde.

## **8.0 Next Steps**

- 8.1 A detailed report from Officers which will include this outcome report in full will be submitted to the Education and Communities Committee at a special meeting to be convened by February 2016.

## **9.0 Resource implications**

- 9.1 If the proposal is approved, staff resource will be required to implement the changes and communicate the changes with parents/carers. Further communications will be made with SPT and contracted service providers.

## **10.0 Policy Implications**

- 10.1 If the proposal is approved, the necessary changes will be reflected in Council policy on School Transport.

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## **Education Services School Transport Review**

### **Consultation proposal document**

We are looking for your views on the

#### **Proposal to increase the mileage limits for free school transport:**

- to secondary pupils residing more than 2.5 miles from their school;
- to primary pupils residing more than 1.5 miles from their school; and
- to introduce an element for those children and young people entitled to free school meals (FME and who are eligible for a clothing grant) to enable them to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) and 1 mile (primary pupils).

**Closing date for responses: Monday 31 October 2016**

There will be 4 area public meetings held on:

#### **Parents/Carers of St Columba's High School Cluster**

Wednesday 28 September 2016 – St Columba's High School at 6.30 pm

#### **Parents/Carers of Notre Dame High School and Inverclyde Academy Clusters**

Monday 3 October 2016 – Notre Dame High School at 6.30 pm

#### **Parents/Carers of Port Glasgow High School and St Stephen's High School Clusters**

Tuesday 4 October 2016 – Port Glasgow Community Campus at 6.30 pm

#### **Parents/Carers of Clydeview Academy cluster**

Thursday 13 October 2016 – Clydeview Academy at 6.30 pm

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: (01475) 712853.

## **Contents**

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- 2. The consultation process**
- 3. Implementation date for the proposal**
- 4. Educational benefits – assessment of the likely effects of the proposal**
- 5. Assessing the impact on the local community affected by this proposal**
- 6. Employee implications**
- 7. Financial implications**
- 8. Responding to the proposal**
- 9. Appendices**
  - Appendix 1 – Consultees and accessing the proposal document
- 10. Consultation response form**

## 1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

- 1.1 Inverclyde Council currently operates an enhanced school transport policy. Secondary school pupils in Inverclyde who live more than 2 miles from their local catchment school receive free transport and primary school pupils who live more than 1 mile from their local catchment school receive free transport (“2/1” model). This exceeds the provision by many Scottish local authorities and lies well within the statutory requirements of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 for secondary and primary school pupils of 3 miles and 2 miles, respectively (“3/2” model).
- 1.2 In Scotland, 19 Councils provide free school transport at the statutory limits (“3/2”) and more recently both Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire Councils have moved to statutory limits.
- 1.3 In the current financial climate where the Council is facing severe financial constraints, it was deemed appropriate to review our school transport provision as part of Education Services contribution to the Council’s required budget savings proposals. In addition, the review of school transport would address the inequality of provision that currently exists due to historic factors resulting in an enhanced provision for pupils in St Columba’s High School, Clydeview Academy and for some pupils who live in Inverkip.
- 1.4 A number of Councils have been looking at the issue of inequity around the ability of lower income parents/carers to transport their children to school e.g. by car, pay for bus fares etc. This issue was included in the School Transport Review Report which was presented to elected members at the Education and Communities Committee meeting on 08 September 2015, with a poverty element being included in 3 of the 4 options which were considered as part of the school transport review.
- 1.5 At their meeting on 08 September 2015, members of the Education and Communities Committee decided that a full formal consultation exercise be undertaken based on the preferred option of changing to 2.5 and 1.5 miles for secondary and primary schools respectively and including an element for those pupils eligible for free school meals at 1.5 (secondary pupils) /1 mile (primary pupils) (option 3 – Schools Transport Policy Review Update Report) with a proposed implementation date of August 2017.
- 1.6 The proposed changes to school transport provision were included in the Council’s proposed budget savings for 2017/18 and were included in the package of savings proposals which were subject to public consultation in November/December 2015. The public were consulted on 2 options:
  - **Option 1:** Change limits so that secondary children who live 2.5 miles from their school and those who live 1.5 miles from their primary school will receive free school transport. There would be a ‘poverty element’ included for those who receive free school meals to access transport at closer distances.
  - **Option 2:** Change limits so that secondary children who live 3 miles from their school and those who live 2 miles from their primary school will receive school transport. There would be a ‘poverty element’ included for those who receive free school meals to access transport at closer distances.

The responses received from the consultation exercise are as follows:

Budget Simulator 78.2% agree, 21.8% disagree

Comments from Budget Simulator:

Of those who commented the majority supported increasing the distance, provided there were safe walking routes to schools and support for those on low incomes. 53 people commented on this proposal and of those 38 supported a reduction in school transport, 10 did not support a reduction and 5 submitted general comments. A number of people commented that they supported the move to equality across all the schools in terms of provision.

Public meetings There was a mixed response to this proposal with some in favour of Option 1, some in favour of Option 2, and some resistant to any change.

Simulator 'sliders' **78.72%** support a reduction in school transport (43.26% support an increase to 1.5/2.5 miles for eligibility for school transport, 35.46% support an increase to 2/3 miles) and only 21.28% do not support any change

1.7 In relation to the transport proposal, it would be a parent's / carer's responsibility to get their child to school where they do not qualify for free school transport.

1.8 The Council's criteria for evaluating safe walking routes will remain using the West of Scotland Road Safety Guidelines.

## **2.0 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

### **2.1 Proposal**

Inverclyde Council is seeking your views on the proposal to increase the mileage limits for free school transport:

- to secondary pupils residing more than 2.5 miles from their school;
- to primary pupils residing more than 1.5 miles from their school; and
- to introduce an element for those children and young people entitled to free school meals (FME and who are eligible for a clothing grant) to enable them to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) and 1 mile (primary pupils).

2.2 The formal consultation on the proposal within this document will be undertaken under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The consultation requires to run for 30 school days and will start on Monday 12 September and will end on Monday 31 October 2016. Written representations must be received by this date in order to be taken into account.

### **2.3 Public Meetings**

A series of public meetings will be held on the following dates to provide parents/carers and any other relevant consultee with an opportunity to:

- hear about the proposal
- ask questions about the proposal



- express views about the proposal

A note will be taken of the views expressed during the public meeting and of any questions asked. In addition to the public meeting, written representations including online responses will be able to be made during the consultation period.

## **2.4 Pupil Views**

Both primary and secondary school Pupil Councils (P5 – P7 in primary schools) will be invited to contribute their views on this proposal.

## **2.5 Education Scotland**

The Council will provide the proposal document to Education Scotland at the start of the consultation period. When the consultation period has ended, the Council will collate all of the written and oral representations. Thereafter, the following information will be provided to Education Scotland:

- a copy of relevant written representations made to the Council on the proposal (or summary of them if agreed within Education Scotland)
- a summary of oral representations made at the public meetings
- other relevant documentation, as far as is practicable

Education Scotland will prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal taking account of the above, the Educational Benefits Statement contained in this proposal document and in so far that Education Scotland considers them relevant, any written representations made directly to them. Education Scotland may also visit the schools affected by the proposal and make reasonable inquiries of persons there and of such other persons as they consider appropriate. Education Scotland require to send their report to the Council no later than 3 weeks (or longer if agreed with the Council) after having received the information from the Council.

## **2.6 Consultation Report**

After receiving Education Scotland's report, the Council will review the proposal taking account of relevant written representations received during the consultation period, oral representations made during the public meeting and Education Scotland's report. The Council will then prepare and publish a consultation report which will include a recommendation on the proposal.

The Council will notify on the publication of the consultation report, which will be made available on the Council website, in schools and at Council Headquarters.

The consultation report will be published 3 weeks before it is formally considered by the Council.

## **2.7 Inaccuracies or omissions**

Where inaccuracies or omissions are discovered within this proposal document, the Council will determine whether relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy. Appropriate action will then be taken by the Council which may include issuing corrections, issuing a corrected proposal document or an extension of the consultation period. In any of these events all relevant consultees (and where applicable

the notifier(s) of any omissions or inaccuracies) and Education Scotland will be advised of the appropriate action. Notifiers of any omissions or inaccuracies will also be given the opportunity to make representations if they disagree with the Council's determination of and any action on the matter, which may result in the Council making a further determination / decision on the matter.

### **3.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR THE PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 It is expected that the proposal, if accepted, would be implemented from the start of the new school session in August 2017. All pupils who currently qualify for free transport will continue to be transported until that date.

### **4.0 EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS – ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSAL**

Education is a key priority of Inverclyde Council.

- 4.1 Inverclyde Council is firmly committed to delivering a high quality education provision in learning environments fit for learning and teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Environments that nurture ambition and aspirations, improve attainment and achievement, and create and widen opportunities for all children and young people to achieve their full potential and move into positive and sustained destinations when they leave school. The Council also demonstrates its strong belief in the value of education through financial investment to allow full implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), and supporting programmes and activities that focus on removing barriers to learning and closing the attainment gap.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Council currently operates an enhanced school transport policy. Secondary school pupils in Inverclyde who live more than 2 miles from their local catchment school received free transport to school the same applies to primary school pupils who live more than 1 mile from their local catchment school. This provision lies well within the statutory requirements of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 for secondary and primary school pupils of 3 miles and 2 miles, respectively.
- 4.3 Given the current financial climate in which Inverclyde Council is operating and the associated financial challenges faced, Inverclyde Council holds the view that it can no longer afford to provide free mainstream school transport at a more generous level than required under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. This view is also informed by the fact that revenue budgets are expected to fall sharply over the next 5 years resulting in the need for further significant budget savings to be made.
- 4.4 As part of the process of setting a balanced budget each year, the Council approves a package of savings proposals. This school transport savings proposal has the potential to allow Inverclyde Council to make savings of £170,000 each year.
- 4.5 To support all children and young people to achieve their full potential, Inverclyde Council's focus must remain on protecting the use of resources that are required to ensure high quality learning and teaching across all of Inverclyde's schools and early years' establishments.
- 4.6 If this savings proposal was not to be implemented then it would have an adverse impact

not only on Education Services' financial position and future provision, but also on the financial position and provision of other important and valued Council services, as savings would be required to be taken from other areas.

- 4.7 Our health and wellbeing policies recommend increased physical activity for all and encourage children and young people to become more active including walking where possible especially when evidence suggests an increase in sedentary life style. Nationally almost 20% of children are overweight / obese. In Inverclyde this figure is 25%.
- 4.8 Sustrans ([www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)) report that research shows that active travel to school (even part of the way) can make children more alert and ready to face the school day than if they had arrived in a car: walking, cycling or scooting to school wakes up the mind and body. Sustrans' report states that active travel to school can increase concentration by up to 4 hours. Active travel also allows children to develop a greater awareness of traffic and the ability to travel independently and safely. In the longer term, this proposed change in school transport policy will encourage more walking and will positively assist in the health of the local population. The impact of this proposed change in the Council's school transport policy has been considered and the walking routes to schools have been assessed against West of Scotland Guidance. All walking routes have been assessed as safe with some routes having additional safety measures put in place such as the repair of a flooded area and additional lighting. Should any route be assessed as unsafe in accordance with this Guidance, free school transport would be provided.

## **5.0 ASSESSING THE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AFFECTED BY THIS PROPOSAL**

- 5.1 There may be concern that some parents / carers will drive their child to school and traffic congestion around the school may increase. There are various ways that the Council can offer help and advice in this area.

### **Privately Arranged Transport**

Many parents / carers may wish to arrange transport privately either for their own children or a group of children from their area. Education Services, through Strathclyde Partnership for Transport can access a list of recommended contractor details which can be issued to parents / carers on request.

### **Public Transport**

Education Services is currently working with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport to encourage public service contractors to increase capacity on routes to cope with demand.

### **Car Sharing**

Parents / carers will be encouraged to car share when transporting their children to school.

## **6.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This proposal is estimated to save the Council £170,000 per year.

## **8.0 RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL**

- 8.1 Appendix 1 provides details on how to access a copy of the proposal document.
- 8.2 Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making online submission using the link

[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)

Alternatively, written submissions should be made using the form attached at the end of this document no later than Monday 31 October 2016.

## **9.0 APPENDICES**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 provides details on the statutory consultees and how to access a copy of the proposal document.

### **Statutory Consultees:**

- The Parent Council of affected schools
- The parents/carers of the pupils at the affected schools
- Parents whose children are expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of publication of the proposal document
- Pupils (where they are considered to be of suitable age and maturity)
- Council employees at the affected schools
- Trade Union representatives
- Church representatives of the affected schools

### **Other stakeholders contacted:**

- Education Scotland
- Elected members
- SPT/local school transport providers
- Police Scotland
- Roads Department colleagues
- General Public (Inverclyde)
- Community Councils

## Education Services

# CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO MAINSTREAM SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please use this form to let us know what you think about this proposal

The closing date for responses is **Monday 31 October 2016**.

**This form should be returned to:**

Education Services  
Wallace Place  
Greenock  
PA15 1JB

### BACKGROUND TO PROPOSAL

Inverclyde Council currently operates an enhanced school transport policy. Secondary school pupils in Inverclyde who live more than 2 miles from their local catchment school receive free school transport, and primary school pupils who live more than 1 mile from their local catchment school receive free school transport. This exceeds the provision by many local authorities in Scotland and lies well within the statutory requirements of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 of 3 miles for secondary pupils and 2 miles for primary pupils.

On 8 September 2015, the Education and Communities Committee considered options which would increase the qualification of entitlement to free school mainstream transport to bring it in line with statutory requirement as outlined in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, and ensure equality in the provision of free school transport within Inverclyde. Members of the Education and Communities Committee decided that a full formal consultation exercise be undertaken based on the preferred option of changing the provision from 2 miles to 2.5 (for secondary pupils) and from 1 mile to 1.5 miles (for primary pupils) and include an element to support pupils entitled to free school meals (FME and who are eligible for a clothing grant) to enable to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) and 1 mile (primary pupils) with a proposed implementation date of August 2017.

The proposed changes to school transport provision were included in the Council's proposed budget savings for 2017/18 and were included in the package of savings proposals which

were subject to public consultation in November/December 2015. This school transport savings proposal has the potential to allow Inverclyde Council to make savings of £170,000 each year.

## PROPOSAL

Inverclyde Council is seeking your views on the proposal to increase the mileage limits for free school transport:

- i to secondary pupils residing more than 2.5 miles from their school;
- ii to primary pupils residing more than 1.5 miles from their school; and
- iii to introduce an element for those children and young people entitled to free school meals (FME and who are eligible for a clothing grant) to enable them to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles (secondary pupils) and 1 mile (primary pupils).

**Q1 Do you agree with all 3 elements of the above?**

Yes  No  Undecided

**If 'No', which element(s) do you not agree with?**

i

ii

iii

**Q2 In order to validate your response to this proposal please provide your details:**  
(this section must be completed in order for your views to be taken into account)

**Name**

**Address**

**Q3 Please state which school(s) your response relates to:**

**Q4 If you do not agree with the proposal or are undecided, please indicate what concern(s) you have (select all that apply):**

- Childcare arrangements
- Concern regarding safe walking routes for my child
- Lack of alternative transport modes
- Impact on local communities around the school

**Other reason (please specify in the box below):**

**Q5 If you would like to make any comment on the proposal, or suggest an alternative option for consideration please do so in the space below:**

**Q6 I am responding in my capacity as a (please indicate by selecting the appropriate answer below)**

- Parent/carer of a child at primary school
- Parent/carer of a child at secondary school
- Parent/carer of a child in nursery
- Parent Council member (primary school)
- Parent Council member (secondary school)
- Member of staff at primary school
- Member of staff at secondary school
- Church representative
- Elected member
- Trade Union
- Member of the public



Member of Community Council

Other group (please specify)

**Handling your response – Please note that:**

We will use the information you provide for the purpose of this consultation, including statistical and analytical purposes.

We will pass a full copy of your response to Education Scotland, or a summary of it if agreed with them.

We are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and therefore would have to consider any request made under the Act for information relating to written responses/records or oral representations made to us relating to this consultation.

***Thank you for taking the time to respond.***

## School Transport Consultation

## Collated Questions/Responses

Capacity	Question:	Response
<p>Parent of Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents</p>	<p>Do you have figures of how many children will be affected by increasing to new distances?</p> <p>Do you have figures for the children who will be affected under the FSM/CG?</p>	<p>An initial paper was created in 2015. Approximately 800 pupils will be affected if the proposal is taken forward. Approximately 220 pupils will move to be entitled to school transport due to family circumstances.</p> <p>Additional cost for anomalies i.e. decants, Historic factors for example Inverkip and Clydeview due to lack of safe walking route.</p> <p>This would see a saving in the region of £170,000.</p> <p>At entrance to tonight's meeting map of each area is provided. This show the streets that maybe affected. The system used to calculate the distance can located the particular numbers of children who will be affected. Information can be given to individual families who request this on an individual basis.</p>
<p>Parent NDHS/ Inv</p>	<p>GIRFEC What about the</p>	<p>Refer back to the detail within</p>

<p>Ac</p>	<p>rights of children?</p> <p>Fit state to be educated after walking a long distance, up to 50 minutes. Arriving at school wet. Walking in dark, wearing all black uniform, safety risk – traffic.</p> <p>Some pupils don't have support of parents or community.</p> <p>Why is the saving in transport?</p>	<p>the legislation. Children from other Authorities are also walking similar distances.</p> <p>Could be an opportunity for parents to work with bus companies to provide a private arrangement for pupils for parents to arrange a carpool system.</p> <p>Elected Members require and are interested in all feedback good and bad to allow an informed decision to be made.</p> <p>Aware of issues in Inverclyde surrounding the climates.</p> <p>Safe Walking routes are lit and assessed.</p>
<p>Parent NDHS/ Inv Ac</p>	<p>Concerns relating to condition of children arriving at school.</p> <p>How would an ASN child cope with making their own way to school?</p> <p>Concerns regarding the extra cost for families.</p> <p>Would Children be able to access transport for new</p>	<p>Opportunity for pupils to access a privilege pass for use on the school bus.</p> <p>The fact the Inverclyde may be unique in their climate should be included within your written response to the consultation.</p> <p>Possibility for parents to work with bus companies to provide own private pupil bus service</p>

	limits? (privilege pass)	<p>at a cost. The bus companies are aware of this and are willing to try and accommodate this option by working with parents if the cost is viable.</p> <p>Explained how the privilege pass system currently works.</p>
Parent of Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents	<p>Outlined concerns on how this proposal will affect working parents.</p> <p>Non-working parents earning more than working parents. They receive FSM/CG, music tuition, EMA, breakfast club (b/fast club – on certain benefits).</p> <p>Hitting ones who are working. Families have to pay an extra £10/15 per week for transport. Already on minimum wage, not qualifying for benefits. Non workers are £60/week better off.</p>	<p>Very interested in the exercise and figures that you have put together. It would be really helpful if you could put this into a written response to be recorded in the consultation.</p> <p>I previously undertook an exercise to look at the cost of the school day. It is valid to emphasise that the group of families who would appear to miss out are the group that are trying to make a positive contribution within Inverclyde.</p>
Parent or Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents	<p>What other areas of education are being reviewed with regards to the savings?</p> <p>Are staff that are working within Education HQ being looked at?</p> <p>Job sizing of education HQ staff?</p>	<p>It is still early days but the priority is to protect learning and teaching.</p> <p>Areas being looked at further are – Share headship, removing free swimming for school children, school trips, music service, school cleaning contracts.</p>

		<p>Education HQ staff have been continuously reviewed and will continue to be so. Wilma emphasised how the reduction of staff at Education HQ had already be done. Vacant posts will continue to be assessed to see if a saving can be made.</p> <p>It was noted however that officers must look at the legislation. Officers will try to minimise the impact on learning and teaching and opportunities will continue to be sought to do thing differently to cost save.</p>
<p>Parent at Notre Dame High School and All Saints Primary School</p>	<p>I have calculated that 8 hours a week would be used for my children to get to school. I would also have issues relating to getting all children to two different schools on time and collection.</p> <p>The wider picture needs to be looked at for the impact of families with children attending different schools.</p> <p>I believe time could be better spent rather than travelling.</p> <p>Why are my family being disadvantaged as my husband works away and I am</p>	<p>Points are noted.</p>

	<p>at home. If my husband was to stop working then my children would be transported, seems unfair.</p> <p>Also to highlight that I have worked out that my children would be walking with £500 of music equipment with them. If children have to walk with may affect children's curriculum choices.</p> <p>Thinking more towards the working/not working aspect.</p>	
<p>Parent or Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents</p>	<p>Historically Notre Dame High School has been over capacity.</p> <p>Will future parental pressure continue to affect the capping of pupil numbers at the school?</p> <p>Can Notre Dame parents get a guarantee that pupil numbers will no longer increase?</p> <p>Why should a child walk by one school to get to another?</p>	<p>Pupil numbers cannot just continue to increase. If space is available and a placing request is received then the place must be given. However if school is at capacity then it needs to be refused. This is at times overturned by legal services. At this time also a consultation running which is looking at the placing request system.</p> <p>It is the authority's responsibility to manage pupil numbers within establishments and the ability to manage teaching within the establishment.</p> <p>The authority is aware that it requires robust data and</p>

		<p>information on all placing requests. If the request was declined and then appealed and taken to the Sheriff then Inverclyde Council would have own legal team to defend the decision.</p> <p>The authority is anticipating an increase of placing requests if the decision is agreed with the change to school transport.</p>
Parent or Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents	<p>Raised the current issues of public bus services not stopping for groups of young people trying to get to or home from school.</p> <p>Has Scotrail or National Rail been notified of this consultation as many Inverclyde Academy pupils travel by train?</p>	<p>This issue will be raised with SPT.</p> <p>SPT have been provided with information on the consultation and have been invited to respond.</p> <p>Joint working will continue.</p>
Parent or Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents	<p>Has work been carried out to look at the increase of traffic?</p> <p>All at meeting were in agreement that they had concerns over the potential increase of traffic and how this would affect the current safe walking routes.</p>	<p>This could be suggested for reassessment with feedback from the written consultation.</p>
Parent or Inverclyde Academy and representative of	<p>Has the gradient been taken into consideration in the safe walking route?</p>	<p>All safe walking routes are assessed by the Road Safety Team and the times that children will be walking the</p>

other parents	Significant increase in traffic – does this now make it unsafe?	route is taken into consideration during assessment.
Parent of Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents	<p>Do you have figures of how many children will be affected by increasing to new distances?</p> <p>Do you have figures for the children who will be affected under the FSM/CG?</p>	<p>An initial paper was created in 2015. Approximately 800 pupils will be affected if the proposal is taken forward. Approximately 220 pupils will move to be entitled to school transport due to family circumstances.</p> <p>Additional cost for anomalies i.e. decants, Historic factors for example Inverkip and Clydeview due to lack of safe walking route.</p> <p>This would see a saving in the region of £170,000.</p> <p>At entrance to tonight's meeting map of each area is provided. This show the streets that maybe affected. The system used to calculate the distance can located the particular numbers of children who will be affected. Information can be given to individual families who request this on an individual basis.</p>
Parent of Inverclyde Academy and	GIRFEC What about the rights of children?	Refer back to the detail within the legislation. Children from other Authorities are also



<p>representative of other parents</p>	<p>Fit state to be educated after walking a long distance, up to 50 minutes. Arriving at school wet. Walking in dark, wearing all black uniform, safety risk – traffic.</p> <p>Some pupils don't have support of parents or community.</p> <p>Why is the saving in transport?</p>	<p>walking similar distances.</p> <p>Could be an opportunity for parents to work with bus companies to provide a private arrangement for pupils for parents to arrange a carpool system.</p> <p>Elected Members require and are interested in all feedback good and bad to allow an informed decision to be made.</p> <p>Aware of issues in Inverclyde surrounding the climates.</p> <p>Safe Walking routes are lit and assessed.</p>
<p>Parent of Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents</p>	<p>Concerns relating to condition of children arriving at school.</p> <p>How would an ASN child cope with making their own way to school?</p> <p>Concerns regarding the extra cost for families.</p> <p>Would Children be able to access transport for new limits? (privilege pass)</p>	<p>Opportunity for pupils to access a privilege pass for use on the school bus.</p> <p>The fact the Inverclyde may be unique in their climate should be included within your written response to the consultation.</p> <p>Possibility for parents to work with bus companies to provide own private pupil bus service at a cost. The bus companies are aware of this and are</p>

		<p>willing to try and accommodate this option by working with parents if the cost is viable.</p> <p>Explained how the privilege pass system currently works.</p>
<p>Parent or Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents</p>	<p>Outlined concerns on how this proposal will affect working parents.</p> <p>Non-working parents earning more than working parents. They receive FSM/CG, music tuition, EMA, breakfast club (b/fast club – on certain benefits).</p> <p>Hitting ones who are working. Families have to pay an extra £10/15 per week for transport. Already on minimum wage, not qualifying for benefits. Non workers are £60/week better off.</p>	<p>Very interested in the exercise and figures that you have put together. It would be really helpful if you could put this into a written response to be recorded in the consultation.</p> <p>I previously undertook an exercise to look at the cost of the school day. It is valid to emphasise that the group of families who would appear to miss out are the group that are trying to make a positive contribution within Inverclyde.</p>
<p>Parent or Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents</p>	<p>What other areas of education are being reviewed with regards to the savings?</p> <p>Are staff that are working within Education HQ being looked at?</p> <p>Job sizing of education HQ staff?</p>	<p>It is still early days but the priority is to protect learning and teaching.</p> <p>Areas being looked at further are – Share headship, removing free swimming for school children, school trips, music service, school cleaning contracts.</p> <p>Education HQ staff have been continuously reviewed and will</p>

		<p>continue to be so. Wilma emphasised how the reduction of staff at Education HQ had already be done. Vacant posts will continue to be assessed to see if a saving can be made.</p> <p>It was noted however that officers must look at the legislation. Officers will try to minimise the impact on learning and teaching and opportunities will continue to be sought to do thing differently to cost save.</p>
<p>Parent at Notre Dame High School and All Saints Primary School</p>	<p>I have calculated that 8 hours a week would be used for my children to get to school. I would also have issues relating to getting all children to two different schools on time and collection.</p> <p>The wider picture needs to be looked at for the impact of families with children attending different schools.</p> <p>I believe time could be better spent rather than travelling.</p> <p>Why are my family being disadvantaged as my husband works away and I am at home. If my husband was to stop working then my children would be transported,</p>	<p>Points are noted.</p>

	<p>seems unfair.</p> <p>Also to highlight that I have worked out that my children would be walking with £500 of music equipment with them. If children have to walk with may affect children's curriculum choices.</p> <p>Thinking more towards the working/not working aspect.</p>	
<p>Parent at Notre Dame High School and All Saints Primary School</p>	<p>Historically Notre Dame High School has been over capacity.</p> <p>Will future parental pressure continue to affect the capping of pupil numbers at the school?</p> <p>Can Notre Dame parents get a guarantee that pupil numbers will no longer increase?</p> <p>Why should a child walk by one school to get to another?</p>	<p>Pupil numbers cannot just continue to increase. If space is available and a placing request is received then the place must be given. However if school is at capacity then it needs to be refused. This is at times overturned by legal services. At this time also a consultation running which is looking at the placing request system.</p> <p>It is the authority's responsibility to manage pupil numbers within establishments and the ability to manage teaching within the establishment.</p> <p>The authority is aware that it requires robust data and information on all placing requests. If the request was declined and then appealed</p>

		<p>and taken to the Sheriff then Inverclyde Council would have own legal team to defend the decision.</p> <p>The authority is anticipating an increase of placing requests if the decision is agreed with the change to school transport.</p>
<p>Parent or Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents</p>	<p>Raised the current issues of public bus services not stopping for groups of young people trying to get to or home from school.</p> <p>Has Scotrail or National Rail been notified of this consultation as many Inverclyde Academy pupils travel by train?</p>	<p>This issue will be raised with SPT.</p> <p>SPT have been provided with information on the consultation and have been invited to respond.</p> <p>Joint working will continue.</p>
<p>Parent or Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents</p>	<p>Has work been carried out to look at the increase of traffic?</p> <p>All at meeting were in agreement that they had concerns over the potential increase of traffic and how this would affect the current safe walking routes.</p>	<p>This could be suggested for reassessment with feedback from the written consultation.</p>
<p>Parent or Inverclyde Academy and representative of other parents</p>	<p>Has the gradient been taken into consideration in the safe walking route?</p> <p>Significant increase in traffic –</p>	<p>All safe walking routes are assessed by the Road Safety Team and the times that children will be walking the route is taken into consideration during</p>

	does this now make it unsafe?	assessment.
Parent- St Stephen's High School	<p>Has the increased volume of traffic been considered if more parents are to drop their children off at school if no longer entitled to free school transport?</p> <p>Road in and around shared campus is already congested.</p> <p>Many more pupils – Kingston Dock</p> <p>Children would have to get a bus to Port Glasgow town centre then another bus up to the school. Other option is to walk done to main road and get a bus to the school – what about the bad weather.</p> <p>2. Does this affect Craigmarnoch?</p>	<p>Increase in traffic can be looked at.</p> <p>Can't take into account extremities, i.e. bad weather, very high rain</p> <p>2. No, ASN not affected.</p>
Parent St Joseph's PS	<p>Weather</p> <p>Walking past another 6 Falcon Crescent</p> <p>High school</p> <p>Safe walking route – don't feel that would be followed by a pupil. 15 min short route by woods.</p> <p>Can't be in 2 places at one</p>	

	<p>time.</p> <p>Promised transport to school back when relocated</p>	
Parent St Joseph's PS	<p>Distance is huge</p> <p>1hr for son to get to school</p> <p>Son is P7 just now</p> <p>School is not in St Joseph's catchment area</p> <p>(Tweed St)</p>	
Parent Branchton	<p>Route check was 9.30/10.00am on a summers morning (assess at peak times)</p> <p>3 buses to school?</p> <p>Consider weather and route?</p> <p>Moved school to other side of the catchment</p> <p>No lollypop person on late days</p>	<p>We go on guidelines from Roads and they have guidelines</p> <p>We need feedback re paths/unsafe/flooding areas etc</p>
	<p>Long distance</p> <p>Usual 5min walk is now 1hr</p> <p>Inverclyde Council moved school to Gourock</p> <p>Cost is much higher – 2 buses</p> <p>£10 per day when you're a working parent</p> <p>Want kids to go with friends and will put in for PR and be separated.</p>	<p>Families entitled to free meals etc</p>
Parent St Joseph's	Nothing changed on route	Went over road safety

	<p>1 set of traffic lights @ hospital</p> <p>No pavement at the time on one side</p> <p>Roads flood regularly</p> <p>Lots traffic</p> <p>No lollypop person and leaves early for primary school</p> <p>Bad junctions (sheriff shop)</p>	<p>guidelines</p>
<p>Parent St Joseph's</p>	<p>No other option</p> <p>Can't pay on a bus locally</p> <p>Furthest away</p> <p>Poverty element</p> <p>Poor attendance</p> <p>Can walk to NDHS/Clydeview</p> <p>Want them to go to NDHS</p> <p>Impact on working families</p> <p>Miss out on afterschool activities due to 2hr walk to school, pupils are tired</p> <p>Guidelines say 1997 are these out of date</p> <p>Not safe for kids to walk</p> <p>Cannot access school via public buses</p> <p>Issues with free school meals, why is their children any</p>	



	different	
Parent St Joseph's	<p>Too long a distance for pupils to walks.</p> <p>School moved to Gourock</p> <p>Need to have extremely fair – cost of transfer</p> <p>Cost £10 per day for meals and working parents lose out on this and transport</p> <p>Social aspect of going to Secondary with peers – placing request to other schools</p>	<p>Safe Walking routes</p> <p>Free school meal entitlement between 1.5 and 2.5 support</p>
Parent St Joseph's	<p>Safe route was walked at 10am on summers day.</p> <p>Would need to take 3 buses to school.</p> <p>No crossing patroller on late days as they are only for primaries.</p> <p>Assessment might not be taken at peak time ie 9am and 3pm.</p>	<p>As per safe walking routes determined by West of Scotland, Guidelines.</p> <p>Fill out proforma and get an accurate route with distance.</p> <p>Assessment taken place by Road Safety on volume of traffic.</p>
Parent St Joseph's	<p>Nothing changed on route.</p> <p>Road floods.</p> <p>No pavement on hospital road.</p> <p>Busy road.</p> <p>No lollipop on late days.</p> <p>Bad junction at shop</p>	<p>Write your concerns on form for safer communities.</p>
Parent St Joseph's	<p>Distance make pupil late for school.</p>	<p>School won't from where it is. Concerns should be written on</p>

	<p>School not have been moved, not thought through.</p> <p>St Joseph's should be in NDHS cluster and not St Columba's.</p> <p>Promises were made to provide transport when school was moved.</p>	<p>form.</p> <p>Private parent bus – contractor could provide this for £2 per day.</p> <p>Not the 1st time promises were made.</p> <p>Can provide an individualised bus route.</p>
<p>Parent- St. Joseph's/St. Columba's</p>	<p>Are we going to means test for people who don't receive free school meals and now have to pay bus fares and the impact this will have on families with more than one child.</p> <p>St Joseph's consultation date is not good as its Halloween.</p> <p>Understand savings need to be made but how is safe walking route not suitable for children who has FME. It's unfair they are different.</p> <p>Children not able to be offered space on bus.</p> <p>Council haven't offered options.</p>	<p>We will come back to this later.</p> <p>We have to have consultation completed by end October – only date available.</p> <p>Wilma suggested liaising with parent council to try and arrange a meeting at end of school day. Come back to her. (Re Halloween)</p> <p>Education Committee decided as part of the consultation to support families whose children are in receipt of FME. (Poverty element)</p>
<p>Parent – St Andrew's &amp; St Columba's</p>	<p>Children walking in rain – unhealthy for child with health problems sitting in wet clothes all day.</p>	<p>Put your views on form.</p> <p>Other options – parents</p>

	<p>Don't feel the council have answers to questions or provided alternative options if transport is removed.</p>	<p>making arrangements to organise transport themselves.</p>
<p>Parent Council – St. Columba's</p>	<p>If we cut the buses – how much money will it save?</p> <p>What is the cost impact, as we will still have to supply transport to children who received FME.</p>	<p>£170,000 saving could be accepted. Children in receipt of FME will still get transport. There could be some privilege places.</p> <p>Explanation given about privilege places – can only offer if there is space on bus.</p>
<p>Parent – St. Andrew's</p>	<p>Parents are working trying to get out of deprivation but if they are expected to walk children to school, times might not fit with working hours. While parents who don't work are entitled to FME are getting transport.</p> <p>Working parents are financially worse off than parents on benefits who are entitled to FME/Clothing Grant.</p> <p>Parents can help each other where they can, but feel the authority is defensive.</p>	<p>A few good points have been made there this is why the consultation is taking place.</p> <p>We have to follow rules and regulations regarding FME/Clothing Grant. Please put your views on the form.</p>
<p>Parent – St. Columba's</p>	<p>Raised concerns about safest walking route.</p>	<p>Replied routes assessed under guidelines by Road</p>

	<p>Who has walking this route past the cemetery from Braeside/Larkfield area?</p> <p>Was this done am/pm in accordance with school times on a day with bad weather?</p> <p>Parent said walk was done in May – not December.</p>	<p>Safety team.</p> <p>Grant read document.</p> <p>Asked parent to put concerns on form.</p>
<p>Parent – St Andrew’s and St. Columba’s Parent Council</p>	<p>Council did not consult on where new school would be located when it was being built. The parents did not ask for the school to be relocated.</p> <p>If parents had known the free bus service would be amended there would have been more objections.</p> <p>There is no direct bus service to the school. Some parents can see Notre Dame from their window but there catchment is St Columba’s so if transport is removed/amended there will be more placing requests to Notre Dame.</p> <p>Concerns about the safe walking route to St Andrew’s.</p> <p>What impact the cost will have on families and family life.</p> <p>£11.40 weekly pass from age of £18.50</p> <p>Not going to encourage parents to work - there will be a divide.</p>	<p>Great viewpoints. It is information like this that needs to go on the forms.</p>

<p>St. Columba's Parent Council (chair)</p>	<p>In relation to historic issues – parents did not ask for the school to be moved.</p> <p>Not on bus route.</p> <p>Consultation – Assessment for new school was done by ED Dept.</p> <p>Concerns over pupil numbers and the risk to the school if an increase in placing requests.</p>	<p>Viewpoints</p>
<p>Larkfield Community Council/Parent</p>	<p>Concerns over parking on pavements at St Andrew's – extra cars (35)</p> <p>Only a matter of time before a child is knocked down.</p>	<p>Viewpoint</p> <p>Put issues on form.</p>
<p>Parent - St. Joseph's</p>	<p>I would move my child to Notre Dame HS as they could walk the safe walking route therefore save on transport costs.</p> <p>Why are there no elected members here tonight?</p>	<p>Put in response form.</p> <p>Elected members do not attend consultation meetings. Once all consultations are complete, the responses will be collated and the information fed back to them to make a decision regarding the proposal.</p>
<p>St. Joseph's – Chair Parent Council</p>	<p>Is it a coincidence that there is an increase in placing requests to Notre Dame HS ?</p> <p>If transport consultation goes ahead I do not want my child to walk over 30mins to St Columba's therefore, would move school.</p>	<p>The placing request consultation was requested by the elected members.</p>

	<p>1.4 to St Columba's</p> <p>1.3 to NDHS</p>	
Parent - St. Joseph's	<p>Consultation is just public money being wasted.</p>	<p>We have to be neutral, cannot comment of specific details</p> <p>Due to legislation there are only certain things that can be changed.</p> <p>Not every decision made by the Council is made public.</p>
Parent Council – St. Columba's / Parent St. Ninian's	<p>£170,000.00 saving is less than 1% of what risk –v- benefit is massive.</p> <p>We are taking a gamble. Could local businesses not suggest ways to make savings?</p> <p>Why not have a public consultation of what is important to people of Inverclyde and where they would prefer the savings were made.</p> <p>Not explained enough.</p>	<p>There were meetings open to the public to discuss budget savings.</p> <p>Fill out form - to get suggestions from parent, no matter how small.</p>
Various	<p>In last public consultation it came out not to touch transport.</p> <p>When does it go to Council?</p> <p>Who is going to make decision?</p> <p>Will it affect the impact on the ability of children to learn?</p> <p>Is this a safe walking route from a computer? Was it</p>	<p>Grant and Wilma responded to above questions. Grant then finished his report.</p> <p>Responses to be put on forms.</p> <p>Feedback to be collated by mid-November.</p> <p>Expect decision Jan/Feb 2017.</p> <p>GIS system produces</p>

	<p>carried out in different weather conditions, different times of day with traffic volume being at its highest?</p> <p>Have Heads of Service or Director walked these routes?</p>	<p>accurate maps.</p>
<p>Parent- St. Joseph's/St. Columba's</p>	<p>Why can't pupils entitled to free school meals walk the same as pupils who don't?</p> <p>Why are they different?</p> <p>It's unfair</p> <p>No public transport direct</p>	<p>Decision was made to help the poverty element.</p> <p>Other families could take their children in their own cars or arrange alternative transport.</p> <p>There is change to policy and completing our sheet would be helpful.</p>
<p>Parent council St Columba's/Parent to St Ninian's Pupils</p>	<p>It's only a 1% saving.</p> <p>The risk vs benefit is massive, who are the people making this decision, and it's a big gamble?</p> <p>Why not ask business people's opinions on savings, these people are smart; why not ask what's important to us?</p>	<p>Public meetings were advertised for anyone to go, parents/business people could have went along</p> <p>Further consultations will be advertised too in the future.</p> <p>Any suggestions would be helpful on the sheets provided.</p>
<p>Chair St Joseph's Primary parent council</p>	<p>1.4 to St Columba's</p> <p>1.3 to NDHS</p> <p>If go ahead people have no option to send pupils to a closer school and will raise the placing requests.</p> <p>Coincidence the placing</p>	<p>Placing request consultation is happening at the moment and it is coincidence but it is not included in the transport one they both are separate.</p>

	<p>request consultation is happening at the same time.</p> <p>She will not allow her child to walk 30 min to school.</p> <p>She works in Dunoon, would make more sense for her to transfer him to a school there.</p>	
Parent – St Joseph’s pupil	<p>If this transport goes ahead and can see NDHS from their house in long term there will be more people wanting to go to NDHS as it’s easier for parents and a closer walking route.</p>	<p>Can’t give personal view of what you can do, it is a valid reason, Inverclyde Council expect this.</p> <p>Add personal circumstances to the sheet and send it in; it’s not just about the council it’s about you too. We need a response from parents too.</p>
Larkfield Community Council/Parent	<p>Traffic issues</p> <p>35 additional cars.</p> <p>Resentment from other as stigmatises who get free meals get a bus and their parents are on benefits.</p>	<p>viewpoint</p>
St Columba’s Parent Council (chair)	<p>Historic - Inverclyde Council moved these schools parents didn’t ask for this.</p> <p>Equality – Everyone is on the same bus route, pupils will know who’s on benefits.</p> <p>Consultation - Assessed one year ago that should it go</p>	<p>viewpoint</p>



	wrong will impact to school.	
St Andrew's Parent & St Columba's Parent Council & Parent	<p>School Estate should have paid more attention to where schools are built.</p> <p>Parents told buses were provided and not.</p> <p>No public routes direct. 2 bus journeys.</p> <p>There is no encouragement for parents to work.</p> <p>It is £11.40 for a weekly pass and if pupil is 16 or over this goes to £18.50</p>	viewpoint
Parent – St Columba's	Who has walked these "safe" routes past the cemetery	Assessed when children would walk before and after school and in different weather conditions.
Parent - St Andrew's	<p>Parents want answers</p> <p>Re: Safety, high area of deprivation?</p> <p>It's not realistic to take children to school when parents work and have jobs</p> <p>Parents want support as it's a huge impact.</p>	<p>This is a good point.</p> <p>Put point across on your responses</p>
Parent Council St Columba's	Don't understand why buses in area can't pick up all children other than those with	This is based on last year's figures if accepted there would be a great savings but also there is savings across

	<p>free meals etc.,</p> <p>Is the saving really that great from this?</p> <p>Are there any different options?</p>	the board.
Parent ( St Columba's & St Andrew's)	<p>Looking for suggestions for Braeside and Larkfield area.</p> <p>The distance is too far?</p>	Let us know your views, the issue is not would we be happy but would you as parents be happy, would like all info on sheet provided.
St Columba's Parent Council (Chair)	<p>Has the council considered things which have happened in the past</p> <p>i.e</p> <p>"White van man" who was trying to get children in his van in this area</p> <p>Child knocked down in the area last year.</p> <p>This info was all over social media</p>	viewpoint
Parent – St Joseph's/St Columba's	<p>How will this be means tested for people who don't receive free school meals and have several children?</p> <p>They will be impacted greatly with cost of £8PW for each pass per child.</p>	We will come back to this later.
Parent St Joseph's	<p>Weather</p> <p>Walking past another 6 Falcon Crescent</p> <p>High school</p>	viewpoint

	<p>Safe walking route – don't feel that would be followed by a pupil. 15 min short route by woods.</p> <p>Can't be in 2 places at one time.</p> <p>Promised transport to school back when relocated</p>	
Parent St Joseph's	<p>Distance is huge</p> <p>1hr for son to get to school</p> <p>Son is P7 just now</p> <p>School is not in St Joseph's catchment area</p> <p>(Tweed St)</p>	viewpoint
Parent - Branchton	<p>Route check was 9.30/10.00am on a summers morning (assess at peak times)</p> <p>3 buses to school?</p> <p>Consider weather and route?</p> <p>Moved school to other side of the catchment</p> <p>No lollypop person on late days</p>	<p>We go on guidelines from Roads and they have guidelines</p> <p>We need feedback re paths/unsafe/flooding areas etc</p>
Parent – St Joseph's pupil	<p>Long distance</p> <p>Usual 5min walk is now 1hr</p> <p>Inverclyde Council moved school to Gourock</p> <p>Cost is much higher – 2 buses</p> <p>£10 per day when you're a working parent</p>	Families entitled to free meals etc

	Want kids to go with friends and will put in for PR and be separated	
Parent St. Joseph's	Nothing changed on route 1 set of traffic lights at hospital No pavement at the time on one side Roads flood regularly Lots traffic No lollipop person and leaves early for primary school Bad junctions (sheriff shop)	Went over road safety guidelines
Parent St. Joseph's	No other option Can't pay on a bus locally Furthest away Poverty element Poor attendance Can walk to NDHS/Clydeview  Want them to go to NDHS Impact on working families Miss out on after school activities due to 2hr walk to school, pupils are tired  Guidelines say 1997 are these out of date? Not safe for kids to walk Cannot access school via	viewpoint

	<p>public buses</p> <p>Issues with free school meals, why is their children any different?</p>	
Parent St. Joseph's	<p>Too long a distance for pupils to walk.</p> <p>School moved to Gourrock</p> <p>Need to have extremely fair – cost of transfer</p> <p>Cost £10 per day for meals and working parents lose out on this and transport</p> <p>Social aspect of going to Secondary with peers – placing request to other schools</p> <p>to £18.50</p>	<p>Safe Walking routes</p> <p>Free school meal entitlement between 1.5 and 2.5 support</p>
Parent St. Joseph's	<p>Safe route was walked at 10am on summers day.</p> <p>Would need to take 3 buses to school.</p> <p>No crossing patroller on late days as they are only for primaries.</p> <p>Assessment might not be taken at peak time ie 9am and 3pm.</p>	<p>As per safe walking routes determined by West of Scotland, Guidelines.</p> <p>Fill out proforma and get an accurate route with distance.</p> <p>Assessment taken place by Road Safety on volume of traffic.</p>
Parent St. Joseph's	<p>Nothing changed on route.</p> <p>Road floods.</p> <p>No pavement on hospital road.</p> <p>Busy road.</p>	<p>Write your concerns on form for safer communities.</p>

	<p>No lollipop on late days.</p> <p>Bad junction at shop.</p>	
Parent St. Joseph's	<p>Distance make pupil late for school.</p> <p>School should not have been moved, not thought through.</p> <p>St Joseph's should be in NDHS cluster and not St Columba's.</p> <p>Promises were made to provide transport when school was moved.</p>	<p>School won't move from where it is. Concerns should be written on form.</p> <p>Private parent bus – contractor could provide this for £2 per day.</p> <p>Not the 1st time promises were made.</p> <p>Can provide an individualised bus route.</p>

## Comments for Question 4

Other (please specify)
Cost of paying for two buses on a daily basis. Possible attendanc drop. Concern over late-coming. Education would be adversely affected. Stigma attached to pupils in receipt of free school meals. Possible decrease in school rool, staffing and subject choices
Weather conditions can affect pupils walking to school
If you live further than a mile and a half you should be entitled to a school bus, because people who walk in the winter usually need to sit in class all day wet.
Too long to walk for primary pupils
Child Safety
Child safety
child safety
child safety
Cost money which could be spent in more important areas.
Concern of safe walking route for myself and my peers and also an increase of money I need to spend which I may not have.
Earlier wake up times, which will affect school work.
Too lon gto walk. No way to get to school.
2+ miles would take 30+ minutes to walk which would require students getting up earlier and also requirie lots of effort for those carrying instruments/bags
Late comings. Pollution. Traffic. Disabilities.
Late comings. Pollution. Traffic. Disabilities.
My friend gets the bus
I am very concerned about the impact having to walk up to 2.5 miles twice a day will have on educational performance, especially as walking routes will often be very hilly and exposed to wind, rain and other inclement weather.
Impact on future and current enrolment in St Josephs and the knock on impact of this.
So many factors of concern . Mostly the safety of the children if the traffic had to increase due to more individual drop off .
We think lateness and people being off more will be a big problem
Falling school roles, therefore reduced staffing and less subject choice in secondary as a result, poorer children identified by their bus arrival
Stigma of some children getting a bus due to family income.
Attendance at school

Our school is situated at the top of a very steep hill. For pupils who live near the bottom of the hill, walking is not a viable option. In winter weather we can be affected much more than lower parts of Greenock. The school is exposed and the sloping pavements can be icy. As we are in an area of deprivation many pupils may leave home with breakfast and without adequate clothing or footwear.

Financial implications, increased traffic around school, weather conditions and no alternative bus service direct to school

Newark School is situated at the top of a very steep hill. For children who live near the bottom of the hill, walking is not a viable option. In winter weather we can be affected much more than lower parts of Greenock. The school site is exposed and the sloping pavements can be icy. As we are in an area of deprivation many pupils may leave home with breakfast and without adequate clothing or footwear. The other great concern is the impact of more cars round the school and our children's safety.

All of the above and cost of alternative transport

Have you tried walking 2+ miles in 40mph+ winds and rain?

It's not fair on some people

People might slip on roads and get injured!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

don't want to walk the distance and struggling for time my brother needs to get to work and what about the ice mornings and not having the money to get back and forward

you may need money but that doesn't mean you can just take our buses

some mothers and fathers feel uneasy with their children walking these distances

slippery roads, over 100 pupils walking the same route to school everyday! traffic

I am Concerned About The Distance I have To Walk To School!

weather

effect the free time you get and also means you will get even less sleep which means our work will be effected

it means that i will have to leave my house 30 minutes earlier and i will be really tired and it will affect my education

Children will have to walk in the rain which can lead to colds/illnesses. Attendance at schools will go down and they will miss important information in class.

Children need to walk in the bad weather - rain, snow, wind etc

I would have to walk over 2 miles in the morning to get to school and can be dangerous in bad weather

If affected pupils cannot attend school, school roster will decline resulting in loss of faculty.

None

roadworks

there could be problems with their family and they can't get out on time

getting to school on time because of other siblings

getting to school in time due to younger siblings that go to a local primary school



some pupils do not have a safe way to go and it could be safe with how much traffic there is on the main roads
shouldn't have to walk to school. its unfair
concerned about my friends who live close to the school
anything could happen when i am walking to school or i would have to take 2 or more buses
no fair to make me walk
safda resins
Might need to pay for two busses if not a direct route to the school. It is really dark dark on winter mornings and people might feel scared.
none
children having to use there own money every day on a taxi or a bus or not getting to school on time because they are having to walk
pupil
children walking to school by themselves when their parents do not drive or have to go to work early
parents that dont have a car who have a young child and are concerned about their safety walking to school
pupil
Pupils may not want to go, due to long distance from the school.
Pupils may feel encouraged to not go to school ruining the education and record.
pupil
People just wont bother going to school
pupil
i do not get a bus to school i get a taxi fuck ys all
pupil
puiple
pupil
lose of subjects and teachers for my school
I do agree
I do agree
Distance for a new 1st year
This does not affect me personally but I still wish my views as a parent and resident of Inverclyde to be considered. I do not think it is right that any child (whether receiving free meals etc) should have to walk that distance to be allowed transport to school. I also do not understand why a child who receives free meals be allowed to get bus closer than those who don't. Is it not time we treated all of our children the same
Weather
Traffic congestion and Bus Parking
my child does not use the bus but safe walking routes in our terrible weather carrying heavy bags/instruments etc are my concern.

It is unfair to not provide transport for those ineligible for school meals. This will especially impact those with parents earning just over the threshold, who are often still unable to afford to take their child to school. I would like to invite councillors and others involved in making this decision to do a 2.5 mile walk in the rain/snow/icy conditions carrying a schoolbag the same mass as mine and also carrying an instrument (after all, we're all encouraged to play instruments and participate in local authority groups). Given that Inverclyde has one of the most declining populations in the country, councillors should be trying to incentivise people to move to the area. Free school transport may well influence the decisions of families. It must also be considered that these changes will result in increased car usage, making Inverclyde a less environmentally friendly area, and causing further congestion. If these proposed changes do go through, it is only reasonable to expect that identified walking routes are gritted in cold/icy conditions, in order to ensure the safety of schoolchildren. In addition, the availability of public transport would need to be increased and the fares for young people aged 18 and under would have to be reduced to an affordable level, if only for the times when children travel to/from school (e.g. 8am-9am and 3pm-4.15pm). This would require increased expenditure from the council. There will be some instances (e.g. bus from Skelmorlie/Wemyss Bay to St Columba's) where buses will still have to be put on, as some pupils on them live outside the proposed zones. But, some pupils currently on such buses (i.e. those living near Tantallon Avenue) will, with proposed changes, be ineligible. The pupils that get on at this stop, and others in a similar situation across Inverclyde, do not cause the need for an additional bus, so should be allowed to have seats on their existing bus, as the bus will run anyway. The removal of free school transport will give some pupils no option other than to walk, meaning they will have to wake up earlier, which will have a detrimental effect on their education, as pupils will either have to get less sleep to wake up earlier or spend less time doing homework/studying/extracurricular activities in order to go to bed earlier.

Raising attainment is a key national priority - pupils (especially from deprived communities often situated further from schools) must be provided with reasonable transport to and from school. We have a duty to make get to school as easy as possible to give every young person in Inverclyde the chance to meet their potential. Poor attendance affects attainment - attendance problems amongst our most deprived pupils will be made worse by these proposals.

This will cause a drop in school role and so would mean less teaching and non teaching staff would be required. This would lead to a reduction in the level of education available to our children.

If I have to walk my child to and from school I will be late for work every day or she will be at school well before it opens and my child will have to hang around the school area till I can get over from work to collect her if I abide by the safe walking to school programme.

Children should not have to walk this distance in this day and age just to get to school. Why should people who do not qualify for FSM be treated any differently.

Particularly in the winter: dark mornings and dark evenings. Distance, takes at least 45 minutes to walk to St Columbas from our home address.

The topology and weather patterns in Inverclyde especially -but not only- in winter
Distance is not always the risk. Lack of decent pavements, crumbling walls, main road, steep hill along main road in formidable weather, steps to Spring Hill all overgrown and unsafe, lack of crossings..
Free passes for free school meal children not being used, therefore half empty buses and children who would pay for school bus are not given a place as free meal children are given priority
No bus route to St Columbas
Children will not be able to go school as parents cannot afford to send their child to school
Segregation of lower income children
The council seem to care more about money than the health and wellbeing of children in Inverclyde.
Seem to me that the Council don't care about the health and wellbeing of the children and only concerned with themselves with money.
Effects on school, due to decline of participating students that can't comply with new regulations.
If children are walking in the pouring rain or snow they have to sit in wet clothes then they will get the cold or flu in be off school then who get into trouble the parents for not sending their kids to school
Many families in the area I live may elect to send their children to an alternative school and this would mean that the resources made available to St Columba's would be threatened if the school roll was to fall as a result.
With my single income to provide me, my wife and 4 kids it would cost too much for us to send all 3 kids to school everyday. And you can't expect someone to walk 5 miles a day to get to and from school?
My child had additional needs and is not able to travel safely by himself
As we do not live on a direct bus route to and from school my child would need to get 4 buses a day costing approx £700-£800 a year. Why should my child be forced to walk because she is not in receipt of free school meals and a clothing grant? Is my child's safety less important than a child who receives these benefits?
2.5 miles and 1.5 miles is too far to expect children to walk and the walk from Kingston Dock to St Stephen's High School is unacceptable - it would just be within the limits at the moment but I would expect the council to push it out further over the years taking the Kingston Dock children out of limit. I don't think transport should be means tested - many working families are struggling and this would add to the pressures
I think kids who live Larkfield should still have bus I myself have 15 year old and wouldn't let her walk to school in bad weather and couldn't afford taxi fare.
Cost of travel for parents on low income

<p>Cost to parents having to pay to send children on Mcgills buses as mcgills buses re expensive, some kids would need to get more than 1 bus as there isn't always a direct bus to some schools. Some of these kids who need to get 2 buses may meet at bus station and miss/skip school instead of going whereas getting school bus means they don't/won't.</p>
<p>on a low income and this will incur more exoense</p>
<p>At the moment there is no bus service available (regardless of ability to pay) for children to go to st Columba's in my area. I believe the council have a legal obligation to ensure that local bus service providers provide this service.</p>
<p>Increased mileage has no purpose but to exclude some families from free transport. No clear rationale.</p>
<p>falling rolls leading to reduced staffing , less subject choice.</p>
<p>No concerns</p>
<p>Adverse weather conditions on a daily basis</p>
<p>Increased traffic around school &amp; surrounding area</p>
<p>Proposal options send message that parents who can afford to should just use car to transport their children as less affluent families will be marked out and still receive transport</p>
<p>My children would sleep all day at school if they had to walk up the hill to get to school</p>
<p>If taking children to school by car the traffic is horrendous especially St Stephens</p>
<p>tryertyrey</p>
<p>It seems to me that in a school like St. Columba's the most vulnerable children will suffer most. A round five mile trip from Larkfield is Draconian. Many of the parents will not have the transport to drive their children.</p>
<p>Ridiculous time to wake up at and make a 45 minute walk to school which, would tire out the pupil, and reduce concentration levels and awareness during class hours.</p>
<p>Falling school numbers as parents choose schools closer to where they live, thus reducing teacher numbers, subjects etc available ....if school role decreases at St Colomba"s</p>
<p>We live in the West of Scotland. Apart from the weather, you are putting the onus on parents to get children to school. What considerations have been given to congestion around Midton area with St. Columba's, Midton all having increased traffic? Also the proposal to reduce to 1.5 miles and 1 mile. That makes no sense? So buses will be leaving but only certain people can get on?</p>
<p>Potential impact on the future school role for those people affected by the proposed mileage changes.</p>
<p>Aswell as the above, we live in Scotland where it rans at least 3/4 of the year, children will be in school everyday soaked to the bone, it will also increase the amount of lateness and absences. How does a bus going along the same route as always, save money by not stopping and picking up CHILDREN on the route?</p>

Appealing to expect kids to walk 2.5 miles in winter with wind and rain. Would councillors do it.
Paedophile kidnapping my children
Our weather dictates wither we can walk and of not this increase our already congested roads with more cars
childs safety
Weather isn't the best to be walking long distances to sit in class all day soaked and frozen
Concerns for children walking to school
Timings especially during winter when kids will be walking in the dark for near enough an hour. Kids will also have much longer days requiring them to be out of bed much earlier that normal which can have a profound impact on their education
Congestion at school with parents collecting children in cars from st Columba's and St Ninians would increase and therefore safety issues would arise
None
Disgraceful proposal. To save money at the risk of children being unsafe is beyond unacceptable.
Distances chn have to walk in dreadful weather in the winter arriving at school cold and wet - hardly a good set up for a day of quality learning.
Would need to walk past a significantly closer denominational secondary to get to the school and still travel over 2 miles but not qualify for free transport.
parking is already a major issue at Newark, reducing the school transport provision will increase the issue of cars and child safety around the school. The park and stride is not sufficient for the huge numbers attending Newark, meaning that cars often obstruct or park in an inconsiderate manner making it more difficult to cross the roads around the school
Equality for kids
It should not matter weather you receive free school meals and a clothing grant to say you are entitled to a school bus, ALL children that live a relivent distance away from school should all be entitled to the school bus!
Horrendous danger kids walking in their own and weather here isn't exactly suited to kids having to walk 2 miles to school which me niece will have to so
I agree with proposal
There are too many cars around most schools as it is, this will only make it worse
Financial cost of public transport, especially affecting low income families with existing budget constraints, making their financial situation more precarious.
The increased congestion around the school for the added pupils who would no longer have access to the school bus. The dangers to the children!!
differentiating between children based on family income and eligibility to access school transport is discriminatory.

<p>My daughter has to wear hearing aids &amp; not very confident within herself, so to walk a distance on her own wouldn't be very pleasant. I want her to look forward to going to school not dreading because she'd be stressed before she got there.</p>
<p>Why are these distances determined by how the crow flies. It should be determined on the distance you have to walk as pupils can NOT fly. St Columba's in Gourrock is extremely difficult to walk too from The Grieve Road area. This concerns me for child safety reasons and child protection reasons if a pupil is walking on their own!</p>
<p>there is no public transport to the school from my address and I don't want my girl walking to school especially in dark mornings and today the police told us not to let our girl walk to school as a mental patient escaped from somewhere and we were told not to approach him as he was dangerous so there is no way I'd feel comfortable letting my girl walk to school.</p>
<p>Cost of providing transport costs.</p>
<p>Segregates children further.</p>
<p>St Columba's is an excellent small High School this decision may impact on parents wishing to send their children there from its catchment area opting for other nearer schools which are already working to full capacity.</p>
<p>Grans</p>
<p>potential impact on children not attending, also if having to walk impact on length of day and safety</p>
<p>Weather, dark afternoons in the winter/autumn</p>
<p>My child will not be affected but concerned for his peers as this can involve using 2 buses to school if having to use public transport. For children as young as 11/12 this is unacceptable.</p>
<p>I agree</p>
<p>There is no direct bus route. Concerned about children having to get 2 buses to school increasing the cost. Would be happy to pay if buses were arranged to pick up at same points to take children direct to the school.</p>
<p>Safety of child in the winter months, with fading light in today's society</p>
<p>Too far to walk in winter and dangerous if child is alone</p>
<p>my daughter is 14 year old girl with aspergers there is no way she can do this as this will put her in a very vulnerable position</p>
<p>Your proposals will result in hundreds of cars needlessly turning up at the school for drop offs (congestion and danger) near St Ninians which has terrible parking and access and for other kids it means that they might not go to school when the weather is poor. This is a terrible idea</p>
<p>I don't believe that children who could originally walk to Greenock Academy should now be made to walk 2 miles to get to school each day. It was not the parent decision to have Greenock Academy closed, this decision was made by the council and now parents in the catchment area will need to pay for their child to get to school or be forced to make them walk the 2 miles it takes to get there. I think this is disgraceful.</p>
<p>N/A (as the Wemyss Bay Primary School Parent Council does agree with the proposal)</p>

No need for special dispensation for children in receipt of free meals. Walking to school is an option.
Attendance and it's effect on attainment
we live 2.4 m away from the school and the way to the school will take more than 45 walking in good weather but in winter it might take more becuse this will includ going up Curlew Cres and up Wren Road then down Larkfield road then up again Tower Road. This will take more than one hour and that will make my son very tird and will not concentrat on his study. we are new to the area and i have vision and hearing disabilty so I will not be able to drive at all to take my son to school.
I think that there is no need to make this further exception for children in category three only - all children should be given equal opportunity to access school transport given the climate in Scotland. Furthermore , all unsubsidised, full council tax paying parents grandparents relatives have the right to expect and know that their children are being treated equally in this respect.
Lack of subject choice due to loss of staffing.
I dont see why financial eligibility should have an impact on a child and parents ability to walk to school
Length of journey times during poor weather.
Small children should not be expected to walk 1.5 miles to school, especially in unpredictable Scottish weather. Anything could happen from a to b and not every parent has the luxury of a car enabling them to drive their children to school, and have jobs to get to via public transport themselves.
As a taxpayer and living in a household whereby 2 parents work full time, on working shiftwork, it is disturbing that we would have to find ameans to get our younnger child to schoo.
Buses
Impact on roll, staffing, subject choice availability.
The distance does not take into consideration walking over Lyle Hill, much harder and longer than walking on the flat. Why should those children that get free meals not walk the same distances as those that don't get free meals?
N/A
Less availability of buses means more cars on the road which has a negative impact on safety and the environment. I expect a more progressive proposal from the council and not this backward-thinking idea which sounds like more cost-cutting.
No concerns
I agree with all 3
Bad weather
My grandchildren walking in wet weather as we do stay in Greenock
There is no need for a bus to breaseide for St. Andrews when they already have one!! I think that bus should be used for st Columbus as there is no safe route to or from there

If the council needs to save money it should be taken from services to the elderly NOT children or working age adults. Pensioners get all the perks at the expense of the young and this is unsustainable in the long term.
Distance of the walk my child would have to take 5 days a week twice a day for 7 years is in my opinion is not acceptable
My sons attendance will fall as he is physically unable to walk the distance and I don't see why his education should suffer.
My son physically cannot walk the distance as he has Arthritis and Asthma.
There is no safe walking route from Braeside to school. There are no direct transport links. The peak time traffic while increase drastically which will in turn affect safety crossing roads. During the winter holidays this would affect my child's attendance. The fact that my child should have attended St Gabriel's Primary School but we were promised a school bus!
In addition concern that some pupils may not go to school as they cannot afford to pay or just do not turn up
No concern
Unfair to allow pupils who stay closer to get transport because they are from a low income family . If some can walk they can all walk
Everyone one should be treated the same no exception
Weather - very often inclement - unreasonable to expect children to walk long distances in very wet weather arriving at school soaked and having to remain in damp clothes all day. Adults wouldn't do it. How many adults do you know that walk 2.5 miles or more each day to work in all weathers? Most would arrange alternate transport.
our climate, if kids have to walk to school, and sit about in wet clothing all day.
School roll reducing due to transport issues leading to reduction in staffing levels
Unfair on working families on low incomes who do not qualify for reduction in mileage.
I do agree
Agree with priposal
I don't see why kids who are entitled to free school meals and clothing grants should be entitled to transport at a closer distance. It would not be fair to the other children who may live the same distance but who aren't entitled to clothing grants and free school meals.
I am ok with the proposal
Discriminating against children and familes who work if no buses for 2.5 miles for secondary should be all pupils why would children who get free meals be entitled to lesser mileage to be eligible?
Statutory mileage of 2 and 3 miles should be applied to the policy
Why cannot parents pay for children use the school bus? Why do we have to wait for a council "permission"?
I believe that this change will lead to higher absenteeism, lower attainment and more disruption to young people whose parent will consider seeking enrollment in different schools.
Crossing on a78 not safe for kids,no audible crossing tone



The schools, all in my ward 1, are mostly all in upper Port Glasgow with many children living in lower parts of the town (these are the areas that are being regenerated ie new housing) and so youngsters are having to walk up hill often in inclement weather then having to sit in classes with wet clothes on. This will be made worse if the mileage for transport is altered. In Kilmacolm Primary's case children who live over a mile away are either on the outskirts of the village or living in Quarrier's Village and so there is the question of safe routes, in some cases little or no pavements.

Wont be able to afford fares to school as i already have to pay school meals for 4 kids

As a council tax payer I disagree with this use of valuable funds that could be used for classroom supplies

I agree

Why there should be a difference in walking distance due to child receiving free school meals, don't understand the connection. Same travel principals should apply.

St Columbas is not on s local bus route, also the campus was moved at council request not school request, (although it's an excellent facility ) the young people who live in areas like pennyfern, branchton would require two buses from one town to next town, this is not feasible, also this could affect other schools such as NotreDame , as parents may opt to go here rather than send the young people on the two bus journey daily to St Columba's . Again this will put pressure on placing requests .

Cost of public transport for my child

Payments for transport hit working families

Will add to traffic at school area, it is already very congested at morning/afternoons

The policy has to be implemented consistently across the district with no exceptions due to pressure from Councilors or other parties.

Rather than increase the radius of entitlement why not provide transport than gets kids to within a safe walking distance to the school.

What constitutes a safe walking route. Children carrying excessively heavy school bags impact on their health and wellbeing. Due to our poor weather children arriving at school soaking wet and unable to engage with their learning.

The definitin of what constitutes a "safe walking route" needs clarificatin however it should also be noted that the Health and Wellebeing of the children will be impacted by carrying school bags that can weigh 10kg on a PE Day. Their wellbeing will also be impacted by the weather conditions we have as arriving at school soaking wet will impact on their ability to engage int their learning.

Why are you discriminating between normal and less well off children on how they should get to school?

I am concerned that those who get free meals and receive clothing grants are being offered access transport at a closer distance than those children who do not receive free dinners or clothing grants. What is the difference??

The length of time that walking 2.5 miles would take is unacceptable for a child going to and from school each day. Also the assumption that an adult will be walking with them especially for older children. If you have more than one child going to different schools how do you get them both there safely? In an area where the weather is also a hinderence with dark mornings and evenings along with wind and rain, having to walk that distance is unacceptable and in some cases unsafe. Not all parents would be able to afford public transport, and even if they can there is not always a direct route from their area to the school. On top of all this, in an age where we are meant to becoming "greener" stopping free buses will surely increase the number of parents who would take their children to school rather than have them walk such a long distance

I think children should be walking to school as much as possible, providing there are safe routes with controlled crossings.

round 2 miles to Clydeview Academy in inclement weather carrying a trombone twice a week. I t really would be most unfair to expect a 12 year old to walk that distabce carrying ac trombone. Unforunately his safety is also a major concern as his brother ( now at university) wasc assaulted aged 11 when unsupervised at the ool. I am extremely concerned over the implications for my son being expected to walk in winter time alone.

Weather - a child walking 1.5 miles to school and back would be soaked and cold on the majority of days, who would ensure each and every child would not be left in wet clothes for the remainder of the day. There is area's which have no 'safe' walking route, employment could be effected for those who will now need to add an hour onto their morning and take an hour off their available working hours

Dont agree with making alternative mileage for children in receipt of FSG & CG why not support the parents that are actually working for a living who already pay for school meals and school clothes with zero help.

Unsure why those on Grants should not be expected to walk/bus same distance as all others?

Expecting children to walk 5 miles a day is too much. The routes will be absolutely congested with traffic if these restrictions are put in place making them unsafe. You took the local school away you should provide the transport or give us back a school in our local area.

I do agree

1 My child would face a lengthy walk, including negotiating a twisty road at Lairds Duke, where there are no traffic calming measures and where cars regularly speed and come round the bends on the wrong side of the road. 2 The area around the school is a small village location, and is already massively congested and dangerous with cars dropping children off and picking them up from school.

The cost of travel for children to school for working low income parents. Why should the distance be different for families who are working as opposed to those who are not?? They are the ones who can either take the children to school themselves or have the time to walk.

Poverty levels

Why should people who are on a low income or benefits because they don't want to work be entitled to anything else free? I'm a single parent who has to pay for every single school meal, every uniform and for childcare to ensure my daughter gets to school so that I can go to work! Why should someone who is unemployed get more preferential treatment and free services! They already get on average £400 per child for school meals a year, £90 per child clothing grant, where is the fairness in this?

Why should kids with free meals who probably have a parent not working be able to get a bus for a shorter distance. The parents probably have more time on their hands to walk. Why should working parents who don't get free meals be discriminated against

will cost too much money for some families already inverclyde one of the poorest areas in uk

I don't see what advantage this would be, people that don't work and in receipt of benefits can have their child picked up closer to home when they don't have to hurry to get to work but people that work have to make arrangements to get their child to school and pay for child care.

Don't agree with differentiating between children who receive school meals / grants and those who don't.

Secondary children walking 5 miles a day are we suddenly in a small village in Africa? How can parents get children to school safely and get to work on time? Really? We would pay bus fares at non-profit if it could be arranged! My child would have to walk into Greenock town center at 11 years old to get a bus then have to walk up a big hill in all weather's using public transport in the dark during winter months with wind rain and snow.

Children from deprived areas may stop attending school due to the removal of transport

I fully agree with cutting costs in this area. However limit should be same for ALL pupils.

Working parents being discriminated against!

Don't think it's fair that children from working families are not entitled to free transportation

this is just taking off the hard working and giving more to non working. we struggle to make ends meet and get no help but we constantly have to pay more and bear the brunt of the benefits and freebies squeezed out of our taxes!

It's not acceptable to expect primary children to walk up to 3 miles per day, or younger high school pupils to walk up to 5 miles. If the proposal is to have buses for low income families, surely a small charge could apply to other pupils to use this transport.

wouldn't need transport if didn't move schools but shut down Wellington academy and move the new school to Larkfield so not really our fault she has to get bus

My primary concern is around the assertion that we use Free School Meals as a marker for anything. In this case, by virtue of providing transport, we are highlighting to others the very private details of their family's economic circumstances. Secondly, I am unclear as to what effect receiving a free meal has on their ability to walk to school compared to those of their neighbours. Thirdly, are we going to run a bus that is 50% empty past those who now have to walk to school? If that is the case, then there is no saving and therefore the exercise is pointless.

Having a system in place where a bus will go to an area and pick up children whose families are on low income but not those who are not should not happen. This divides the children and highlights these issues to them. In an area like mine which if you have a car will only be 2.1 miles and therefore will lose the right to free transport those children would have to get 2 buses or walk through the side of Clydeview Academy which in the summer is fine however in darker days will not be.

My concerns are no lollypop person at the junction of Larkfeild road and Reservoir road at the exit from the park especially in the dark mornings. By stopping the free transport you will be increasing the traffic around Clydeview which is already very congested with pupils being dropped off at Clydeview, St Ninans and Gourrock Primary. School buses, McGills buses and people trying to get to work. I work locally and start work at 9am I am unable to drive along Kirn drive due to traffic for St Ninans and Moorfoot, I avoid Tower drive due to St Columbas traffic, traffic can be backed up to Drumshantie Road. Cardwell bay is horrendous from 830am onwards. Would it be beneficial for someone from Inverclyde council to observe the traffic in Gourrock in the mornings. Priority must always be the pupils safety and by increasing the traffic in an already very congested part of Inverclyde especially in the winter mornings will not be safe.

The safe route to Clydeview from the West End is completely unacceptable over the Lyle Hill with the speed, exposure to weather at the top of the hill and dark morning and evening walking time over the winter. At least for 1st to 3rd year pupils

More parents travelling by car creating traffic gridlocks & the impact/worries this will have on the safety of children being able to travel alone due to increased traffic.

Concern over: 1. Lack of safe routes for the children who this will apply to. We are a rural community and those who fall within the 1-1.5 miles could potentially still have a long walk, with poor lighting, inadequate pavements etc. 2. Increased amount of cars coming to the school to drop off as in the winter months the children 1-1.5 miles away are going to be driven and 3. I am not convinced that this is the best way to reduce spending - it would be more cost effective to review the overall amount of buses and taxis that come to the school and try to consolidate some of these.

None

I don't believe cutting the service will result in any savings due to those children living within the settlement boundary but further than 1 mile from school being collected by the Quarriers bus - which will continue to run even if the distance is increased.
every child should be treated the same wether there familes get help or not.x not
Clothing grants and free school meals and transport shouldn't just be for certain children
Distance carrying heavy school bag. Council changed location of school not parents
We live fit her than 2.5 miles so we require transport however I beleive children within 2.5 miles should walk to st Columbas high school
Happy for children to walk but not arriving at school soaking wet to study for day after walking 2 miles
It's those who are hardworking who will pay while those who can but don't get yet more things handed to then for free.
Cost of getting children to their education, even for working parents.
The proposal to allow children who receive free school meals to have a shorter catchment distance is ludicrous. You would potentially have situation of neighbours where 1 with free meals is allowed on bus and the other is not because doesn't get free school meals
The free transport should not be more generous than required. 2 miles for primary and 3 miles for secondary pupils is not to much to travel. We need to make cutbacks so let's just do what we legally have to
School roll will fall as children opt for school closest to home
None
Congestion at school
Not enough info provided will all schools be treated the same. Will there be exceptions to this rule (apart from those stated previously).
transport should be provided regardless of distance
The transport provision is excessive and the Money could be put to better use. Parents perfectly capable and able to take their children to school take advantage of this provision.
I don't why ifbyou are entitled to free school meals/grants then they get access to travel if they closer,it should be available to everybody. Unfair you need to arrange transport when you stay same distance as ones on benefits. If you stay more than a mile or so away then everybody that fits that distance should be entitled.
It's an absolute disgrace there is inconsistency with the school transport arrangements. Free transport for St Columbas, whilst Clydeview and Inverclyde students can walk. Absolute disgrace and should be legally challenged.
None
None
it is not the pupils or parents fault that the catchment areas were changed ie st Columba being moved further away from the catchment primary school. Penalising the children. not right

The hill that my children would need to walk is unacceptable and no buses come into the Kingston dock area
A 4 year old child cannot walk 3 miles a day as well as spending 6 hours at school, this is unreasonable, my daughter would be exhausted before school day even starts, not good for concentration and learning ability, it would also take her about 40 minutes to walk 1.5 miles, meaning need to leave house at 8.10, again very tired as have to get up earlier. Clearly we do not live very far from the school, but if we did, I would be concerned for these reasons.
I agree with it all
DISTANCE IS TOO FAR IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN 2 MILES WHICH is also too far in pouring rain up and down hills this a thinly veiled cost cutting exercise
Too long a walk before school could mean children are too tired to learn
Provision for FSM transport may not be fair in all cases
I think free school transport should be provided to those most in need. I think especially in times of financial difficulty our council should be ensuring access to education. For areas high on the SIMD, school transport can and will often be the difference between a child attending schools and not. If the council cannot maintain or provide the required level of funding to provide free transport - subsidise transport should also be considered - asking those ( either those who are not eligible for free school meals/clothing grants) to contribute to the cost of travel to school via a local authority bus ( as long as this is cheaper than the public transport system - it should not add to congestion around schools - but will also ensure a door to door service for those individuals most in need at no cost)
For Kilmacolm and port glasgow high school, the extra traffic generated by restricting school transport will be unacceptable for the following reasons: Increased risk of accidents to children; extremely limited space for vehicles, making back logs inevitable and causing lateness; environmental impact of higher volumes of traffic and pollution; infrastructure does not allow free flow of traffic under current conditions, therefore it would be much worse if these limits were applied. I cannot believe that any cost savings could possibly justify the negative impact created.
Not my child in particular but others
Think it will benefit the children, e.g more exercise
How long would it take to walk to school, easy opportunity if pupils late they could wander off to not go to school at all, safety aspect whether it is deemed a safe walking route there could still be accidents, and if children had to then pay for buses, its hard enough when some people dont get help towards school uniforms or school dinners and now bus transport!!!
Increase in costs is a worry...
No public transport available
All children should be entitled to free transport to school if it's the distance away from their school stated in your proposal

<p>Increased traffic congestion surrounding schools where traffic congestion is already an issue at school opening and closing times AND Increased placing requests for already oversubscribed schools due to lack of schooling in central Greenock</p>
<p>Working parents not entitled to free school meals are not automatically able to transport children to school. It is distance from school and public transport available that should matter only.</p>
<p>p</p>
<p>Don't segregate due to money. same distance for all.</p>
<p>High school children are old enough to walk to school and catch public transport. Children who are in receipt of school clothing grants usually means they have a parent at home who can take them to school why should parents who work be penalized with no bus for their children.</p>
<p>Yet again the council are penalising people who pay huge amounts - £190 X 12 months - in council tax to give it to others. For once I'd like to see the benefit of my council tax payments. Why should my child have to walk an unsafe route over a railway line so that their transport money can be given to someone on benefits to allow their kid to get a bus to school. I'm up at 5.30 for work, check the attendance/late rates in schools. Would laying a bus on for them REALLY be of benefit.</p>
<p>From my house to school, time to walk/ distance to school not amenable to walk to and from every day. I don't consider the walk over the lyle hill a safe route</p>
<p>Congestion around schools with more parents dropping kids off more kids at risk of danger. Having a bus mess less cars at schools and more kids at school on time and safely</p>
<p>I think the council should increase the threshold for free transport encourage pupils to walk but including those entitled to clothing grants etc don't single them out</p>
<p>The "financial implications" in your consultation document do not mention the additional transport costs to already struggling parents and the potential to push more families into debt/poverty.</p>
<p>Financial implications for ordinary working families across Inverclyde who would be put under additional pressure simply to get their children to school. I believe this would lead to a significant increase in schooldays lost by pupils.</p>
<p>A child who lives 2 miles from school and who aren't entitled to free school meals and clothing grants has to walk to school but a child who lives 1.5 miles away can get a bus as they ARE entitled is unfair. Both sets of kids are able to walk whether or not they're parents get benefits.</p>
<p>In winter Huntley drive hill is absolutely horrible and impossible to walk as it just sheet of black ice,also under the tunel is always big puddle of ice,or mud it's impossible to walk on sides as everything is over growing.</p>

Personally my child can walk to school as we stay very close but I would be concerned that if free school buses are removed more parents will opt to take their children to school in cars thus increasing the traffic on the present busy roads and therefore putting children who are within walking distance at greater danger. Many of my friends who have children stayed within catchment areas which were within easy walking distance now however many children stay out with a reasonable walking distance

Every child should be treated equally, income has no relevance to walking half mile

Main Street, Inverkip is congested just now with the amount of cars. There is no safe route to the school from Forres Place, Inverkip

Children's safety

Why should pupils that receive free school meals & grants be treated any differently

If St Columbas had remained at the former Bayhill site the concerns about safe walking route would not exist.

The weather conditions and topography of Inverclyde would see children and young people turning up at school exhausted and wet. Hardly a great start to the day.

Not fair to working parents

Why does a child whose parents have less income have a right to transport. Every parent has a requirement to get their child to school as it is their responsibility, not the council. Current bus drop off in Spey Road is not safe as cars are parked on the pavements causing danger to children who do walk home from school.

Ensuring kids arrive to school dry & on time. Less buses to school means more cars dropping kids off

The walking distances now proposed are simply too onerous and will have a highly detrimental effect upon the ability of the children to learn. The dominant weather patterns in Greenock over the autumn / winter months is cold, wet and windy. To expect children arrive ready to learn after a forty minute walk in poor weather conditions is simply ridiculous.

gg

Walking to school promotes a healthy lifestyle .. Inverkip to Greenock bus .. Inverkip to Inverkip no bus needed.

They demolished a school on our door step now they are saying no free transport

In Port Glasgow we only have one non-denominate school. Inverclyde council took away a school down the hill and parents have to send their children to Newrk. Also 1.5 miles on the flat is not too bad but up the Clune Brae or Ardmore Road I would like to see the councilors doing that before they start work!



There is no financial benefit in removing transport for primary children from the Castle Levan estate as the bus will still have to come for the children at Faulds Park it will just carry slightly fewer children if it doesn't collect Castle Levan as well. It is not feasible for all of the Levan kids to walk to school so they will inevitably end up being driven up by parents and childminders making traffic congestion around the school even worse

Health benefits for ALL children to walk

Weather too far to walk soaked in winter months

## Comments for Question 5

If you would like to make any comment on the proposal, or suggest an alternative option for consideration please do so in the space below.
Open-Ended Response
<p>We, the Learner Council of St Columba's HS feel that it is extremely unfair to expect pupils to walk 2-2.5 miles to get to school every day. It would take a very long time and one of our main concerns is having to do this when it is wet, cold, windy, icy or snowing. Many of us may not have appropriate clothing eg warm and waterproof coat or suitable shoes for walking. The prospect of having to sit in class in soaking wet shoes, sock and clothes on a regular basis is also extremely unappealing and we feel it would actually have a detrimental effect on our learning. Even if the weather was good, it would be unfeasible to expect pupils, especially younger ones to walk that distance to school because, in addition to carrying a heavy school bag, they may also have to carry art &amp; design or graphic communication folio folders, PE kit, musical instruments (some of them very large) and possibly sport kits, like football boots for extra curricular activities. We feel that the proposals would cause a drop in attendance and also an increase in latecoming. The fact that our school is not on a bus route from most of our catchment areas would mean that anyone who wanted to get a bus to school would not be able to do so. For the majority of pupils who would be affected by the proposed changes, it would mean having to get at least 2 buses to get to school. This would require getting up and leaving the house extremely early and so we feel it would be detrimental to the learning of those pupils as they would be very tired and lack the concentration required for effective learning. In addition it would be also very expensive for parents who would need to pay for the buses to and from school every day. Some pupils we have spoken to said that they would move to other schools that are closer to their homes to avoid having to walk to school or having to get up early and get two buses. They all said that they would not want to do this but they feel they would be forced to do this if the proposals were to be introduced. We are concerned that we may lose our friends through these proposals and ultimately some of our teachers. We are also worried that our choice of subjects in the future would also be reduced if the school roll falls. We currently have a cashless catering system which allows those of us who receive free school meals to do so without other pupils knowing this. We like the fact that there is not a stigma attached to receiving free school meals but feel that the proposal to provide buses for pupils who get free school meals at a distance of 1.5 miles from the school would then make them more obvious to others. This could potentially cause those pupils to be resented by others who live a similar distance from the school but do not receive free school meals. We would urge you to keep the bus arrangement as it is currently so that we can continue to go, regularly and on time to the great school where we love learning with all our friends and teachers.</p>
For people from the Port
For people from Port Glasgow they have to get the train and it costs them money every day
Don't spend as much on pointless expenses such as Christmas lights and the Beacon, spend it on buses.
For people from Port Glasgow they have to get the train.
I don't think it's a good idea
I don't think it's a good idea.
It singles out those who don't have FME but also don't have the income to afford taxis or buses every day and who may not have their own car.
Agreeing proposals with other transport companies to offer an alternative route (subsidised) near route such as Scotrail and houses located near Whinhill station.
free train transport

Doing this would be wrong as someone who takes the bus it would make people from my area late and I would be losing my time to learn.
A small cost if you live closer.
Should have to pay a fee towards the school bus.
People would be required to be up earlier meaning they would be tired, affecting school work. I also feel it is too far to walk if parents are unable to provide a lift.
Greenock is very precipitative so trying to force children to walk for 45 mins everyday would be unsuitable and unsafe.
Greenock is very precipitative causing trouble for pupils to walk. It is not suitable conditions for students to be walking to school 5 days a week.
Greenock is not an area which has good weather. It is often cold and damp and not suitable for children to be walking 2+ miles a day in.
Decrease the mileage limits.
Decrease the mileage limits.
People far away or more than 2.5miles away from the school should get transport no matter what for, eg If they have an instrument it might get soaking wet and some instruments might break
Longer walks to school
Some people won't turn up to school
Weather conditions are unsafe to walk in for children and teens
Make the distance same as primary schools, 1.5miles or keep it at 2miles.
I think that a cost saving measure such as this is extremely short sighted as it appears not to have factored in a number of costs/negative impacts. - Impact on educational performance of children potentially having to take unsafe walking routes to and from school. - Impact on areas surrounding schools, the environment and the safety of children resulting from the inevitable increase in parents driving their children to and from school. If these impacts were properly and fully costed I find it difficult to believe that this proposal could be viewed as tackling cost saving.
As a school (St Josephs) we have serious concern about what this proposal could mean for the future of our school enrolment. As our catchment area currently stands, many of our pupils live closer to Notre Dame yet our catchment high school is St Columbas. Our pupils are being asked to travel further but are now faced with the prospect of all transport options being removed. There is no alternative option of public transport on this route. We believe that we will see a reduction in primary enrolment as parents start to see the impact of this proposal. This will have a huge impact on the pupils in the school, not least because of the knock on reduction in staffing. Our other key concern is the welfare of the pupils who move on to high school. As a parent council we want the best education for all of our pupils and this does not stop as they come to the end of P7. How can we support knowing that our pupils will be asked to walk a long and unsafe route to high school? There are no transport options which allow us to pay to get our pupils safely to high school. The suggestion offered by the consultation to 'arrange our own' is totally unacceptable and suggested only by people who would face no impact of this.
The safe walking route suggested through the strone is not a safe route. Apparently these routes were looked at and deemed safe. I think they should look again, more closely. Walking this distance in our climate is not ideal either. Spending all day sitting in wet clothes is not ideal. To use public transport would involve leaving for school very early, and arriving home very late in the day with dark mornings and nights.
Increasing the distance is absolutely outrageous
More options offered regarding parents contributing to the cost of bus transport. Current system regarding applying for limited privilege pass is not good enough. Many students living short of current boundary have to walk or use the rail link which if manned by rail staff would prove to be very costly.

The 'safe route' to school identified for my children is not safe - it would need crossing patrols at the incredibly difficult to negotiate junction at either the top or bottom of Drumshantie Rd. This is not the only area in Inverclyde children would find it difficult to cross at rush hour. The wages needed for these additional patrols would negate the bus savings. The 'safe routes' were walked on a May afternoon, I object to this, not a rainy or flooded or dark morning or evening alongside scores of other children. The work done in schools to eliminate stigmatising poorer children would be undone when they arrive at school by bus. These buses, which may or may not be full, would be passing other children who could use them (working parents could contribute towards the cost?) St Columba's was moved site at the Council's choice, not the schools, the children in further away traditional catchment areas have a long walk past cemeteries and dams and woods, and would not in my opinion be safe. The safe route is based on traffic only, not any other dangers. There are no direct bus services and most children would need to get a bus into Greenock and then out again, at significant financial and time cost to the families. It seems to me that providing buses to protect our young people and get them to school safely should be a non negotiable priority for the Council and the sum saved would be a needle in the haystack of savings to be made. If you go ahead the role at St Columba's will fall, teachers will be lost and subject choice will be affected. Pupils will arrive tired and wet and will be more likely to be late, the negative effect this will have on their learning can never be regained. The government challenge of 'closing the gap' needs safe, dry, alert students and these pupils can live anywhere, not just in an area defined by a line drawn in a circle around the school. It is a disgrace that pupils' safety and education is even considered being risked. And for the record Mr McGovern's suggestion of parents organising their own buses.... Really????? What an impossibility and insult to the parents of Inverclyde.

my son is autistic & needs the school bus. Taking away the service will only make the local Transport over crowded & worried he may not get the home.

Most parents would be willing to pay a reasonable fare for the journeys

With both the proposed change in placement policy my child will now probably not get into the nearest secondary school. Added to this they will not now get school transport and with no viable public transport they face a long and wet walk to school.

More lolly pop people. Especially at top of the Y road very dangerous.

As a community council we have had numerous representations from residents of the streets surrounding our gourock school, mainly St Ninians and St Columba's. they have advised us of the traffic issues they are experiencing during school pick up and drop off times. In light of this we would like to seek clarity on what impact this proposal would have in terms of additional traffic and the impact of this to our local residents.

As the children affected within our primary school are too young to walk the distance required the majority of these will now be taken to school via car, our neighbouring streets especially Kirn Drive are gridlocked with the existing level of traffic and we cannot take a further increase in number of cars. We are also concerned about our secondary school and the impact this new proposal will have as we feel that the removal of buses to St Columbas may affect the intake of pupils and may see an increase in placing requests for an alternative high school, this may affect the level of staff at st Columbas and subsequently could affect the subject choices in the future.

During a time when the focus is trying to raise attainment for our young folk we should not be restricting who has access to school transport, a child has a better chance of learning during the day when they arrive safe, warm, dry and on time.

One of our members suggested that each school should be considered separately according to geographic situation

Supply a subsidised bus using young scot card.

Can schools be considered on an individual basis?

Scrap the proposal, whats £16,000 when your budget is £9,000,000?

Just because people don't get free meals doesn't mean that they have a way to get to school without a bus, and if someone has no way to get to school how can you expect them to show up?? Also, instead of spending money on new roads and schemes that we don't need, why doesn't the council spend that money on education?
no money and no bus all ice what we goanny do if mum and dad and everyone away to work we canny go anywhere cause we will slip and fall you can take away our free bus and our free buses away from us but you cant take away our education cause if you do we wont get a job and be successfull
the so called safe walk is filled with paedophiles and drug attics and u have only sent adults not children
To all the Larkfeild, Braeside, Branchton kids for St Columba's. We're not even getting the offer to get a bus! We're not even getting the opportunity to pay for our bus! As a pupil, from my perspective I don't find this fair! Yes, the people from Inverkip and Wemyss Bay live a further distance but how does that make them entitled to the bus without a proposal or a CHANCE to get ours!? There is not even a public transport bus route. To my conclusion, this makes me very upset because think on the children having to walk to school at 8 (possibly earlier because it will dark ,cold ,rainy ,icy and dangerous!) in the morning in December on the icy roads! Would you like to send your 11 year old+ to walk to school? I don't think so, so why should we? and what about the primary school children? imagine an 8/9 year old walking about the busy roads early in the morning? its not right! yours sincerely, Amy Brown. age 13, St Columbas.
Keep The Transport As It Is!
People have to leave earlier in the morning and get home later at night. Also during the winter they will get cold
Take away free school meals instead of pupils transport
take away free meals instead of buses
Keep the buses for everyone that has them just now.
its a fucking shit idea stick to the normal plan
Keep everything the way it is
Keep the school buses
Keep the busses the way it is
Keep the buses for those who live within 2.5 miles.
Change routes depending on school accessibility.
This proposal clearly hasn't been thought through. Children needing to walk to school because they don't have a bus service will need to get up earlier, meaning they can be tired during school. This can also cause congestion at the school as there will be a lot of pupils also getting a lift to school so there will be a lot of cars going through the small street and the school also has limited parking around the area. This is also a hazard to pupils walking around the school as there is more road traffic and all this congestion can make pupils late.
Yes
I don't want to need to walk to school hail, winter or shine. My mum won't be able to take me or my dad. I don't think it's safe
if your school is not in a direct bus route maybe, you couldn't get to school easily .
I'm a bit angry because its unfair that some people have to walk and other people dont
This decision could highly impact people who live close to the school
I do not think this decision that the council has made to stop the busses is correct and safe as young children would have to walk to school.
it could effect families hugely
cut it down to a mille
it is fian as it is

In broad agreement that this policy needs to be revised and understand the thinking around helping young people from more deprived households get to school. Just concerned about how this would work in practice, the potential for stigmatising young people from poorer backgrounds through this policy. As a result I would ask that more detail is provided on how those young people will be encouraged to use the transport and how their families will be involved too. Overall we have a concern over a potential increase in private transport to school and as such increased congestion. The communication and development of clear safe routes to school may encourage more young people to walk.
I don't think it is right taking away these privileges from children!!!
This is a very bad idea as you could be taking a childs education away if they cannot physically get to school.
This is bad idea.
don't do it
I think it is a very bad idea
I disagree
I do not agree on this big mac
don't put the busses off coz a will have to walk and am lazy
don't put on buses
it sould just stay 2 miles
I disagree
don't want to walk
might be late
nope no comment
shouldn't be happening
DON'T CHANGE THE BUSSES!
DON'T CHANGE THE BUSSES! There are no safe walking routes to school from where I live.
I cannot understand how this measure will save money for the council as a bus will still need to be provided on the current route. There are other children at my stop who live a greater distance from the school than 1.5 miles currently. This would therefore mean that even if the new measure was put in place, the school bus that my son currently has a place on would still have to pick up at the Lyle Road pick up. Therefore the bus would still be in operation but with potentially less children on board. How is this saving money? I am completely against this motion to increase the mileage limits for free transport.
If this does comes into place I think there should be buses put on even if parents have to pay
I feel the proposal not only puts a large amount of children at risk for 1% of the savings the council needs to make - is it worth it? No choices have been given to children who currently get a bus - but wont under the new proposal - for my children it is walk it or walk it! There is no direct bus route and no option to pay for the school bus. In addition to this I am hugely aggrieved at the suggestion of children in receipt of free school meal and clothing grants will get free transport. If the only alternative to the bus is walking for my child - why cant a child who get free schools meals walk the same route? This is discrimination against children from working families. My main point here is where children in receipt of benefits received a free service there a no choices for children who don't. The proposal will be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of my children and impact on my family lift, my work lift, will need to move job or reduce my hours.
I cannot see where savings are being made, those savings made by increasing the distance are then given to those on lower incomes. Working parents are once again penalised. Is alternative travel for those within the 2.5 miles becoming available?
Treat all our children the same, do not differ due to not/receiving free meals. No child should have to walk those distances just to get onto a bus to take them to school. What about 'Duty of Care'

It takes my oldest child who attends port Glasgow high school 40min to walk to school then 40min to get home again. Most days she's soaked through with the rain and sits cold all day. I think it's ridiculous.

I don't agree with the 2.5 mile radius. My son would need to walk 50 minutes in the morning and 50 minutes in the evening to get to and from school. In the winter this would increase sickness and being absent from school due to the horrendous weather conditions we experience. Anything could happen to a 12 year old at 7.45 in the morning it's just not on. Why don't the council ask for a subsidiary payment from the parents eg £1 if they live under 2 miles 50p of over 2 miles etc and the money could help to contribute towards the cost of the buses and to run them?

With regards to our well known areas of deprivation,certain children will always need help to get to school,where parents are lacking in responsibility.Cutting free transport may affect the attendance and timekeeping of our most vulnerable children for many other reasons.e.g lack of appropriate winter clothing and footwear.In general,children should not be expected to sit in wet clothing all day or carry heavy bags and instruments for long distances ,especially in bad weather.Lack of daylight and length of time needed to walk to school should also be assessed.Poor attendance and bad timekeeping drain resources and therefore affect other children ,as teachers may have to repeat lessons or take time to explain to those who struggle to attend due to lack of transport.

Children who get free school meals shouldn't be treated any differently when it comes to wether they have to walk or not it has no relevance

It is unfair to not provide transport for those ineligible for school meals. This will especially impact those with parents earning just over the threshold, who are often still unable to afford to take their child to school. I would like to invite councillors and others involved in making this decision to do a 2.5 mile walk in the rain/snow/icy conditions carrying a schoolbag the same mass as mine and also carrying an instrument (after all, we're all encouraged to play instruments and participate in local authority groups). Given that Inverclyde has one of the most declining populations in the country, councillors should be trying to incentivise people to move to the area. Free school transport may well influence the decisions of families. It must also be considered that these changes will result in increased car usage, making Inverclyde a less environmentally friendly area, and causing further congestion. If these proposed changes do go through, it is only reasonable to expect that identified walking routes are gritted in cold/icy conditions, in order to ensure the safety of schoolchildren. In addition, the availability of public transport would need to be increased and the fares for young people aged 18 and under would have to be reduced to an affordable level, if only for the times when children travel to/from school (e.g. 8am-9am and 3pm-4.15pm). This would require increased expenditure from the council. There will be some instances (e.g. bus from Skelmorlie/Wemyss Bay to St Columba's) where buses will still have to be put on, as some pupils on them live outside the proposed zones. But, some pupils currently on such buses (i.e. those living near Tantallon Avenue) will, with proposed changes, be ineligible. The pupils that get on at this stop, and others in a similar situation across Inverclyde, do not cause the need for an additional bus, so should be allowed to have seats on their existing bus, as the bus will run anyway. The removal of free school transport will give some pupils no option other than to walk, meaning they will have to wake up earlier, which will have a detrimental effect on their education, as pupils will either have to get less sleep to wake up earlier or spend less time doing homework/studying/extracurricular activities in order to go to bed earlier.

As stated previously, attendance at school is essential for pupils to meet their potential. These proposals will make attending school more difficult for pupils, especially our most deprived. This proposal flies in the face of national priorities on closing the attainment gap and giving every child the chance to succeed in education.

The proposals are dangerous. The suggested distances will expose children of all ages to potentially hazardous journeys along busy roads with no or limited provision for safe crossing. In the case of children travelling from Overton to Inverclyde Academy, the only realistic route is to walk along the A78, alongside heavy traffic, and exposure to significant risks, not least of which is high levels of

pollution. While bus services exist, they are limited and daily fares may prove prohibitive for many families.

I don't understand how you can justify new builds for super schools and new schools, when we clearly have a crisis on our hands. Children need transport to school especially in deprived areas, otherwise, they may not make it to school or even have their one hot meal for the day. There is also a lack of teachers in Inverclyde (I know first hand) so sort that out with providing incentives orating teaching in Inverclyde more attractive. Use the money to provide more support staff to enable schools to GIRFEC and raise attainment!

At present there is only one secondary school that you could class in central Greenock (Notredame) and once again this was oversubscribed for new S1 this year. The reason being is the location of Inverclyde Academy. Increasing the mileage is going to cause an even larger amount of placing requests for Notredame next year if this proposal goes ahead. It also worries me the increase of traffic on the roads that are classed as safe walking routes if these proposals go ahead.

I'm sure the savings could be found by other means. Shared services can save a lot throughout the Council. Are all the temporary contracts really needed? Children's safety should not be compromised and they should not be expected to walk to school in all weathers. It is not pleasant sitting in a classroom with wet clothes. As a child I had to walk 2 miles or more to school and this proposal is going backwards. I do not have school age children but do have grandchildren.

If council provide a bus and children pay if they do not come into the remit the council have agreed

mjpgtftf

If the distance required is reduced, then why can't there be buses run to allow children who don't qualify for the free travel to pay on the busses. There is no direct bus link from the East End to Notre dame and children have to catch a train and still face a walk from the station. We will have the ridiculous situation that buses will be empty passing by children that no longer qualify to travel, and can't pay to get on. This plan needs to be considered in greater detail, or not implemented at all. Dunlop Street is already badly congested at school start and finish times, reducing the amount of pupils who can use public transport will make it worse. It could also end up leading to accidents between kids walking and all the extra cars around the school. This does not just affect Notre Dame and the East end, but kids from Larkfield attending St Columba's and other schools too. It's a silly blanket response, caused by the council's centralisation of the education into schools that don't properly serve their catchment areas to save not very much money.

I appreciate it is designed to save money during difficult times, but anything that might affect childrens' education should be sidelined.

Is the isolation and awkwardness of hundreds of children worth the savings you believe you'll make . I would rather see the savings made by stopping school grants and free meals rather than affect their transport which is vital for pupils to get to school on time .

Bad idea and AGAIN it is the hard working family who is to be punished. When the schools merged we were given this transport as the council had got rid of the choice for non denominational schools, yet continued to pay for this for clydevie and another gourock school to get to school no matter the distance for a considerably longer period. Pavements on road up to Newark via clune brae are dangerous with retaining walls crumbling and water trickling down the pavement making it expressly slippery. Also concerns as this is a steep hill with many blind spots, particularly at several brows of the hill - this is bad enough on nice days, but treacherous in bad weather. Very steep hill - different to walking on flat or slightly inclined hill. On road up via spring hill, none of the staircases are safe or maintained - all overhanging PLUS this is not safe for children to walk on their own die to it being isolated. Also - public transport does not come into the Kingston dock estate.

provide transport but charge a fare.



In most schools in Inverclyde there are hazards when children are walking to school. These are made worse during the winter and any reduction in provision of transport is likely to have an effect on road safety. In some cases there is no direct public transport route to enable pupils to travel to school.
We do not think it is fair as a mile and a half is quite far away from the school and some of the children live on farms one mile away and that is not fair.
Monitor use of free school meal bus passes and if not being used then spaces are made available for other children
When the school was relocated by the Council they promised to fund transport for pupils from feeder primaries.
They need free transport
Coming from the far end of Braeside I can't understand how you feel its a safe walking route. There no traffic lights to cross at two busy roads, but you think that is acceptable.
By reducing the possibility of free transport being available to children living outside required distances, this means more congestion on already busy routes in morning as parent make 1 or 2 drop offs at primary and secondary schools in Port Glasgow.
As myself and child stay on the far side of braeside taking the bus away would leave us having to make an unsafe journey to and from school each day as the route to the school is extremely unsafe for children to walk every day.
Amalgamate buses going similar routes. E.g. bigger buses to accomodate
I am sure there are better ways to cut services. How about cuts to some of the council running costs, bonuses, and gold pensions.
Yet again parents who go out and work and try to provide a better life for their children are being penalised, so the child who lives in my close who's parents don't work will get the bus but as I do work my child will have to walk????? Where's the fairness in that!
I think that families living in Pennyfern, Gateside, Bow Farm (both lower and upper) may (in the event these proposals were put in place) elect to try and gain a placement at Notre Dame HS as this is much nearer to them than St Columba's and within reasonable walking distance for their child. The increase from 2 miles to 2.5 miles would almost certainly exclude these families from the use of a school bus. The knock on effect of this would be significant for every child in St Columba's as the school roll would fall and it would seem logic therefore that resources to the school would be reduced impacting in some way on every child at that school.
I don't think I can provide any alternative to this. Everyone has the right to goto school but when you start making it so that the pupils have to choose between walking home over 2 miles or having a decent lunch, that's terrible And just cause I work and earn money doesn't mean my family can afford it
Im going to.have 3 kids by time this takes place i cant afford bus fares everyday.so.i will.be taking.them.out if this.goes ahead
If this comes into force the traffic congestion will be horrendous at school times. As many parents will have to provide transportation themselves.
Deeply concerned with the proposal.Inverclyde council choose to Swap the location for the secondary school for St Joseph's.The original St Columba's school location was within walking distance and through a safe route for 11 year old children.The current location of the high school would mean my 11 year old daughter having to walk over Larkfield Road which is unsafe due to poor lighting as well as far to far for a child to walk there and back,not to mention having to walk this route in the harsh West of Scotland weather.I have major safety concerns if the free transport was removed and would have to consider another School options.
Inverclyde Council have s duty of care in getting our kids to school safely, the streets in Inverclyde are not safe hence why you tell people to walk in groups, and the weather in Inverclyde is not kind to us
A child is a child regardless of their family circumstances. Their safety is paramount!

<p>I realise there are cost implication to free school transport, but increasing the minimum distance will lead to reduced attendance and resultant drop in educational standards. Staffing could be affected too. Currently, every school in Inverclyde has horrendous traffic issues making it an unsafe environment for our young people. This proposal will reduce the numbers travelling by bus but will increase the number of cars parked around our schools. It's crazy enough at the moment, don't increase the risk of a child being injured.</p>
<p>1 mile for primary school and 1.5 for high school- for all children</p>
<p>A 'circular' school bus which can pick up children from certain points and drop off at all local schools in turn (both free for certain groups and paid for by other parents wishing to use the service) would be a good idea. It could alleviate pressures on working parents and cut down on the traffic surrounding schools in the morning.</p>
<p>Keep the school buses as they are now. St columbas doesn't have any alternative or public transport. I don't believe that my Child should be walking past Gourock cemetery especially in the winter months when dark and the road is liable to flooding. This will divert the walking route through the cemetery itself</p>
<p>It is a disgrace that we had a perfectly good primary school within the braeside community that was removed, furthermore at the time the community was advised that there would be buses provided for the children to the new school. With this possibly now being removed it is not practical that I should walk my children to and from school daily in the ever changing weather conditions. There is no public transport route from my house to the school therefore walking would be the only solution. I would strongly ask that the council reconsider this proposal for the safety of our children</p>
<p>It is ridiculous that parents and children have to suffer due to the councils inability to manage the money they get for services. School buses should remain as they are for children end of. My children would need 2 buses daily to get to school and to get back at a minimal cost of £1.65 daily or £23.10 weekly on top of the money I have to give them for school dinners is the council trying to put even more parents in poverty as it looks this way.</p>
<p>All primary school children should be entitled to free school meals not just those from primary 1 to primary 3. More parking spaces made available to stop drivers parking at the pavements the side the children come out</p>
<p>I believe the current distances are adequate and do not need changed as this would possibly have a negative impact on more pupils in the area than it would help. My main concern is that the council have not made local bus services provide a Monday to Friday scheduled paying service for the areas affected.</p>
<p>Cut duplication within council procedures and improve systems to cut costs within other areas. Do not cut anything related to education. Other money wasters such terrible systems within the council administration and wasting of money that could be identified in other areas. Education and transport for children should not be cut.</p>
<p>just keep it at 2 miles</p>
<p>Living on tower drive, the area has became unsafe for crossing and even walking on the pavements due to school buses. School crossing patrol in tower drive is poor, with the officer leaving early ( before 9am and 3pm). The sheer volume of traffic in the midton area is reaching a dangerous level, so much so that my children do not feel safe walking to school. As I type this there is a school bus parked outside my home, fully mounted on the pavement, there is no pedestrian access because of this. I fully understand that children have to get to school in a safe manner, but those who travel on foot must also be considered</p>
<p>We have 2 buses at the moment and we feel there is no need for both. Inappropriate parking is an issue at the school. If the school bus was taken away it would be worse. Safe drop off point would be good. We think it would good and healthier if more children walked to school. It would also be good for the environment.</p>

I would like the person who came up with these proposals to walk the full 2.5 miles being proposed for 5 consecutive days in the wind and rain and see how they like it.
My daughter has no other transport to and from school I depend on the school bus to assure me that she gets there safely under no circumstances would I let my child walk from the portglasgow town to ststephens highschool it would take her over an hour to walk and would need to cross busy roads and in winter mornings she would be freezing cold and be soaked right through.
Keep the arrangements as they are. Find cost cutting measures in other parts of the council. Education is vital to changing the demographic of Inverclyde and ensuring our pupils are in school and can afford to access school is the first step in the process.
Give branchton kids bus back
There is only one route from larkfeild to st columbas high school wich would take my child between 30 min to 45 min to walk to school, I would be very concerned about there safty during the year but more concerned about there safty during the Autumn and winter days as the weather and the amount of daytime light can be very limited.
Could parents be given the option of paying for a school transport service if no free transport available?
Be fair and reasonable, kids can't be expected to walk these distances to and from school in all weathers.
i rely on the school bus to get my grandson to and from school as i am disabled and unable to walk any distance to pick him up and the safe walking distance is too far. If this bus routine is changed it will have consequences for my daughters working arrangements.
I do not think there is any need to change the current distances in place for school transport.
Leave as it was previously
School bus should continue to be provided from levan to moorfoot primary as it is
Keep things as they are.
This is a test of website
Stop giving free school meals to the pupils in P1. - 3 who are from well off backgrounds and use this money for transport. Also stop paying for transport to Gaelic school - this is a nonsense.
Council need to get things together. This proposal would leave children tired and stressed, reducing attention levels which would reduce grade levels.
I think it is a joke asking a new secondary child going to school to walk nearly 2 miles to school sometimes in dark mornings and cross dangerous roads. Also take the weather into consideration the weather is always terrible rain or gale force winds.
I currently rely on the school bus to get my son to and from school on the days i work where he has to go to his grans who is disabled. Changing the distance of the entitlment distance will cause major disruption to my childcare and put extra stress on to me trying to work. My son also starts high school next year so this is a big issue as he needs transport to get there.
It's shocking the council waste all of money and merge school miles away from our homes
Scrap the proposal.
I understand the need to have a zone, however having walked to the school (it's a 30+ min walk) then I don't think you have this quite right. Have you considered a subsidised service within a given radius? It looks as though buses will be running and stopping for the proposed exceptions.

The proposal being put forward by the Education Department is that the current minimum distance that our young people can access free school transport be increased from 2 miles to 2.5 miles, with a provision for those young people who are entitled to free school meals and are eligible for a clothing allowance will be able to access free transport from 1.5 miles. In practice, if implemented this would mean the withdrawal of the current buses for our young people who live in: • Larkfield • Burns Rd • Branchton • Bow Rd However, the impact of this proposal will affect all of us, as this may trigger Parents from our feeder Primary Schools, particularly, St Andrew's and St Joseph's to make placing requests to move their children to secondary schools closer to their home e.g. Inverclyde Academy and Notre Dame High School. This would result in our school roll falling, and in turn reduce our staffing numbers. In the letter received from the Corporate Director of Education, it states that this proposal "address the inequality of provision that currently exists for some schools due to historic factors". In respect of St Columba's, Inverclyde Council created this issue when they reconfigured the secondary schools in the area, and moved us from our location at Bayhill to Fletcher Avenue, where there is no direct public transport for our young people from our school catchment area. As the other secondary schools are on or are close to recognised bus routes, St Columba's already starts from a disadvantaged position; this factor does not seem to have been considered when Inverclyde Council raise the question of equality. There are also safety concerns for the school pupils that would otherwise have to walk to school together with the inclement weather that can at times have a massive impact. I would urge the council to reconsider this and remain with the status quo to avoid this potential detrimental impact on St Columba's and it's future.

My concern is that the buses will be making near enough the exact same route to and from school, this wont change except maybe a street or two. So how is this saving money? It will maybe save the bus company 11p on diesel not stopping and starting the bus an extra stop or two. The hired bus is still going to cost the same amount of money as its still doing the same route so how is this a cost saving proposal? Expecting kids to walk from Bow Farm and Pennyfern to St Colomba's is just downright ridiculous, its nothing about the kids being lazy its about the weather impact that is going to affect them more often than not. An alternative to not driving around the different areas would be (for example) kids from Pennyfern and Bow Farm could walk down to Barrs Cottage and get the bus there at one of the bus stops or else at the stopping area at the Drummond Park, this would mean kids are only walking for 5/10 minutes max in the weather than 45 minutes plus. Bus prices in this area a joke, it is only 20p or so more for an all day bus pass in Glasgow than it is for a bus from Pennyfern to Greenock town centre, this isnt viable for children to be paying for these buses everyday. If it came to it as a last resort, then possibly asking each child to pay something like £5 a week for their travel an option?

As a parent of a 15 year old girl i find it totally ludicrous that inverclyde council are even thinking of pulling the plug on school buses. Do these idiots that propose this have kids in school. What alternative do parents have? Not all parents can afford taxis so kids are left to walk more than 2 miles to school on cold, wet,dark mornings getting to school soaked then having to sit in classrooms all day. In this day and age kids safety must be of imperative importance. I,m not saying it will happen but kids could be attacked,abductuted, anything could happen so i personally think every parent should back the parent council in getting this ludicrous idea kicked into touch. I would even urge parents that if this goes ahead we as parents concerned about our kids safety even go as far as to keep our kids off school as a stance against inverclyde council. Heres hoping it wont come to that but that is how strongly i feel about this idiotic idea.

Retain transport for up to 1.5 miles from the schools.

Keep the buses and make cuts elsewhere, perhaps to councillors salaries or Christmas parties

If my child had to pay for transport to and from school it would cost me £4.50 per day for travel for him. He would have to get 2 busses there and 2 home. This does not seem fair when kids who get free lunches get a free bus. So because I work to provide for my family a free direct routed bus would drive my child whilst collecting others. Seems unfair to me

<p>The thought of my child walking up the Lyle hill in the winter in dark wet conditions terrifies me ! Have the kids to turn up to school soaking wet ?? Freezing??? Tired?? Why not ask for parents to pay something towards the buses in stead of making kids walk !!! You are suggesting that if parents who reserve benefits children will still be entitled to the service how is this fair why should these kids be able to travel to school be safe and dry and other kids who stay beside these kids have to walk !!!!</p>
<p>leave the buses alone,to give the kids the safety they need to go to and from school,these buses have been on for these schools for years so please dont take them off of these kids guve them the safety they need.</p>
<p>What if there are people who live more than 2.5 miles away, that walk to get a bus?</p>
<p>The council moved the location of the schools, therefore to penalise the children and potentially risk their safety is unthinkable.</p>
<p>It is far to far to expect children to walk. We live in Scotland it rains constantly the children will be forever unwell. Pretty sure there are more better areas to cut funding that doesn't put children at risk or anyone else for that matter.</p>
<p>I think this is ludicrous !!! I haven't spoken to anyone who thinks otherwise!</p>
<p>I think all children should be regarded equally, and not dependant on household income</p>
<p>Are parents (who can afford to)being given the option to pay a minimal charge for bus service if living within shorter distance from schools?</p>
<p>Kids having to walk over 2 miles to school during the winter dark months, this is a huge safety concern for me especially for the younger children starting high school. Road safety and personal safety!!</p>
<p>As said in "other" section. Also If children were walking that distance ( approximately 30 to 40mins )in our climate they would be soaked before getting to school!!!</p>
<p>This is a decision which is completely unacceptable. Please see sense and review this proposal. I understand that budgets are tight within this sector however putting the safety of our children at risk is absolutely unforgivable.</p>
<p>Free transport should be kept at the distance it is or children should be walked to school from their houses to avoid accidents especially during the darker nights</p>
<p>According to Google Maps, My children travel 2.6 miles, but you have included my address in the ones to be excluded. My children get the bus that travels from Inverkip, and to deny them this transport means the bus will be passing them part empty.</p>
<p>There is no good reason to change current policy</p>
<p>Things should remain as they are - this dies not affect my children directly as we are rural and will receive transport regardless - but I don't think making children walk to school for more than 2 miles is acceptable. If the council are going to close schools all over the place then they should provide transport for children who suddenly find themselves living further away from their school than they would have been should their nearest school have remained open!</p>
<p>If this has to go ahead, perhaps an option to offer transport with fees attached.</p>
<p>I already to pay for a priviltpass for my sons primary school transport as under 1 like. This new proposal would mean having to do the same for my daughter. It's really ridiculous. Working parents do not get any (free) help. Very frustrating.</p>
<p>My children do not use school transport. However, I think it is important to keep this for children who use it.</p>
<p>I was involved in the campaign to introduce a bus to St Columba's High School a long time ago because of the route to school from Larkfield Braeside and Branchton was considered unsafe at the Gourock Cemetery leg the local councillor Yvonne Robertson successfully fought for a bus to be put on funded by the then IDC on safety grounds. In my opinion the route has not improved and safety remains an important issue it could be argued that a small safety barrier has been erected but this does not remove the risk to pupils from a narrow single footpath servicing two High Schools and a very busy road between Gourock and Greenock that is often flooded in winter I would urge the</p>

council to keep this very important school bus service for all pupils of St Columbas High School
Well am very sorry to say this but i think it is totally unacceptable, and if there isn't a bus on for my children too get and from school.I will be thinking very hard aabout taking my two children out of there very good Catholic school and moving them two Inverclyde Academy which is just down the back from our house thank you Lorna McMillan
Give the option to get a school bus that we can pay to get on. Anything is better than having our children walk 2 odd miles to school in this day and age. You'll be putting our kids safety at stake.
Our children's education and safety should be the priority here. The proposals will have a detrimental effect on both.
I do not agree that a child who is entitled to free school meals will be entitled to transport but a neighbour isn't, all should be entitled to it..... sure cut backs could he made elsewhere? The local taxi companies make enough money from school contracts
Consider carefully the criteria for placing requests allowing for sensible decisions made for pupils who will have to travel more than 2 miles to reach partner secondary school passing another secondary only 0.8 miles from home. SAFETY of young people must come first above all else.
At Inverkip Primary there is already a sustained problem of a lack of parking around the school and this is constantly being brought up at parent council meetings. If the free buses are changed then it may well mean a further increase to traffic through the village, both in the morning and afternoon. This, coupled with the regular bus service that runs through the village at these time,s would only add misery to an already contentious issue, often resulting in gridlock. The proposal makes reference to 'safe walking routes' to school but does not allow us to actually view these routes, and does not provide the actual guidelines that West of Scotland Road Safety uses. I was unable to find these guidelines on their website so do not know what constitutes a safe walking route to school. Please can you feed back on this point. As an alternative, there could be the option of using the new community centre car park as a meeting point for pupils, with a designated person/people who could then walk the children to school. This could help avoid any extra build-up of traffic in the village. This could be organised by parents (arranging to meet friends and walking in in small groups, or one parent taking a small group of children) and or staff from the school. This presumes that parents/carers are able to do this and would require some additional traffic calming measures to be put in place to allow children to cross roads safely. For example, a zebra crossing could be installed at the bottom of Langhouse Road at the junction with Main Street and Daff Avenue. I do not know if this is at all practical but I am trying to think of alternatives to help the current situation! If that is not possible, a further alternative, that the parent council are considering, is to set up an extra breakfast club for wrap around childcare in the mornings. This is currently in the formative stages and we will need to have extensive consultation with the school, council and the wider parent/carer community before any decisions can be taken and proposals written etc. etc.
Newark already has a big issue with too many cars around the school, this proposal will compound the issue
I think it should be equal rights for children they should all be allowed to use the bus whether they come from a poorer income or not. I work and unfortunately can't drive my child to work and when the time comes for high school I would be concerned if she had to make her own way to school while my neighbours child has access to a bus
All children that live out with the school area should be entitled to the bus

I would not expect anyone to walk that distance in all weather, especially not a child. I would not feel safe myself in the darker mornings.
As a single parent who doesn't get any help with clothing grants or free school meals. I don't think it is fair to consider someone who's child does to meet the criteria more than anyone else for transport. This means because I choose to work full time to provide for my family we are getting punished as to what we get help with. It shouldn't matter if parents get help with free school meals or clothing grants. If my child doesn't meet the miles to be accepted for transport then neither should a child of the same area that gets free meals/clothing grants not to mention the safety of my son as Greenock is hardly a safe place to be for adults let alone a child.
St Columbas used to be closer for catchment area. To withdraw free transport with school so far away is an accident waiting to happen with the high crime rate and Inverclyde been such a deprived area some parents can't afford to pay to get their child to education been further away.
2.5 mile walk to school is far too long a walk to and from school. From our current address both catchment high schools would be between 30-45 mins walk at a brisk pace and no direct bus service to either school using public transport. As an adult I wouldn't be willing to routinely walk 45+ mins in all weathers to go to work. It is entirely unreasonable to expect it of a child.
This proposal is ridiculous putting people's children's lives at risk especially in winter nights when they finish school it's already pitch black outside. You will be held highly responsible if any child comes into danger.
Not thought through properly and unfair to disadvantage children due to their parents income
Kids should be safe going to and coming from school regardless of cost that is why they should be supplied with transport
It's not fair to the working parents who just make ends meet to be penalised because they are working. It's not fair to expect children to walk in the dark to and from school half the school year.
I think children should get transport to and from school for their safety
Please keep it as is!! Whenever I do need to get my child from school I am horrified at the amount of other parents lack of consideration for young children near and being pushed on to the road. A disaster waiting to happen!!
The money saved would be negligible
Think there should be free school buses children in Inverclyde schools should have to pay to get to school. Family where both parents are working are paying enough through council tax. The weather in Inverclyde is bad enough children should not have to walk to school in the dark not even one has a car or has time to walk their child to school
I believe the miles should be brought forward for more miles in transport to schools. Parents working early mornings knowing their child can get to and from school safely on the bus provided.
What is the council going to do regarding the agreement that was put in place when they decided to merge schools together and that they promised transport wouldn't be affected. Seems that the council are going back on the promise that they set out to the parents of pupils of the schools.

Having lived in the same area for many years my children were all within a very short walking distance of their catchment primary and secondary school. Due to school relocations my children are now closer to 3 other secondary schools outwith their catchment school, 1 of which my son was denied a placing request for. Inverclyde council pressed ahead with various school relocations without amending catchment areas and as such should continue to transport children who could have otherwise walked a short distance to school. My son can walk 5 minutes to Clydeview Academy, 10 minutes to Notre Dame High, and 15 minutes to Inverclyde Academy these proposals would mean he would have a 30minute plus walk to St Columba's High, when he would have previously have had a 5 minute walk to St Columba's on it's previous site. The proposal will affect the safety of my son crossing numerous busy roads, walking to and from school during the extreme weather we experience in Inverclyde, and have a serious effect on his education as he attempts to complete school homework after a 4 mile round trip walk every day. I have serious concerns about the health & wellbeing of my children due to these proposals and feel that Inverclyde Council have a duty of care to all school pupils which cannot be fulfilled pressing ahead with these proposals. I also believe the proposals are discriminating against children whose parents are not in receipt of benefits, because I do not receive does not make my child's legs work any better than those whose parents do. Is it fair that some children on one street get free transport and others have to walk based on their parents income? These proposals have serious flaws and should be taken off the table.

I don't agree with people on benefits getting extra help, I work part time & don,t receive any help whatsoever but I would be willing to pay say a £1 a day towards costs which must be of some help towards the costs rather than cancelling all transport that kids need. At least put out some form of option & see what parents are prepared to accept

Keep the buses from Grieve Road and measure distance by walking ways not Flying ways!

I think it is shocking that the council move the location of the high school then expect children to walk unsafe distances to get to where the new site of school is.

Applies disproportionately to denominational schools as they have larger catchment areas. Also nature of Inverclyde topography and the weather - if pupils are soaked though they cannot concentrate on learning. In inclement weather parents may keep pupils at home, impacting on attendance, learning and attainment.

Children's safety comes 1st

Girls are more open to danger from older men or even male teenagers and on the dark mornings I would be afraid to let my girl walk to school especially as today (27/9/16) we were stopped by police and told not to let our girls walk to school as there's a mental patient who escaped from larkfield home (just down the road) from us and told not to approach him as he is dangerous and I don't want to take the chance with my daughter's safety

I feel the route that you a expecting my children to walk is very unsafe. Part of the route is through a field with overgrown bushes and poor lighting. Problems collecting children from two different schools at the same time to keep them safe. I think asking children as young as 11 to walk 50 minutes there and 50 minutes back each day is against their well being and cruel. Children studing music should not be asked to carry large musical instruments worth hundreds of pound to and from school. Instruments are at risk of being stolen. Children whose parents are working should not be asked to walk for 2miles to and two miles back from school with no parental supervision. While children whose parents are there able to supervise are not being asked to walk. This leaves children whose parents work unsafe. While children of parents not working are safe. Think A and E will have more children with injuries caused by falling on the snow and ice. Local taxi firm will struggle to cope with the demand of parents clubbing together to get their kids safe to and from school. School staff will be streached when kid arrive for school late and this has to be reported to parents and appropriate teachers.

Can a bus be provided in which children are charged a small fee



<p>These proposals for changing the distances for the school buses is a disgrace. There is no direct bus route from where we live to St Columba's therefore my kids would have to get two buses (twice daily), one into Greenock then another to Gourock. which will be very costly to myself and many more families. I'm sure the council can find other ways to save money without it affecting our kids.</p>
<p>Introduce seasonal transport possibly 2.5 mile from August to December. 2 mile for winter months</p>
<p>Those parents who are more well off, should be given the option of paying for their child to get the school transport, they are more likely to be working. Therefore prob. cant walk children to school and so would rather they were safe on school transport with their friends.</p>
<p>Leave school transport as it is please. It is great and it works</p>
<p>There is no direct bus route from the St Josephs area to St Columbus High school, it would cost on average £10 a day to send your child to high school, which is totally ridiculous. This could cause fights in town areas if a large number of high school children are crossing over each other, parents need the reassurance their child has arrived safely to and from school. Why don't you keep the bus service and may charge each child £1 a day to cover the costs of the bus services.</p>
<p>We live approximately 2.3 miles from the School and therefore would be directly impacted by any decision to increase the qualification distance from 2.0 to 2.5 miles. While we fully accept the need to make choices in the allocation of local government funding, without a place on the bus (free or paying), our daughter would have no alternative means of travelling to and from school (other than walking or taking two buses etc. We are concerned that if the change is made, then there may not be a bus provided at all (even when payment is made).</p>
<p>I don't think it is right that any child should be made to walk between 1.5 -2.5 miles to school especially in winter when it is cold and dark in mornings and evenings. Concerning my own child Inverclyde council choose to move our kids from the former saint Columbus in Gourock to the old Greenock high school then to their current location. If this proposal goes ahead then will consider moving my child to a different school also if you decide to go ahead then you should just remove the buses for everyone as by discriminating kids because they don't get free school meals they will have to walk to school is wrong.</p>
<p>No viable alternative public transport from Kingston Dock area to St Stephens. Also, why should being on benefits entitle you to an increased chance of receiving transport ahead of taxpayers who go out and work and who have a difficult time already organising transport, childcare etc? No incentive to get off benefits.</p>
<p>Do not agree but As compromise would support subsidized transport</p>
<p>Children will take quickest way walking and that is through the reservoirs and many parents will not be able to afford two bus fares to go to school then back again from Bow Rd</p>
<p>As previously stated</p>
<p>Disgraceful and all about saving money and not child welfare</p>
<p>this would put a lot of kids in danger of roads this idea is terrible and for the kids on the autistic spectrum then this is terrible I certainly would not want my child to walk that road or get 2 buses to get to school</p>
<p>4 buses a day for catchment area for St Columba's is a disgrace children out even earlier than needed keep the school buses not our fault they moved a perfectly good site for school to put other in it disgrace</p>
<p>Increase council revenue by increasing or introducing charges for non-essential services.</p>
<p>Terrible idea. Getting kids to school safely (avoiding truancy and late entry) should be your goal. There must be other areas to save money.</p>

<p>As previously stated this it was not the decision of parents to have the catchment school moved, this decision was made by the council and the school is no longer within a decent walking distance for children living in the West End of Greenock. I think that the council has a cheek to move the school then expect children to either walk 2 miles each day to get to school then another 2 miles after school to get home or for parents to have to pay more money on transportation for their children to get to school. I believe that the free school buses should be provided by the council as the previous catchment school for the area was well within walking distance for each child in the catchment area.</p>
<p>The proposal was discussed as part of our October Parent Council agenda. Whilst all Parent Council members supported the proposal which is aimed at reducing costs, the council wanted to voice concerns over the following areas: 1.) Vulnerable children may not be receiving free school meals but may lose the "security" of free transport. 2.) Children receiving free school meals being "identified" due to getting free transport. 3.) Impact on number of children who will no longer receive free transport not made clear i.e. what is the "pupil" impact versus £180K savings. 4.) Some schools may lose pupils due to the withdrawal of free transport.</p>
<p>This proposal indicates just how out of touch Inverclyde Council is with regards to the modern world Quite apart from the extremely poorly worded and confusing survey questionnaire (perhaps this was deliberate to confuse respondents?), the proposal goes against what the majority have been calling for. I hope you are aware of the state of Greenock's traffic situation around school start and finishing times. Rushed parents double parking and often waiting in dangerous locations should be discouraged by means of offering ADDITIONAL free transport to pupils even closer to schools, never in taking away this service from those that currently use it. To expect school children to walk 5 miles per day for an education is wholly unacceptable and is like something out of the dark ages... or the plains of Kenya! Your survey further annoyed me given it asked which school(s) my response related to. I have no children therefore my response isn't in regards to any school in particular. However, I have listed the schools I attended and can therefore relate to the specific concerns of pupils attending St. Patrick's primary and Notre Dame secondary. Your boundary proposals involve taking away free transport for some of the poorest areas of Inverclyde and is disgusting no matter what budget constraints you are working to. Whilst I applaud your "nod" to families whose parents qualify for free meals etcera you miss the point with regards to working families and single parents who (more fool them) have the audacity to have a job, perhaps earning just above your threshold. Inverclyde has been consistently let down by the council in recent years and jobs are few and far between . Many parents now have to commute to Glasgow for work as there has been a complete failure to attract any investment on the area . It sickens me that parents who start work in Glasgow (at, say, 8am) will now be at a complete loss as to how to get their children to school. I implore you to reconsider these divisive, backwards and completely unfair proposals!</p>
<p>I feel that this proposal will be damaging to the attainment of pupils in Inverclyde. Our schools work hard to ensure children attend. This proposal will make it very difficult especially for parents just above the threshold for free meals and uniform grants.</p>
<p>There is no alternative transport to St Columbas High via a bus route from Larkfield thus endangering our children's lives crossing main roads that are extremely busy during school rush hour and traffic would increase 10 fold with more cars having to do several runs between different schools( primary and secondary) thus increasing the possibility of a bad accident which the council will be fully responsible for if cutting this vital transport for our kids.</p>
<p>Seems unfair</p>
<p>For the past 3 Years there has been no problem with travel arrangements, why change. I feel parents would look at alternative schools if this was to be introduced.</p>
<p>Children's safety should be upmost in council's mind</p>
<p>All children should be entitled to transport being provided if they live more than 1.5 miles away from the school they attend.</p>
<p>The minor cost savings envisaged are not worth the additional possible danger to children, particularly</p>

in the winter months.
Leave things the way they are. Asking primary children to walk 1.5 miles year round is not a good idea.
Not possible to get a mgills bus
unnecessary
All children regardless of access to fsm should be treated equally
Get rid of needless and unnecessary councillors who serve no purpose and make positions within the council that are not needed redundant - or - councillors can do the right thing and take a wage decrease as they are paid far too much for far too little anyway and instead, spend this money on the children and keeping them safe.
You need to take consideration for children walking under 2.5 mile distant which routes they can take if they walk on their own, parents need to work and also the winter months dark mornings and starting to get dark late afternoon and overall general safety and welfare of our children. Kids only use the bus because they need it not for a free ride. Seriously council get your act together
Aileymill Primary School's Pupil Council have discussed this matter and we agreed that there should be changes made regarding transport of pupils to school. We think that strategies should be put in place to make sure that EVERY child is given the very best opportunity to get to school ontime, with ease, and be in the mindset ready to learn.
You could possibly ask high school children to pay 1 pound a day for the bus services, to help out with the costs of running the bus services. St Columbus has no direct but route for some of the pupils who attend this school, and it could end up costing parents a fortune to send their child to high school every day if this service is taken away. It also increases potential safety issues, for children going into towns for public transport, fighting with people from different schools. Parents like to have the assurance their child is arriving and coming home safely from their school.
There is currently no public transport route from Braeside to Larkfield which I would happily make use of if necessary. There is no safe route for my 10 year old to get to and from school when I am working or at university.
It is completely discriminatory to state that a child who resides in a household whereby both parents have to work to ensure that all outgoings (monthly) are met, has to find an alternative mode of transport to school and that a child who parent/carers do not work or do not wish to work because it is easier to claim benefits an that child will be provided transport ie taxi to school and back. It is completely discriminatory and despicable.
This proposal would disproportionately affect denominational provision in this area of Greenock/Gourock.
Last year was a nightmare for myself as I had a 5 yr old daughter to walk to Whinhill primary along with a 1 yr old daughter in a pram that I had to get to a childminder before I started work at 9.30am. At just under a mile from our house but all up hill I found extremely hard to push pram while trying to reassure my oldest daughter she was OK when the wind was nearly blowing her off her feet in the winter months! She also got refused a privilege pass because the school transport had been downsized & there was no space available for her, even though there was empty seats every morning on it & I was willing to pay, these empty seats were left empty all year round incase children who qualified for free decided to use it one day! There is no other forms of transport to her school that gets her there on time other than a taxi which although me & my partner both work we could not afford to pay for daily. Once again this proposal benefits the unemployed parents which I believe is so unfair. I have already watched them benefit last year over my daughter by getting free buses & some of them free taxis to get their children to & from school while they sit at home doing nothing! I am not a lazy parent, do not drive, walk everywhere & always have my kids out but would I take them out for a half hour walk in rain, hail & snow up hill? NO so I think the whole bus policy needs to be reviewed. Last year I went to local councillors & MP who all agreed that it was a walk that even them as fully grown adults would struggle with never mind a child of primary school age. I feel every year it's the working parents that are being penalised & things need to change! Debbie English

<p>The shortest distance to school is not always the safest or easiest distance. To ask kids in Greenock's West end to walk over the Lyle hill every day because it is the shortest route is not fair. The council moved the high school out of the area and then asks the children to walk over Lyle Hill or gets the parents to pay their bus fare! And then to add insult to injury, now want to extend that distance and give those already receiving everything else in live for free, free bus fares as well!</p>
<p>If this goes ahead then at least provide more walking patrols for kids and maybe some sort of markings on roads and pavements to denote main routes for kids to take to school with appropriate speed restrictions along the way etc</p>
<p>the bend at the cemetery is not safe for any child to walk on those dark winter mornings and home time</p>
<p>If there is no alternative public transport that is suitable, the weather, the areas that children must walk through, and the time this journey will take needs to be considered- not merely the distance to travel. I think that the families that qualify for free school meals etc should have equal consideration for the free transport to school. To lower the limit to 1 1/2 miles for these families alone is ridiculous, if the reason for this is to save money. If a child is 1 1/2 miles away, the time to walk to school is less than the journey of a child who will have to walk for 2.5 miles, which will penalise parents who do not fit this category, as more parents will drive children to school to avoid their child/children walking for 1-2 hours on dark mornings /nights, ergo more cars on the road and more cost for these families. (Not all the families who do not qualify for free meals and uniform will be financially comfortable enough to be able to afford this extra cost for fuel) It is also possible that the families who do fit into this category who live 1.5 miles from the school will now take advantage of this lower limit, when this allocated space on the bus may not really be required. I am sure parents of children who will not be allocated a space on the bus for their child will now drive their child to and from school, to ensure the safety of their child if the route they must walk home is too long/can compromise their safety. (The weather can be adverse where we live and walking during the winter can be bad enough on flat ground, but it can be treacherous on the roads around Clydeview Academy, not only to walk, but to avoid cars who slide off the road due to snow and ice- which, again, will be more of an issue if more parents are driving to and from school).</p>
<p>None</p>
<p>I strongly disagree with this decision as st Columba from Larfield do not have a safe walking route to and from school. It would then raise an issue with the surrounding neighbours to the school as the traffic for parents and carers dropping kids off that would be extremely dangerous to pupils and residents. The way as present it work well and the safety is low. This is why I STRONGLY disagree with this decision for ALL children.</p>
<p>I would be concerned about my child's safety in walking to school and as there are no service buses from Larkfield to Gourock (st columbas) there is no other alternative. It would be unreasonable to ask that they get a bus into town and then from town back down to Gourock. I also feel it unfair to discriminate against those who work and are therefore not entitled to school meals/free buses etc.</p>
<p>If the buses get stopped my children's education will be impacted as they won't be able to get to school if the weather is bad. And I won't be having them walk to school on the dark mornings and if that means my kids are late everyday then so be it!</p>
<p>The route my children would need to walk is not safe. They either use a quiet route surrounded by trees and building materials or cross over a railway bridge. Both routes require them to then cross the road to the school which is very busy with cars. Time does not allow me to walk with them and so I would be using the car to transport to and from school. Therefore, adding to the congestion chaos at Inverkip primary. The difficulties posed by traffic dangers at pick up times are regularly highlighted in the school newsletter. If the bus provision was to end, the additional traffic would most certainly impact on an already difficult situation.</p>

I don't believe the walking distance should be raised due to concerns over walking routes. Also I disagree with the free school element - a child who is entitled to free school meals is just as capable as walking as a child who does not. Even more so in some cases as their health/weight may be an issue. I also disagree with St Columba's current policy of nearly all pupils getting free transport however far they live from their school. Why are they exempt from the current policy? As a tax payer I want this addressed.
will there be any transport provided ? at a minimal cost to pupils.
Even if a small charge for the bus was put in place for use of the bus I wouldn't mind paying, but for families with low income receiving free meals etc it should still be free to enable children to get to and from school safely without parents worrying
These proposals would mean that the school bus would be driving past the existing pick up point and there is no clear benefit in doing so when it's on that route in any case.
My child lives too far away from both primary and secondary catchment area schools to be able to walk. There is no other alternative public transport available.
Please see box before
Remove free transport, free swimming, free library services from the elderly instead.
I don't feel my son in st Columbas would have a safe walking route from my house to his schools
While you are trying to save money for whatever your reason might be I find it shocking that you have not taken into account that for the children of Braeside to get there each day would require a bus to the Inverclyde Academy then a walk of up to 35 mins up and down for any child to make each day is appalling not to mention that for the best part of the year we have terrible weather which would clearly result in affecting the health of the children and result in lots of sick days which I cannot accept the school itself would be happy with ! But as a result of your (budget cuts ) each child that has to take this journey will unfortunately result in their health being affected ! I'm absolutely shocked that money over the health of children is Inverclyde Council's number one priority !
To education this is a money making solution but to me this is about my son's life. I work full time and my wife and son are disabled, my son cannot walk the distance and my wife is not fit enough to take him everyday either.
I personally think this is going to be a bad decision taking away the school buses, I think kids are not safe walking to school without an adult so kids will get knocked down and hurt or even killed. It's also not a safe environment anymore so kids shouldn't be walking that distance on their own and that's just the world we live in now and I think education are just looking at saving money but the bigger picture is how much money would they put on our kids' lives?
We have a coach & a minibus, lose one of them not both! Discriminating against families who are not on benefits then in turn they don't qualify for a school bus. The whole area of Braeside & Branchton should be entitled to a free school bus as there is no direct public transport link to St Andrews.
Leave the rules for distance from school as they are at present and do not change them.
Where we live my daughter would need to cross roads without a lollipop person at the beginning of her journey and on late finish days there will be no lollipop person at all when they are going home! I also feel it is discriminatory to allow people who benefit from free school meals and/or clothing grants to also benefit from safe and free transport to and from school when people who do not benefit from these not only pay for school meals and the full expense of school uniforms but may now have to pay for costly public transport (or in my daughter's case 2 buses) or face the possibility of them having to sit through a whole school day soaking after walking to school in the rain.
Nil
My children would have to get a bus into town then walk a mile to school or walk 1.4 miles to school
Why were all the high schools moved around in the first place? I don't mind if I have to pay, as long as there is a simple bus route which makes it safer for the kids to get to school and home again.
The route from Larkfield to St Columba's is not safe especially in the winter months.

There is a catholic school closer to St Joseph's than St Columba, (Notre Damn) so why is that not the feeder school. St Columba has been moved too far away from it's feeder primary schools.
I understand the financial constraints the council are facing, but feel we shouldn't be targeting children and making their education journey more difficult.
I have lived in this area so my kids could walk to school, but schools were moved, so think it's unfair for the council to change the rules after 6 years, and now expect our kids to walk over 2 miles.
Mileage criteria should be the same for all children regardless of income.
Pupils with two working parents struggle as much in this financial climate as those parents who don't work, sometimes even more, personally my family qualifies for no help whatsoever as we both work yet struggle more than other parents whom we know have never worked, therefore a decision based on those who qualify for free meals and other benefits is unfair and unjust, differentiating between those requiring transport on that basis is simply not accurate. Increasing the distance and eligibility of transport needs causes great concern also. Inverclyde roads are extremely hazardous at peak hour times due to the amount of traffic and careless driving, people are trying to get themselves to work and their families to school and they don't always take as much care as driving at other quieter times, therefore leaving pupils further to walk is a real danger and concern. Hopefully Inverclyde council will see sense in this and scrap these ludicrous ideas. Children's safety must be paramount always.
I agree with this policy. The line of Clyde coast buses on Tower Drive is a scandle for one school. I know this was for historic reasons but that was almost two years ago. If this policy does not go ahead then it is nothing but a denominational school getting its way over the council.
At present children who live beside me are entitled to free transport whereby my child is not . There has been inequality for years on the assessment of boundaries especially in the west end of greenock. There should be one defined boundary for the new proposed distance for all . Not for some and excluding others. Also each school should abide by the rules and not be relaxed for some.
Has the impact of increase in car traffic around schools been taken into account.
As it is at moment my kids get bus to school I feel reassured that they are at school safety. If they have to walk or even get public transport it means going through another secondary school which I wouldn't be comfortable with. Suggestion: how about charging each child who uses school bus a fee of £1 a day (£5 week) and that can go towards financing the transport
Every decision taken should be inclusive to ALL and not differentiate between those who are working/unemployed. Also there are no direct modes of transport to the schools in a lot of occasions therefore would mean two buses/train getting in almost 50 mins before school starts etc.
The statutory policy of 2 and 3 miles should be applied
We have requested to get our oldest daughter onto the school bus on 2016-06-06. To date Mr. Govern has not responded. Why? Why cannot parents who want their children to go onto a school bus pay for this? Why do parents depend on the goodwill of the council?
Having just relocated to Greenock from Glasgow, with the schools and educational services being one of the promoted factors by Inverclyde Council it is disappointing to note that some of these services are being eroded. With the amalgamation and relocation of secondary schools in recent years, I firmly believe that free school transport should be provided for secondary school pupils living more than 2 miles from the school. Specifically regarding the route from Forsyth Street to Clydeview, I think this is particularly important for S1 - S3 years in secondary schools on the grounds of safety where there is no alternative transport route. As the walking route is not all through residential zones, I am concerned about the safety of children particularly on dark mornings and nights. This proposal also encourages more parents to drive their children to school which will increase congestion on roads and adversely impact the environment.
I will be taking a close interest in which councillors vote for this proposal and this will influence my voting at the council elections.
N/A

Children having to walk a safe walking route that is not safe in summer never mind winter
I understand the council are going through very difficult times with many savings having to be made each year but I do not believe children's safety should be compromised.
It would have a big impact on low income families who will not be able to afford to pay their child's transport costs
I understand the council needs to cut costs, however I don't believe this is one which should be considered. The route for walking to school for the bus here (Inverkip primary) has been deemed unsafe and as such I don't believe this would be impacted by your proposal, however, for other children in other areas 1.5 miles would take a primary school child at least 25 mins to walk, and that seems like an excessive time to walk before school for some young kids, particularly so when roads in the local area are so very busy at peak times and have seen no upgrades in as many years as I care to remember despite increased traffic. The council saw fit to almost centralise 3 of Greenock's 4 secondaries in a relatively close area, causing the routes around the areas to become much more congested with more traffic should the distances be reduced (traffic is also added to with placing requests being granted). This impacts road safety, and in my view could lead to more accidents. The recent one in Cumberland Road should serve as a clear example and reminder that the council should not seek to increase traffic in any way around the secondary school traffic routes. This sadly would become the case as many people would choose to drive for lots of reasons, work, choice, lack of alternative transport options, to name a few. This policy whilst it is already a 'better than required' policy, should remain as is and one the council should support given their decision on school locations. Perhaps focus should be made to the contracts and fine the bus companies where they are regularly late?
Cut costs elsewhere working families should be entitled just as much as families on benefits by the time we paid rent bills etc we probably living on the same or less money than people on benefits
Adhere to Scottish government recommendations to ensure equity across local authorities ensuring that devolved funds are used to support proven early intervention strategies. Exceptions and support and support can be made available to support individual circumstances rather than the norm
I feel that parts 1 & 2 of the proposal are totally unacceptable. With only one non-denominational primary school in the Port Glasgow area this would be hard for people who live in the lower part of the town. Port Glasgow community campus is obviously situated in upper Port Glasgow again this will be hard for people living in lower Port Glasgow. I hope the council keep the previous distance used for the school bus eligibility.
St Columbas does not sit on a direct public transport route for much of the catchment area. Asking children to walk is unsafe given the routes, lack of pavement etc. I doubt councillors would want to walk these paths in poor weather each day and it's not conducive to a good learning experience on arrival when cold, wet and tired.
Removal of bus will result in bad attendance in bad weather also add to traffic problems with increased parents dropping kids off
The buses are already a good system for pupils, I am an ex-pupil and the bus was always reliable, by increasing the bus limit you will be forcing children to walk in sometimes horrible conditions, while you council people can get your cars to your jobs. This idea is extremely unfair towards not only poorer pupils, but all pupils and their parents.
Why not leave it the way it is I work part time and can not afford to give my child money for a bus and train every day plus I will not have her walking to school in rain hail sleet and snow on dark mornings when I can't guarantee her safety
If payment has to be made to travel to school bus service at a reduced cost with bus service appropriate to demands and needs for travel to schools. Remove free bus travel passes or reduce times when they can be used for concession travel for all age groups. Concession passes a payment for travel keep but with a reduced payment for travel not free half the cost of normal fare again specific times for use not peak times

Keep the 2 mile limit
I would be happy to pay for transport for my child to get safely to school. I have major concerns about her safety if this transport is stopped. The school day is long enough without an even earlier start to get into the town centre for a public bus.
Why not ask parents of children who isn't entitled to free meals/clothing grants to pay a small fee for there kid to travel on the bus that way it would help towards the cost
There is no safe walking route to Inverkip primary from our estate. The infrastructure in the village is already insufficient for the current school traffic, adding to this chaos will only cause more risk to the children. This has been an ongoing problem for years, removing the school bus will only increase this. I would also be curious as to what is classed as a safe walking route as at present the children would either have to cross a railway bridge or a road with no pavements ( on a sharp bend)
charge for children who live less that 2 miles, while maintatining same level of transport available
The distance and route my child would be expected to walk to and from school is unacceptable and will cause more issue in managing work/life balance due to having to provide transport for my child rather that allowing her to walk. No public transport is available.
Pupils walking from lower Port Glasgow to the Community Campus will be required to walk up significant hills in all weathers, if they have difficulty paying for transport. I would expect that many secondary pupils would begin to use the cycle track to cut down on distance. This is not a safe route at any time, and especially not on dark mornings.
It is not clear how the distance will be measured i.e. as the crow flies, shortest driving distance to nearest school entrance or main entrance. What about if the shortest driving distance includes a low bridge or weight restriction on the orad which a double decker for instance couldn't access.
The Scottish Government require local authorities to make their polices in light of local circumstances. The factors that should be considered are: heavy rainfall in Inverclyde; unsafe walking routes to school; difficult and dangerous walking routes to school - numerous steep hills that are impassable in snow and ice; poor public transport links; financial impact on families on low incomes but not eligible for free transport and the impact on the health, wellbeing and education of our young people as they either arrive at school soaking wet, tired from carrying a 10kg bag for miles or suffering long term problems like back problems from carrying their bags or anxiety from being made to walk an unsafe route to school. the proposed changes will impact on the most vulnerable who don't have parents able to take them to school by car or afford to buy a good rain jacket. the impact on St. Columba's is that parents will understandably look to a school nearer to their home which would be devastating for the school.
Do not agree that financial concerns of Inverclyde Council should fall on the safety and wellbeing of children. Again another potential cost to the school day for parents who maybe earning a low wage. I fear for our children and I believe that this will impact on children's education due to possible non attendance at school or well being at school possibly due to sitting in school wet and uncomfortable. I am sure that the council will see sense and not put this suggestion forward, our children's education is so important.
Save £250k on sculptures for the middle of roundabout rather than hinder our children's education!
We need more controlled crossings. I want my children to walk on their own when they are older but there is no safe way to cross Port Glasgow rd in Kilmacolm.
I am totally against this proposal.My son is 12 and in winter weather his walk would be unreasonable especially when carrying a musical instrument.. Safety is a major issue for me as his brother(now at university ) was assaulted at the age of 11.
High school pupils can use public transport if they are able to travel independently.



It is already incredibly congested around Inverkip primary at school start / stop and removing buses will not only impact parents re childcare and mean that the children will need to walk to school on the dark days but that the village and school will have dozens more cars trying to drop children off. The village will not cope well with the volume of traffic and it is a health and safety issue for the children I believe.

Walking to clydeview when it was st columbas was fine, as most of the kids stayed near the area, knew the streets and safest routes, now the kids do not come from the surrounding areas, they do not walk , nor do they get public transport as they would need to be out the house before 7.30 to get to school on time. far too many parents drive them too school, rushing round mallard crescent, ignoring the car park built for them, and causing undue traffic problems for the local residents. I have been nearly knocked down, my son has been nearly knocked down is it going to take an actual car accident before you re-evaluate this situation? providing buses for all the kids going to school would alleviate many of the traffic problems surrounding schools throughout Inverclyde. It would also stop this discrimination of those who can afford the school buses and those who can not. If you do insist on this policy of x miles, do not use as the crow fly's to determine if they are suitable, as many walking routes will take them over the allocated miles, and many are not the safest options.

There is no safe route from Branchton to St Andrews primary. Huntly Drive from nov-mar is a danger zone with ice. If you can manage down you are then faced with a unkept tunnel which has a burn running down it from the fields behind. Also turns to ice, there is no hand railing or assisted support of any kind, you are then faced with a set of traffic lights tp cross a main road which has previously had fatal accidents at the same area, these lights have no 'beep' to indicate it is safe to cross and they have no green man facing the waiting point at each side, / So you are watchjng the left of the right before you cross , a danger in itself

Keep the system that is already in place or reduce it for everyone regardless of income or benefits

I would also like more control around the current use of the buses. I am a privilege pass user for my daughter and regularly there are pupils jump on the bus as a quick route home but are neither privilege users nor free transport/ 2 mile residents. I also know of 3 other families on other buses who have NEVER paid and are not over the 2 mile limit but tell their kids to just get on the bus. I pay £160 to send my daughter to school and they pay nothing and have neither the stress of taking them personally or paying public transport costs. Some control around what there is today is a must also for me.

There are a number of children travelling by bus from both Wemyss Bay and Inverkip to St Ninians and it is an essential service.

I have no objections to paying a monthly or annual amount towards my child's transport to school. Alternatively you could fence off the playpark at the bottom of Spey Road to recreate access to the lane, or open a path into Clocherlee Place from Findhorn Crescent, both of which would reduce journey times and make the walk to school much safer, but you have already stated that this would be against Council policy.

why is it that your proposal is that kids in receipt of clothing and food grants can get free bus service but the rest of us that hold down jobs have to make our kids walk to school which takes at least 30 mins

All children attending school should receive the same benefits whether their parents work or not. It is very unfair to make a distance difference because a family work. Alternative option - look at another budget!

Completely discard the option for children who receive grants or free school meals! Unless there are disability reasons then it's only fair they are treated with the same rules as everyone else in the district.

I dont understand why free meals=shorter distance from a school pickup can actually be used as a qualifying argument. If the kids get a free meal and parents are not working get them to walk and get some fresh air instead of pickup outside the house for less than 1.5miles. They have time on their hands. Working parents probably need the extra help more so they have get to work on time.its ust

making the parents that sit around all day even lazier!
keep all as it is now. will only see attendance get worse at schools
Disgraceful children are going to be forced to walk to school in all weathers and be drenched freezing etc
Treat everyone the same do not discriminate against people who are not in receipt of benefits.
Yet again, working parents are going to be penalised?! I would be better giving up my job! My child would get access to all these "benefits"!
Non profit bus fares for safety and to cut congestion 2.5 miles cut off is ridiculous as it was the council that proposed the amalgamation of schools
I think this is a poor idea to save money as some children will stop attending school regularly as days when weather is bad the school buses mostly always get to the children eventually but mcgills go off the road at the drop of a hat and where I stay there is no direct service to the school. My contracted work hours give me a basic salary of roughly £15,700 just outside the bracket to claim free school meals but if you remove the free transport and I have to pay to get him to school then will the council take this added cost into consideration
For the kids that live in in the newer estate of Inverkip the walk home means a crossing over the railway line. This concerns me in relation to kids of primary school age. In general I agree with the proposals but each school should be looked at individually instead of a blanket rule for all. Each school will have different traffic levels and crossing staff and this should be considered.
I attended schools in inverclyde in 60s and 70s and the current arrangements for free travel to school seem to be much more relaxed than in my time. When we need our kids to be more active, why bus them everywhere. Walking is good.
I think personally this is a crazy idea. I'm not on benefits but on a low wage and this will put me in financial difficulty having to try and arrange other ways of transportation for my child. He would need to leave at 8.00 in the morning for the 50 minute walk to school in the rain and snow he would be soaked to the bone and no doubt unwell for school in the days to follow we live 2.4 miles away from our high school and I think for 0.1 mile is just unacceptable. Buses will still have to go on but with less children being eligible these buses would be running back and forward nearly empty how is that saving money?? Why not get the parents to subsidise the buses in 50p a day per child over a wee then month year would help the financial hole that is trying to get fixed.
The current school bus system works well and I think this is just the first step towards stopping the free school transport altogether.
Parking at Inverkip Primary is very limited and school drop off and pick ups are very chaotic at the school even with the bus service. Removing it will only bring more cars into the area bring about greater risk of accidents. The proposed walking routes are either over a railway bridge or down a path without a pavement which once again in my opinion is a health and safety risk! The bus service provides a safe journey to school. Inverkip school was not built with the intention of so much traffic and simply would not be able to cope with the extra 50 or more cars if the bus was stopped.
Waste money all over the place then hit the children sums it up.
It was the councils decision to close Greenock Academy, which was within walking distance for us to a location in Gourrock. This is over 2 miles away from us, but may be within 2.5 miles. It's pathetic to then further penalise parents by removing the free bus service to the school.
Place kids in their closest school. Inverkip is,at bursting point and yet were are busing kids outside the catchment area here for free jeopardising the space available for genuine Inverkip residents!
As previous, if the proposal is to provide transport for low income families then the buses are already available. Allow all children to use but potentially with a nominal fee

Think it should just be left the way it is not everyone can afford bus fares to school every morning I'm in a low paid job and I know I would struggle with bus fares everyday
To take these buses away would increase the traffic flow on the routes to and from the school causing congestion/delays with parents having to drop off/pick up their children and using the same routes to then get to work and be on time - at the moment ,the walking route my daughter would take to school is unsafe -(quality of pavements,etc leading towards ,and over Lyle Hill) so if the transport was taken away I would have to take her by car and drop her off very early to then be in time for work.
my house is 1.2 miles from my daughters school. For the past year the children of branchton were given a bus to and from school because the route taken was deemed unsafe for them to walk due to one direction being under a tunnel which has water running down its path all year round from the hills behind branchton which make it slimy and slippery and it the winter months very dark for the kids to walk and at the bottom of the path the set if traffic lights take forever to change and due to congestion of traffic from both schools make it very dangerous as car just speed through the lights and the other direction to school takes u outside the distance allowed for transport and also has very high congestion of traffic which also makes it unsafe to then have the bus be taken off them at the being of this school year when there have been no modifications made to make the route safe during the 7 weeks school holidays beggar's belife.
I totally disagree as this would mean my 11 year old son who attends St Columbas High School would need to walk the 2.2 miles to school as there is no transport from Larkfield to Gourrock. This would mean in winter months my sons attendance would lapse as there is no way I would have him walk in extreme weather to be sitting in school soaked all day!
Please keep the free transport
I believe safe school transport is imperative to pupils and Lyle hill is not a safe route. If funding is the issue, we already have free school meals for those who require it so why give it to those who don't from P1 to P3. Completely unnecessary expenditure.
This will affect mostly working families causing increase childcare costs or impact on elderly grandparents who childmind, increase traffic congestion and accidents around schools as more people use cars to take their children to school. Especially in bad weather in areas like Inverkip where parking is extremely limited. Perhaps a drop off point at the new community centre where staff walk the children to the school at a certain time. Or a small annual fee per child to travel on the bus, payments could be spread over 12 months by direct debit to reduce financial strain?
our children do not have a safe walking distance to school
All school children should have free access to public transport to and from school,
Why should the children of working mothers/fathers be the ones that suffer and why should we all suffer because the council is having financial problems. It isnt our fault so why should we suffer?
Walking to school should be encouraged. Coats could be provided for pupils on uniform grants
My daughter travels to school by school bus along with around 40 other kids. Parking at Newark primary is a nightmare if the distance is reduced and more parents have to drive to school and deop off rather then their child get a bus it would just create more havoc at school.
Just because a child qualifies for free meals or a clothing grant doesn't make them any less able to walk the same distance to school as a child that doesn't qualify.
Kilmacolm Primary seems to be served by multiple minibuses and taxis (to cover the outlying farms etc). I would be surprised if this couldn't be delivered more cost effectively. For example, I recently witnessed one child get into a taxi which followed the Quarriers bus almost the whole distance to Quarriers. Why that child couldn't be transported on the Quarriers bus rather than in a separate taxi is a good example of waste in council budgets at the same time as changes are being made to reduce frontline services.
Put more lollipop people on busy roads to cover high school hours to not just primary schools.

There are single parents who go out to work. Have an average income and do not qualify for clothing grant, these parents should not be penalised further but having no transport for their child to go to school when using the school bus ensured they can make work on time. Parents who work should be considered rather than those who choose not to. I think the existing school transport route and catchment areas should remain the same. No child should be treated more favourably than others I. E school meals. Clothing grants and transport. a flat rate for all three items should be considered for every parent regardless or working position and it should be up to them if they want to claim it. I know single mums who work 40+ hours a week just to provide and due to this are not eligible for clothing grant because they do not claim hb or high rate tax credits. System is all wrong

Disgraceful. Council changed school location not children. No alternative way for my child to get to school than walk. Bag too heavy and would cause back strain especially after 3rd year with number of books required to take home for each subject for homework.

The council decided to close smaller primary schools creating bigger schools no longer in the locality. The location of St Andrews is not central to the catchment area and cannot be reached from braeside and drumillan hill by public transport. Too far and not safe for kids to walk. Those with cars will have no choice but to drive kids to school and there is no drop off area which will affect safety of kids and local residents. For st Columba's the council decided on the new location of the school which again is not central to the catchment area. There is no public transport which covers from drumillan hill or braeside to the school this would involve a bus to Greenock town centre then another bus to gourock which is not acceptable. The walking route is not safe particularly at lark field road at the cemetery where there is only one pavement. if my children have to use public transport it would be much easier to go to Notre dame this could lead to even more placement requests for this school. Again if the bus is stopped there will be an increase in children being taken to school by car which affects the safety of the children travelling by foot and the local residents access to their homes.

I am absolutely baffled at the fact that you are expecting kids who attend St columbas high school from greenock to walk there. The school was in the perfect location for kids in the catchment area to attend with ease and you chose to swap it to the site of another school which wasn't in the catchment area. We didn't choose for our school to be moved you did and now you're expecting our kids to walk past the site their school should've been on, past another school to attend theirs much further and a lot more unsafe for them to get to. I am aware that as the proposal currently stands my child's bus won't be affected but that doesn't mean it won't be in the future. Even with your proposed "safe routes" I still don't feel the kids safety is being fully considered. I wouldn't walk through some of these places on my own ( down the path by the coves reservoir etc) at the back of 7 in the morning let alone allow my daughter to do so on her own. You've proposed routes which aren't the quickest and also require a lot of cutting across ridiculously busy roads. Will you then be putting in more crossings in these areas which are already congested at school start/finish times? The schools aren't exactly situated in the best of places for parents of kids who should be getting a supplied bus to school to start driving the kids to the school gates when all these areas are already heavily congested with school/work traffic as it is. I don't understand why the proposal only has these options why would you not consider asking the parents if they would be willing to pay a fee towards transport? I certainly wouldn't be apposed to this if it came to it.

Children in Wemyss bay and inverkip require transport to local high schools, my son attends St Columbas high schools as they have no safe distance for walking he requires school bus. Less busses going to st Columbas from local housing estates would be far better safer and fair, the wemyss bay school bus picks him and children up after school a far distance from the school gates but local children are getting picked up from tower drive close to school this is unfair treatment. I understand that having a higher count of miles will reduce buses and reduce spending unnecessary and save council further spending to spend within education

I agree that children in low income families should have free school meals and grants towards uniform, even although this is minimal. I cannot really see the benefit of providing free transport. I would be happy to pay a reasonable cost towards the bus to help with the cost but do feel it is important that some kind of transport is provided.
ALL kids should be entitled to safe, free transport. Not just those within the proposed distances and those who get more than enough free already while not doing much work for it. Support HARD WORKING parents too.
Would like to know why there is a review being undertaken?
Have the transport arrangement in line with the minimum legal requirement and use the savings to keep people in jobs that are required
I would consider a move to the extended mileage over the summer months but will be concerned about safe routes in autumn winter
It was certainly not my choice that it was decided that St Columbas should move site further away, and as my children were in the feeder school of St Josephs, they had no choice but to attend St Columbas. Without the free transport provided at the moment, I feel there may be an impact on attendance at school.
Transport helps working parents get to work before 9. Another consideration should be extended breakfast clubs (more than twice a week)
To expect a primary pupil to walk 1.499 miles to school is a tardiness suggestion. But above all else, the rules should be consistent for ALL schools, no school exceptions.
School Transport should be made for all. Regardless of home life situation.
I think this is an opportunity to look at boundaries and rest them Feeder primary schools should feed into their secondary school associated with .
Children not entitled to free school meals should be able to pay on school bus since the bus will be passing them on route to school
I will be putting a placing request in for my child to attend notre dame high school as it's closer to our home and safer route to walk too.. st columbas route is unsafe and too far away from our home .why won't council put transport on as it is at present and us parents will pay for it.. or local bus companies do a direct run to St columbas from our area at present my child would need to take 2 public transport buses to get to St columbas .. poor St columbas going to lose a lot of pupils because of this proposal .. parents just not prepared to let their kids walk this unsafe road and the time it will take ..
Junction at Hiltop Road is very congested and could be dangerous as difficult to see at times. This junction should have traffic lights. Especially as it's close to schools.
The children are being penalised for the council moving the catchment high school further away, this is not right
I agree that maybe the miles of qualification should adjust however you need to take into consideration the safe walking route never mind that fact that the Newark primary was built at the top of a hill and with no public transport coming into the Kingston dock area maybe it's a case of one rule doesn't fit all and should be looked at on a school by school bases
There is not a safe walking route from our address to the school. Along lark field road at the hospital there is only one side of the road with a pavement. This road is very heavy on traffic at the times he would have to walk. This road continually floods in the winter therefore cutting off his access to school if he has to walk. There is no 1 route transport for my son to get from my address to school. This would cost too much money for me to afford to get him 2 buses everyday back and forth to school. If he has to walk to school in the winter he would be soaking by time he got to school, this is not appropriate for him to stay in class and try to concentrate with wet clothing all day. This is not in line with the Education Act (2004) to "ensure a more holistic and coherent framework of support for pupils."

Given the Scottish climate and local road network parents/carers will find it necessary to transport their children by car. It makes no sense to potentially increase the number of cars delivering single pupils to schools. The increased pollution and danger to children and congestion will outweigh the savings.
5 mile commute both ways not practical for kids
Free buses for all stopping the school runs and congestion at schools environmentally friendly as well and setting inverclyde apart as a caring community thereby attracting incoming residents
Hopefully children without a safe walking route will still be offered transport within 1 mile
Provide school transport for all. Less traffic on the roads would reduce the potential for accidents caused by restricted access and parking. The proposal to increase the distances is irresponsible to say the least. Unless the council intends to massively improve the road and public transport infrastructure, either leave the arrangement as it currently stands, or provide universal transport.
All due to funding this is being put forward but we don't need extra councillor a costing 45k when cuts are being made to vital services
I think to change this is a bit of a nightmare and would end up costing parents more money for buses. some people dont get help with uniforms (which cost a fortune even buying the cheapest)or help with school dinners and now bus transport.
Keep the status quo. Save money elsewhere that doesn't affect the pupils as this will impact on school attendance and attainment. Remove the funding for supported study to help pay for this or provide subsidised buses for schools where parents can contribute to the costs just as they do for music provision in all schools at the moment.
P
I don't qualify for clothing grant or free meals, but I don't have any more spare money at the end of the month than anyone else. In this day and age we are trying not to segregate children regarding money. They may feel embarrassed. Plus, if you are putting a bus on for some, I believe you should put a bus on for all.
High school children are old enough to walk to school and catch public transport. Children who are in receipt of school clothing grants usually means they have a parent at home who can take them to school why should parents who work be penalized with no bus for their children.
Adjust school end times. Both inverclyde academy and st cumberg have buses that run to inverkip. Let them end at 2.45, drop the older kids off then double back to the village for the younger ones. Alternate weeks about for early and late finishes. The st ninians bus may also have room for the inverkip kids, could stop on it's way past...
I think it is extremely unfair to propose that pupils would have to walk 2.5miles to/from school. The climate we live in does not make this an option. If the school is on, or close to, a public bus route then it would be a different matter. At least pupils would have an option to get the bus on cold, wet, windy days.
Parents subsidise the cost, those in receipt of free school get free. Keep as is currently otherwise
I think all children should get a school bus no matter what school they are in and also wld mean less stress on the lollypop men/women having to deal with large crowds of kids running across unsafe roads
Gg
If this is a cost cutting exercise then look at scrapping free transport to adult day care services as most of those service users have mobility component in they're DLA also cut the clothing grant uniforms are cheaper now than 20 years ago and the uniform bank is available to those in need id rather this £90 was spent on teaching staff or educational resources
How many vacant council posts add up to £170k and how many is the council currently carrying?
I don't feel that children that receive free meals and clothing grant should be entitled to free transport and other children made to walk or pay I think it should be the same for every child

I do understand the need for sensible financial review in these difficult times. However, I feel strongly that by placing significant financial pressure on Inverclyde families to transport their children to school, this decision may have a direct impact on increase school days lost. There is significant 'in work' poverty across the authority. A household with three children could easily have to find additional financial resources of £80-£100 per month. By basing the decision on whether or not subsidised transport would be provided, purely on distance, the authority risks, (in Port Glasgow) continuing to support more affluent areas while no longer doing so in some poorer communities. Ideally, every child within a school's catchment, not within a 15 min / safe walking distance should be provided with free transport. If this is no longer realistic perhaps a universal low payment scheme could be introduced for every child regardless of distance. If all families who currently receive the service are treated equally I think there would be more support for changes. I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion and hope my views are taken into consideration. Kind regards.

If cost is the issue, I'm sure parents would be more than happy to make a contribution

Provide more school transport for a fee so that school areas aren't so busy with traffic. Or provide better parking for parents around schools.

I live in the east end where my children have had free access to the school bus for the past two years. It is a long route to high school for them to walk and not on a local bus route where they could use alternative bus services. This means they would need to leave the house around 8am to walk to school and not arrive home until around 5pm where in the winter it would be dark. However it is not uncommon for people to be assaulted in broad daylight in this town so that wouldn't make much difference these days. If the problem is funding then I'm sure the bus could be subsidised to some extent to ensure the safety of our children instead of free for all.

Our catchment format Josephs is st Columbas - which in its old sites was walkable from st Josephs via a safe route. The new st Columbas is not accessible and cannot be accessed via direct public transport! A 2.5 mile walk in the weathers we see here before school is not acceptable for a child then expected to sit for 6 hrs a day soaking wet! In addition to this the walking routes are not safe - despite some police officer from Paisley walking the route at 10am! The junction at the bottom of lark field rs/George road is not patrolled by lollipop men at the times needed for secondary school finishes on a Monday and Tuesday. This is not an acceptable route/distance for my kids to walk when notre dame is a ten minute walk away via much safer routes that have traffic lights for busy crossings!  
Unacceptable your proposals

We live in the east end of Greenock and my daughter will go to St Stephen's High School. The high school is on the opposite side of Port Glasgow and up a steep hill. I think my address will be close to the entitlement boundary. If my child doesn't qualify for the school bus then they will need to take 2 buses to get to school. This will result in more children being driven to school and creating further problems at the school gates. If the entitlement distance is increased I think the council should allow children to pay to use the school bus.

I think that children in the East End of Greenock who have to go to Inverclyde Academy should be subsidised its not their fault that their feeder school is so far from the Secondary School

From braeside to st columbas there is no other form of transport and the weather is never good for kids to walk. In ice and snow my children will have 4 hills to navigate to school and 4 back

Arrangements should stay as they are at present children should not be put at risk having to walk or parents taking them to school as they would be unable to afford to pay for alternative buses especially if they have a few children

If this proposal does go ahead and certain children will lose the right to a free bus it shouldn't matter whether the child obtains free school meals or not. Working parents shouldn't be discriminated against. If you live outside the zone your child regardless of social background should be treated the same as every other child outside that zone. Newark Primary is one of the largest primary schools in the area. It is at the top of 2 very steep hills. In the winter it is near impossible to negotiate these hills. God help a child trying to walk these hills to get to school.

Cut back on consortium taxis, st Columbus pupils who receive transport and are within the limit.
There are often severe traffic problems around schools - these will only increase if barriers to the use of buses are introduced.
My little girl misses school cause she has autism Keeps thinking gettin has morning not use to change hope bus gets back help kids like mine plus safe for kids now we're getting in dark mornings n after school n bad weather
I agree that children who live within the distance should not be given free transport, why not provide school transport tht anyone can use and children outwith boundries can get a free bus pass and other children can pay to use the bus id be willing to pay for transport
I think the distance should stay the same
For my child there is no bus that would take her to the school from our neighbourhood. The walk would be the best part of an hour. I don't have a problem with the exercise but the Scottish weather would mean she would be soaked even if she tires to get the bus that takes her close to the school. This could result in illness and her missing out on education due to absence. Will the council still provide the bus but ask for payment? If payment was expensive even £1 a day that is a £40 expense for me every month when my other child starts next year. This takes away from the idea that education is free.
Roads are too dangerous to have kids walking that length to school and I don't believe it's safe
I would prefer if transport was in place for my kids to and from school it's a safer way to get them there and back and not walking in the winter nights etc also my older son has to walk to gourock for his secondary school as no transport is in place for to get from larkfield to gourock unless he has to get 2 buses to get there for 8.50
Charge for children requiring a bus
Share buses with schools beside them, St Andrews primary and aileymill primary
Absolutely should not be cutting back on this facility. It is paramount to children's safety and well being.
Introducing the element for kids who are in receipt of other benefits is rubbish. All kids should be classed the same. Safety for all.
That distance and busy roads are so dangerous for young kids!
All children should be treated the same, they are all equal, You plan is to penalise the working parents, and cause unnecessary congestion at school gate when they have to driven to & from school.
If this goes ahead you can expect me to vote against the current councillors and I will be happy to help canvass for opponents. I've already spoken to neighbours, friends, family and we've all agreed to do the same thing. I've also seen quite a few Facebook groups ready to vote out this council all because of this matter! It's outrageous. I think it's ridiculous to expect children as young as 11 to walk this distance in rain, snow, and when it's very dark in winter months. The area of Grieve Road isn't safe and this should be a major HEALTH AND WELL BEING CONCERN - Education Scotland would be very interested to hear you are not providing safe transport for pupils. If even one child is hurt making this journey then it will be your fault. Would you walk 5 miles to work in the rain? I doubt it! Yet you expect a child to. That's not exercise and I can assure you my teenagers exercise plenty, regularly in safe environments. This is closer to prison! And do not tell me it's related to the council tax as you've just given £30,000 to a private businessman millionaire so you can demolish a building on his land. Use that money to fund buses!
The council's decision to move St Columbas high school has meant that we currently live closer in walking distance to Notre Dame. It is a safer walking route and has an option of public transport at least some of the way, my house to St Columbas does not have this option. There is a reason that the so-called 'unfair policy' exists for pupils in St Joseph's because they were unfairly disadvantaged by the move of our catchment high school. Nothing has changed since the historic transport policy was made. There has been no development of public transport to address the issue and Google maps walking route suggests caution is needed on the walking route.



<p>The route from branchton to aileymill primary is for the children to walk down Huntly drive. The road which goes under the railway tunnel is unsafe during the winter. It freezes over, there is no hand rail and no safe way for the children to get to school. If inverclyde council would cut back the overgrown trees, then maybe sunlight could reach this area and melt any ice during the winter and make it more safe. It is an unsafe eyesore at the present time</p>
<p>The school bus should be available to pupils who are willing to pay each day to get to school safely especially in winter months</p>
<p>Reduce the mileage limit to 1 mile across the board.</p>
<p>I hope this will equalise access to local schools regardless of faith as the rules should apply to every family in every catchment equally with the exception of those living in poverty who need additional support.</p>
<p>Congestion in Inverkip at school pick up is atrocious. The bus does not help this. The children on this bus are collected at Spey Road in cars, clearly these parents could walk as I do everyday. Perhaps advertise walking to school for health. Some of these parents go further to the bus stop than they would walk to school especially since the railway bridge has been put in. I also propose that parents that do not sent to a local primary school should not have transport paid for, this is their choice.</p>
<p>I just have concerns with children walking over the Lyle Hill with the state of the pavements and fencing along the side of the pavement on the seaside is in need of repair. I also feel if this is going to be used by school children the speed limit would have to be reviewed.</p>
<p>Reducing school transport provision will increase congestion and unsafe parking around schools. This is Scotland, not the Mediterranean- 1.5 miles or 2.5 miles is a long way to walk in the wind, rain or snow.</p>
<p>It appears that there is a ridiculous amount of buses leading to congestion around st Columbus high school. By increasing mileage limits it might alleviate this problem.</p>
<p>Why should my child be penalised just because his parents work for a living when kids whose parents don't work get everything!</p>
<p>This is a cost cutting exercise that puts children at risk. It should remain 1 and 2 mile</p>
<p>Although the current arrangements are better than the minimum required, the status quo should remain. The whole community should be doing everything to encourage school attendance and if this is what gets kids to school on a rainy morning so be it. More than happy for my taxes to pay for school transport.</p>
<p>The money saved could be put to better use in under staffed and resource/money strapped schools.</p>
<p>An eighty minute+ round trip to and from school is simply not acceptable - particularly in the light of the typical weather conditions experienced over the autumn / winter. A more radical approach to cost savings should be looked at within the education department. e.g. Reduction in the number of layers of "management" (Eliminate QIO Roles), job size schools that have had role reductions (e.g. Clydeview Academy). if the council have adequate resources to fund millionaire property developers to demolish their own dilapidated properties and can fund a white elephant known as The Beacon Arts Centre then it should be funding pupil transport. Is it the case that the limits of the new Council Chief Executive's aspiration is the legal minimum level of provision?</p>
<p>It will put more financial pressure on families who do not currently qualify for any benefits by earning a minimal amount over thresholds. The council have already introduced bigger charges for children taking part in activities in school e.g. choir, musical instruments. So at present if you work you pay for school uniform, school dinners, music and choir tutorials and now transporting your child to school and your neighbour who doesn't/hasn't worked gets this all for free. It will also have an impact on families who have children in nursery, primary and secondary school all at the same time trying to get them safely to each destination on time. I would like to see the breakdown of figures for these proposed changes.</p>

<p>There is no direct bus to St Columba's from areas such as Larkfield and Branchton meaning children would either need to get multiple buses or walk in the rain. The routes from these areas to the school are also along busy roads and mean children would need to cross busy junctions.</p>
<p>Children who live out with proposed miles from school deserve a bus if it is their catchment school .... Children who live within mileage area could walk too school ....promotes healthy lifestyle and would help with childhood obesity . Money could be better spent supplying resources to the schools .</p>
<p>I think that the transport should stay the same. A option might be to charge a nominal fee for those children who have no other way to get to school.</p>
<p>The safety of the route is an extremely important one and should be given a high priority in my opinion</p>
<p>If there is no financial benefit in removing the service from Castle Levan pupils why not leave it in place or at least allow parents to access the service and pay for it if it can't be provided free of charge any longer</p>
<p>Hi, The additional kids trying to walking across the busy roads has been fully considered. A full risk assessments would have to be carried out, at peak times, in adverse weather conditions for it to fully understand the risks involved. Added to this is the fact that accidents have already happening with the current arrangements, one involving the lollipop person. Until such time that practical safe guards are.in place I will be objecting to this proposal in the strongest terms. Kevin Doherty</p>
<p>I am in favour of any proposal that is the same for every school pupil in Inverclyde. The current set up where St Columba's pupils receive free transport for living a distance less than 1.5 miles from the school and Clydeview pupils do not, is simply unfair. On a positive note, my daughter has benefited from having to walk to and from school.</p>
<p>Would have liked to have been able to say I didn't agree with all 3 proposals rather than just choose 1. The lack of public transport is the main concern. Would prefer to have option of a school bus which you pay for and give it free to those in need but to take it off everyone creating more traffic at already congested schools is a poorly thought out idea.</p>
<p>Reduced or subsidised bus fares that most parents would be willing to pay to ensure buses are kept on and children are safe on way and returning from school</p>
<p>I would also have like to object to the primary proposal but I was unable to select 2 options.</p>

**Letter Responses**

1. All Saints Pupil Council
2. Diocese of Paisley
3. Inverclyde Academy Parent Council
4. Moorfoot Primary P7 Feedback
5. Notre Dame HS Parent Council
6. Notre Dame HS Parent Response
7. PGHS Student Council
8. St Andrew's Primary – 81 copies submitted
9. St Andrew's Primary – Parent Forum Questions
10. St Columba's HS Parent Council Objections – 357 copies submitted
11. St Columba's HS Parent Council
12. St Mary's Primary – Pupil Council
13. St Ninian's Primary – Pupil Council
14. St Stephen's HS – Pupil Council
15. Whinhill Primary Parent Council

From:  
Sent:  
To: 31 October 2016 15:01  
Subject: All Saints Pupil Council response to transport consultation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello

After discussing the proposed changes to school transport, the primary 6 and 7 members of All Saints Primary Pupil Council put forward the following points:

- \*They stated it would not be fair for the families who lived in the catchment who did not have a car and currently rely on the bus.
- \* They were concerned about increased traffic around the schools.
- \* They suggested looking at joining two routes together and cover it with one bus to cut money spent.
- \* They thought that it was important to look at walking routes to ensure safety if more children will need to walk to school.
- \* They also thought that availability of other public transport was important before a final decision is made. For example current bus routes and train stations available to pupils.

Thank you

All Saints Primary

# DIOCESE OF PAISLEY



Diocesan Centre  
Cathedral Precincts  
Incle Street  
Paisley PA1 1HR  
Tel: 0141 847 6130  
Fax: 0141 847 6140

## Response to Inverclyde's Consultation Proposal Document on review of School Transport

The Diocese of Paisley welcomes Inverclyde Council's identification of education as a key priority. We acknowledge that the council has a proven record of financial investment which has ensured the provision of high quality Catholic schools across Inverclyde. We further acknowledge that the Council is operating in a very difficult financial environment and note that at present an enhanced policy which lies within statutory requirements is in place.

Inverclyde Council is rightly proud of the achievements of its schools and its record of positive destinations for school leavers. We believe these achievements should be cherished and caution should be exercised before any policy change is introduced which might impact on these achievements. While there are many factors which contribute to these achievements, school attendance is undoubtedly a key factor.

We welcome the inclusion of an element for those children and young people entitled to school meals and who are eligible for a clothing grant. The mechanism for providing enhanced transport arrangements has not however been specified. While the Diocese of Paisley fully supports enhanced provision on this basis, we are not satisfied that this can readily be done in such a way that would avoid labelling the young people involved. You will be aware that for the areas to the eastern limits of the St Columba's catchment area for example, there is no direct bus route. Provision of contract buses exclusively or principally for young people in receipt of free school meals would clearly be problematic.

The Diocese of Paisley does not support reducing eligibility for school transport beyond the current distance limits operated by Inverclyde Council. We note that the review has resulted from the Council's package of savings proposals. We note also that the school transport savings proposal is identified as having the potential to deliver savings of a particular sum.

The arguments regarding financial savings should not be relevant at this time. Savings on school transport were rejected during the most recent council budget exercise. As a result the funding to maintain current provision is in place until April 2018. While school transport costs may be revisited at that point we can see no financial justification for raising limits at this time. Furthermore, uncertainties in quantifying both the cost of the introduction of a poverty element and the proposed change in policy for admissions and pupil placements make it unclear if the anticipated savings can be fully realised.

The council currently operates an enhanced provision for school transport and has until now rejected the minimum provision which has been adopted in other authorities. This is in our view indicative of a clear commitment to young people and the promotion of social justice through providing high quality education for all. Even with transport in place for families in receipt of free school meals, we believe that the proposal will still affect a significant number of pupils from families whose budgets are tight. We have a concern that these proposals will have an adverse effect on school attendance and as a result on overall attainment. Maps for anticipated walking routes produced by the council clearly indicate that the impact of the proposal will fall disproportionately on those areas of Inverclyde with already high levels of deprivation. These include the west end of Pot1 Glasgow, Lower Bow, Larkfield, Fancy Farm and Mallard alongside Braeside, Branchton, and Ravenscraig. Relatively advantaged areas such as Kilmacoll, Inverkip, Gourrock, Wemyss Bay and the west end of Greenock would not appear to suffer any detrimental impact. The on-line survey or "simulator sliders" referenced in the consultation document is highly likely to have been influenced by this disparity. Clearly residents from more advantaged areas are more likely to have easy access to the IT required to respond and indeed be more inclined to do so.

We are particularly concerned that the proposed changes will have a detrimental impact on Inverclyde's Catholic schools provision. The consultation document takes no account of the location and asymmetrical placement of Catholic schools within their catchment areas or of the lack of direct public transport connecting Catholic schools with their communities. It is our view therefore that by denying parents and young people ready access to a local Catholic school, the proposed changes to transport provision will introduce an inequity of provision that does not currently exist.

Inverclyde Council has commendably invested significant sums of money to ensure that school provision is localised and meets the wishes of parents. We believe it is important that the transport policy supports the Council's provision of schools. We would therefore urge that the proposal to change school distance limits for free school transport should be rejected.

Yours Sincerely

Scottish Charity No. SC013514

[curia@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:curia@rcdop.org.uk)

# Inverclyde Academy Parent Council

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25th October 2017

Education Services  
Inverclyde Council  
Wallace Place  
Greenock  
PA16

Dear Education Services

## Response to Inverclyde Council Transport Consultation

As a parent council we are aware that the council has major funding issues going forward as it needs to live within its budgets as set by the Scottish Government. That said, we do have a list of concerns on how this proposal will affect the families and pupils for whom the changes will affect. These concerns have been collated from parents after attendance at the public meetings at discussions at Parent Council meetings.

The concerns fall into a number of different categories:

### Impact on Families

Based on our understanding of benefit levels the following scenario shows the potential unfair impact on working families:

A married working couple with one child living in rented accommodation. Once they earn £310 gross (Approx. £270 net) a week they are entitled to no other benefits except child benefit@

£20.70. Currently they *have* to pay for school meals, instrument and *vocal* tuition.

A married unemployed couple with one child living in rented accommodation receive a minimum income of £327.84 a week (this includes child benefit, jobseekers, housing benefit, child tax credits). This figure can rise dependent on their circumstances. They are entitled to free school meals, £90 a year clothing grant, free *vocal* and instrument tuition, (which is currently charged at

£140 each) and in some schools only parents who receive certain benefits children may attend

breakfast clubs and also in later years in school the child will be entitled to a £30 a week payment if they continue on at school.

So if proposed changes go ahead working families will have to find an extra £15 per child approximately a week to send child to school on public transport. (One lady at the meeting had 3 children in secondary school at present increasing to 4 next year who would be affected)

Additionally when trying to save money why does the proposal seek to give additional benefit to pupils in receipt of free school meals, by giving free transport to pupils at high school at 1.5 miles compared to the current 2 miles?

Concerns raised on the impact it would have on families with children in multiple schools (primary and secondary) who would lose out on both bus services.

Some parents are also anxious that they would be unable to walk their children to school as they then would not arrive at work on time. As one woman said 'My children will be unsafe because we work but if we chose not to work they would be safe'.

### **Safety of Children**

Parents are worried about the safety on the roads to and around the schools with increase of cars if changes are implemented.

Concerns were also raised that school crossing patrols would not be present at some crossing points due to the time children would need to leave home to arrive at school on time. Parents reckoned some children would have to leave home around 7.30 to get to school on time and not arrive home till 5.30 on late days.

Councils have provided what they deem safe walking routes from different areas from a computer program. No one has actually walked these routes at the times children would be using these roads so how can they be deemed safe at this present time and if proposed changes go ahead there certainly will be an increase on traffic on these routes. Will these routes still be safe?

Concerns raised by working parents who do not have anyone else to walk their child to school and their child has to walk to school carrying expensive musical instruments.

Concern was also raised about confrontations arising from large groups of children from different schools passing each other on their way to and from schools (e.g. fights and verbal abuse)

Another concern is at present public service buses are currently running past children at bus stops as drivers do not want to take a load of school children on board. This has happened on many occasions at various bus stops already.

Finally, there were concerns raised on increased traffic levels on an already busy road approaching the school.

### **Impact on Learning**

Parents are also concerned about the impact walking in excess of 2 miles each way will have on the child's performance in class if they cannot afford public transport. Parents reckoned some children would have to leave home around 7.30 to get to school on time and not arrive home till 5.30 on late days.

Will longer walking distance result in more late arrivals at school, and what impact will this have due to late arrivals in classrooms?



## **Other Concerns**

The council said there would be privilege passes available if spaces on buses (costing £1 per day) but there would not be enough passes available to cover children being affected by changes. How will the council priorities.

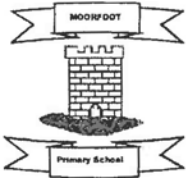
There is also concern about the impact it will have on schools closer to where the children live e.g. feeder school is Inverclyde Academy but Notre Dame is much closer. There is going to be an increase on placing requests and these schools are going to be running at maximum capacity when other schools are not.

## **Impact on Council Budget Targets**

It was noted at meeting the Council is anticipating a £21 million deficit each year for the years 2017 to 2020. The proposed saving of £170,000 does not even equate to a 1% reduction of deficit. Parents felt a bigger saving could be made in other ways and were asking where the other 99% is coming from.

In summary we have many concerns and do not think that proposals as they exist should be taken forward at this present time.

Yours Sincerely



Inverclyde  
council

Moorfoot Primary School, Nursery  
Class & Garvel Deaf Centre

Moorfoot Drive

GOUROCK PA11ES

Tel: 01475 715701

Email: [inmoorfoot@glowscotland.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:inmoorfoot@glowscotland.onmicrosoft.com)

## **Consultation on Changes to Mainstream School Transport Policy**

### **Primary 7 Feedback**

- Both parents are working. As an 11 year old, I am responsible for taking my young sister, age 9, on the bus. Moving distance to 1.5 miles we would not be eligible for the school bus and it would take too long to walk.
- Mums and dads will have to bring children to school - inconvenient for parents.
- Some people think in Winter they may be more prone to colds/Flu bugs.
- Some children may be dropped off at school really early.
- Some people may move closer to the school
- Concerns re crossing busy roads /junctions.
- Additional pollution re car use.
- We feel sorry for 1.4 miles

## Consultation on changes to mainstream school transport policy

### - Our thoughts-P7/6- October 2016

- Everyone should be able to get free transport because of our weather.
- Mileage shouldn't be increased as people are then forced to use their own cars this is less environmentally friendly.
- Public transport is expensive not all people can afford it.
- It's not fair for those just outside the limit as they have many busy roads to cross over their 4km journey.
- Would there be any exceptions for those just outside the limit we know of someone who has missed out by 2m?
- If people can't walk, make alternative arrangements or afford the bus how can they safely get to school
- It would take at least 45mins to walk 4km-one way- if you're outside the limit we feel that is too much.
- In the winter when it's darker and the roads are busier we are at greater risk. We would need to navigate Larkfield Road, George Road and Kirn Drive.
- We feel that everyone should get free transport and not be penalised because of where we live.
- We love to exercise and so are happy to walk but not as far and to have the choice dependent on the weather.

Notre Dame High School  
Parent Council  
78 Newark Street  
Greenock

PA16 7TF

22nd October 2016

Education Services  
Wallace Place  
GREENOCK  
PA15 1JB

To Whom It May Concern

### **School Transport- Public Consultation**

I am writing to you regarding the above proposal on behalf of Notre Dame Parent Council.

NDPC are against the proposed changes to the School Transport Policy as we believe it will have a direct detrimental effect on the education of our young people.

Inverclyde Council state Education is a key priority and are firmly committed to the delivery of high quality education provision in an environment that nurtures ambition and aspirations. We believe Inverclyde Council have an obligation to ensure our young people are transported to school safely and in a fit state to work to their full potential. We believe these changes will have a huge impact on the ability for our young people to do so.

1 in 4 children in Inverclyde live in poverty, changing these limits will have a detrimental effect on those young people who are most in need of free school transport. We do agree to the inclusion of an element for those entitled to free school meals and feel this element should be introduced regardless of the other 2 elements.

There are a number of other issues that concern the parents of Notre Dame.

1 Was consideration taken into account on the "safe routes" of the increase

of traffic due to the number of extra private cars on these routes at key times?

2 Was consideration taken into account of the above average rainfall for Inverclyde?

INVERCLYDE	OCT 110 mm, JAN 115 mm
GLASGOW	OCT 50 mm, JAN 60 mm.

3 Has the gradient of the "safe routes" been considered? If so what is the acceptable figure?

4 Residential areas in our catchment are not well served by public transport. Provision must be made to ensure providers add additional bus routes, which should be heavily subsidised. Rail fares should also be subsidised.

5 We ask that senior management from Education services along with RSWS and Councillors walk these "safe routes" with the addition of a heavy school bag, sports kit and musical instrument.

Whilst we understand that in these times of austerity savings have to be made, we ask that Education be ring fenced as it is the one thing Inverclyde is excelling in and we do not wish to see this decline. I am sure the community of Notre Dame can rely on your support and look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully

Notre Dame Parent Council

Received at Notre Dame 3.10.2016

1. 2.5 hours walking per day?  
Max time walking per day?
2. Height gain and loss?  
92m climb twice per day/  
= 38.5 munros climbed in 190 school days
3. Free bus passes and pupils?
4. Costs to carry out full consultation?  
Better Tender procedures?



## Kingston House Council



*Minutes 10th October 2016*

### **1) Welcome & Introduction**

Everyone welcomed to the first meeting.

### **2) School Mission & Vision- Views/Agreement**

A copy of a draft Mission & Vision was given out. This was discussed and everyone agreed with it.

### **3) Pupil Leadership Budget- Ideas/Priorities for Use**

Ideas were discussed for the use of the pupil leadership budget. The ideas included funding music activities, possibility of a residential trip for 56.

### **4) Ideas for Events/House Council Activities**

Ideas for House events were discussed. Paint ball and possible day out, possibly Aberfoyle etc could be organised for the winning House. Winning House could be decided by activities such as Inter-House Sports.

### **5) Council Consultation on School Transport Changes**

The House Council members felt that this would be unlikely to be affected by it, but didn't have any problem or concern.



# Glen House Council



*Minutes, 10th October 2016*

## **1) Welcome & Introduction**

Everyone welcomed to the first meeting.

## **2) School Mission & Vision- Views/Agreement**

A copy of a draft Mission & Vision was given out. This was discussed and everyone agreed with it.

## **3) Pupil Leadership Budget- Ideas/Priorities for Use**

Ideas were discussed for the use of the pupil leadership budget. The ideas included PE Equipment, Coloured printers, paper, another pre-order machine, water fountains, the cost of running a vending machine, more Art resources. These ideas will be discussed at the SPLT.

## **4) Ideas for Events/House Council Activities**

Ideas for House events were discussed. Paint ball/cinema day for the best House group was one idea, using House Points like in Harry Potter.

## **5) Council Consultation on School Transport Changes**

The House Council members felt that they wouldn't be affected by this and so didn't really have a view on it.





## Ferguson House Council



*Minutes 10th October 2016*

### **1) Welcome & Introduction**

Everyone welcomed to the first meeting.

### **2) School Mission & Vision- Views/Agreement**

A copy of a draft Mission & Vision was given out. This was discussed and everyone agreed with it.

### **3) Pupil Leadership Budget- Ideas/Priorities for Use**

Ideas were discussed for the use of the pupil leadership budget. The ideas included books for the library, a possible contribution towards a trip, musical instruments or resources for the music department.

### **4) Ideas for Events/House Council Activities**

Ideas for House events were discussed. Paint ball/lazer tag for the best House group was one idea, or possible go-karting. Sports, quizzes or other competitions could be organised between the three Houses. Also, music participation could gain House points. Merits/Positive Referrals in class could gain House Points, and de-merits could result in lost House points.

### **5) Council Consultation on School Transport Changes**

There was agreement on the changes, as long as the savings were re-invested into education/schools budgets.

Name : St Andrew's Primary

Date October 2016

Education Department  
Inverclyde Council  
Municipal Buildings  
Greenock

Dear Sirs

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO SCHOOL BUSES**

I refer to the above and the proposed change to the distance required for free school bus. I am against this change because:

- The shortest walking distance is not the safest. The Council have not provided us with a SAFE or ACCEPTABLE walking route from either Branchton or Braeside.
- The Council are discriminating against families who do not receive benefits which will then create a stigma around the children from families who will still be entitled to free transport as they will be the only children getting on the school bus.
- Just because families are not in receipt of free school meals does not mean that they are high earners.  
There are lots of families who are just above the cut off.
- By implementing the reduced mileage for families on benefits the Council are not encouraging parents to try and get back to work.
- The area we live in has lots of hills that are treacherous in winter conditions.
- This change will increase the amount of traffic in the surrounding area to the school. There are already major problems at the school with parents parking on double yellow lines, parking on pavements and across residents driveways which will only get drastically worse. The roads are gridlocked in the morning and afternoon.
- By increasing the mileage for school buses it only saves the Council less than 1% of the total savings needed.  
The benefits of having the school bus far outweigh the savings the Council would make.
- Will the Council make sure that all walkways on every route are treated as part of the gritting plan on winter mornings as there are lots of hills in this area for the children to walk?
- We have lots of rainfall in Greenock and for children to walk between 30 and 50

mins in our weather conditions would affect the children's health and therefore have an impact on their attendance and ultimately their education.

- The Council were the ones that took St Gabriel's out of the community with a promise to have buses running from Braeside to St Andrew's.
- Parents will start putting their children into the closest schools regardless of religion or catchment area which will then have an impact on the secondary schools. Aileymill, Notre Dame and Inverclyde Academy at the moment are at full capacity.
- The children from Braeside, Branchton and Larkfield do not have a safe route to walk to St Columba's as they have to walk past the cemetery which if the children are late coming out of school may have to walk themselves on this isolated road.
- There is also only one pavement on this road which gets flooded every winter.
- There have been numerous crashes on this road with cars going too fast on the bend.
- There is no public transport on this route for Braeside, Larkfield or Branchton to get to St Columba's.

I therefore would like to register my objection to this change.

Yours faithfully

## St Andrew's Primary School

### Questions raised by the parent forum

- Will the results be made public so we can view them?
- Have you walked the route at the peak time that the children would walk to school?
- Are the residents around the schools aware of the consultation and the impact it will have on them?
- Will you be looking at changing the catchment areas?
- Can you show us the safe walking routes?
- Why is it different for people who receive FME?
- Do you realise this could result in more placing request?
- Can children from families who receive free meal entitlements (FME) not walk as far as a child from a family who has to pay, despite some having less money than someone who gets FME?
- Do you understand that this will also increase traffic on route to school and around schools?
- Have the council costed how many children this would affect?
- Have you considered the stigma attached for children entitled/not entitled?
- What are the routes?
- How can the results from the November/December consultation be valid when based only on 53 people's responses?
- Have nurseries been sent the consultation?
- Does the walk from Branchton include walking over the bridge? The bridge is not lit therefore not safe to walk.
- Could we pay for our children to use spare spaces on the FME bus
- What if only a handful of children were entitled to the bus?
- What about kids safety?
- You saved money on the merging the schools, so are you going back on the consultation undertaken back then.
- Parent forum comments
- We used to have a primary school in our area, the council decided to close and merge the school, delivering on their promise of school buses. Had we known that the buses would be removed we would have made different choices.

- Larkfield is a deprived area, it feels like you are discriminating.
- It will be an additional cost to parents who are already struggling, particularly those who have more than one child
- I could not walk to the school from where I live.
- There should be a lolly-pop person at Burns Road and Westmorland road.
- There are no areas designated for car drop-off
- Next door is a decant and there are big buses that drop off each day
- There will be increase parking on pavements and yellow lines.
- Cars double park at the Sheriff Shop, you can see the lolly pop people.
- No councillor from Larkfield and Braeside represented on education committee
- You pay £30,000 towards Babylon's demolition!
- It was the council decision to move St Columba's to where it is
- I won't be sending my child in wet weather.
- A five year old child getting soaked through walking to school and having to sit in class with wet clothes
- Children will be late
- We are in the catchment area for Aileymill, we will consider moving our children to Aileymill should the buses be stopped.
- Notre Dame is an easier route.
- Kid would be too tired after walking to school and home from school
- Walking from Braeside to St Andrews only has one set of traffic lights.
- Cars and pedestrians slipping in winter on hills
- Pedestrians cannot walk on the pavements when icy and in snow.
- My child has arthritis and would not be able to walk that distance.

## **St Columba's High School Parent Council**

27<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Education  
Services Wallace  
Place Greenock  
PAIS 1JB

Dear Sir\Madam,

### **St Columba's Parent Council- Response to Consultation Changes to Mainstream Transport Policy**

Please see enclosed submissions from interested individuals who did not wish or feel able to complete the electronic survey monkey questionnaire.

I would be grateful if you would include these responses which are registering their objections to the proposals to change the present school transport arrangements.

Thank you for your assistance.

**St Columba's Parent Council**

## St Columba's High School Parent Council

27<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Education Services  
Wallace Place  
Greenock  
PA16 1JB

Dear Sir\Madam,

### **St Columba's Parent Council - Response to Consultation Changes to Mainstream Transport Policy**

I write on behalf of St Columba's High School Parent Council in response to the above consultation document issued on 12th September 2016.

We are opposed to the proposals included in the document, and I detail below our reasons for this objection, along with a proposal on how Inverclyde Council could find savings from other sources so that the present arrangements may remain in place.

As Councillors and Officials will know our school was located on the site at Bayhill now occupied by Clydeview Academy .This location was ideal for the St Columba's catchment area. However, after the reconfiguration of the High Schools within the Council area, it was decided by Inverclyde Council to relocate us to the Tower Hill area of Gourock where there are no direct public transport bus routes to our school from many locations in our catchment area.

The Director of Education states in the document "The Review of School Transport would address the inequality of provision that currently exists due to historic factors resulting in the enhanced provision for pupils of St Columba's" The Parent Council would respond to this statement by reminding Councillors and Officials that it was Inverclyde Council who created this issue by reconfiguring the secondary schools and moving us to our present location. From an equality perspective I would highlight that we are the only secondary school within Inverclyde that is not on or

are close to recognised bus routes. Therefore, St Columba's already starts off from a disadvantaged position; this factor does not seem to have been considered when the Council and its Officers raise the issue of equality.

These proposals, if accepted, will impact the most on our young people who live in the most deprived areas within our catchment area. As you will no doubt be aware 30% of our School Roll comprises of families who are within SIMD Categories 1& 2. We recognise the proposal includes an enhanced element for those young people who live more than 1.5 miles from their School, and are in receipt of Free Meals Entitlement and a clothing allowance. However, we are of the opinion that the creation of this two tier approach will only cause a stigma for those entitled. Many others, who may not be entitled to this, also struggle financially.

We would also wish to highlight that we have ascertained by walking 2.5 miles at a steady pace that it will take around 45 minutes per journey for our young people each day. Therefore, the Council is proposing that these pupils walk 90 minutes per day, five days a week, regularly in Dark, Cold, Wet and Windy conditions. (See attached climate graphs which compare Gourock to other parts of the area, and other parts of Scotland). We note that the consultation document indicates that many Councils operate 2\3 ratio. However, we would challenge the need to follow these other authorities given the climate and topography conditions within Inverclyde and in particular our school catchment area (See attached photographs).

We further believe that the impact on our young people and their families will be numerous:

- Length of the School Day
- Cost of the School Day i.e. Clothing, Footwear
- Increase in absenteeism
- Safety Issues

As elected members and officials of the Council will know, a key objective of the Scottish Government is to reduce the attainment gap. Clearly this is also a priority for Inverclyde Council. However, the implementation of these changes, will impact on the children that need to be targeted the most, to reduce this gap.

The Consultation paper indicates that the estimated saving per annum of these proposals will be £170,000. However, when we enquired what the actual saving from



St Columba's High School would be per annum, we were informed our contribution would be £4930. (See attached e-mail). Given our situation with the lack of public transport surely an investment by the Council of less than £5k per annum would be of major benefit to our young people's education and contribute towards reducing the attainment gap

In the questionnaire issued with the consultation paper, suggestions are invited of alternative ways to provide savings for Inverclyde Council. As part of a Freedom of Information request, we asked how much Inverclyde Council has spent in the last two full financial years 2014\15 and 2015\16 on External Management Consultants. Here are the figures we were provided:

- 2014\15 £195,506.90
- 2015\16 £402,207.64
- **Total £597,714.54**

N.B. Rather than this figure decreasing the Council has actually increased its expenditure on External Consultants.

St Columba's Parent Council would propose that the Council review this area of expenditure of just under £600,000 in the last two years, so they may retain the existing school transport arrangements, and achieve substantial savings.

We are also concerned about the knock on affect these changes will have on our school roll, particularly if the Council's consultation on "Admissions and Pupil Placements in Mainstream Schools" is also implemented. It is clear that from the public meeting held in our school on 28th September 2016, that many parents from our feeder primary schools, particularly St Joseph's will seek to move their children to Notre Dame High School. I would refer you to the Education Department's own document when it previously assessed the impact on proposed changes to the school transport in 2014\15 it stated <sup>11</sup> Possible Impact to School Rolls e.g. St Columba's High School: there may be a risk to roll viability" (See attached). This impact will affect all pupils attending St Columba 's as a falling roll will result in reduced staffing levels, and a reduction in subject choice.

In conclusion, we recognise that Inverclyde Council face substantial financial challenges, however, we believe for the reasons stated that this proposal will

have a detrimental effect on many of our young people and our school. We have offered an option of an alternative source of savings, so the present situation may remain.

Finally, as you will be aware since moving to the Tower Hill site the issue of school transport reductions has been a source of constant uncertainty for our school, and we call on Inverclyde Council to recognise the issues that we face compared to other high schools in relation to public transport provision, and bring this long standing matter to a conclusion, within the timescale included in the consultation document, and that Councillors do not defer a decision until after this coming May's Local Government elections.

Yours Faithfully

St Columba's Parent Council

## Summary

- OF THE 7 LOCATIONS REVIEWED, GOUROCK HAS THE HIGHEST AVERAGE RAINFALL (1560mm) & THE HIGHEST RAINFALL MONTH
- ONLY ABERDEEN SHOWS A LOWER ANNUAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE – BUT GOUROCK STILL HAS THE LOWEST AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN A SINGLE MONTH

## Sunrise/Sunset – Gourock

THE LATEST SUNRISE IN 2015 WAS ON DECEMBER 18 – 08.47am.

THE EARLIEST SUNSET IN 2015 WAS ON DECEMBER 18 – 15.44pm.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ESTIMATED 40 MINUTES TO WALK 2.5 MILES, AND ASSUMING A DEPARTURE TIME OF 8AM, CHILDREN WOULD BE LEAVING THEIR HOMES TO WALK TO SCHOOL IN NEAR DARKNESS. SIMILARLY, GIVEN THE LATER FINISH ON A MONDAY/TUESDAY (3.45pm), CHILDREN WOULD ALSO BE LEAVING SCHOOL TO WALK HOME IN NEAR DARKNESS.

THE EARLIEST DATE/TIME FOR A “SAFE” SUNRISE WAS OCT 20, 2015 – 8am.

THE EARLIEST DATE/TIME FOR A “SAFE” SUNSET WAS NOV 5, 2015 – 4.30pm.

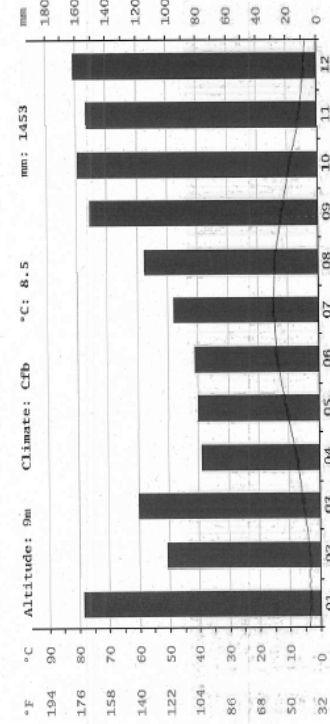
THE RANGE FOR A POST 8AM SUNRISE WAS 20/10/2015 TO 08/02/2016 (15 WKS).

THE RANGE FOR A PRE 4.30PM SUNSET WAS 06/11/2015 TO 22/01/2016 (11 WKS).

SOURCE: SUNRISE-AND-SUNSET.COM

# Largs

## CLIMATE GRAPH: LARGS

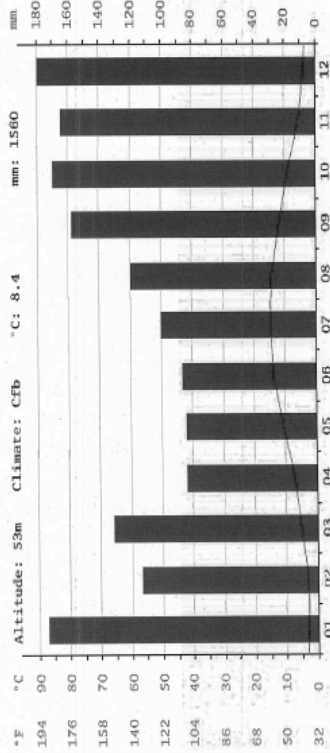


RAINFALL PEAKS IN DECEMBER – AVERAGE OF 160mm  
LOWEST AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IS IN JANUARY – 3C

SOURCE: CLIMATE-DATA.ORG

# Gourock

## CLIMATE GRAPH: GOUROCK

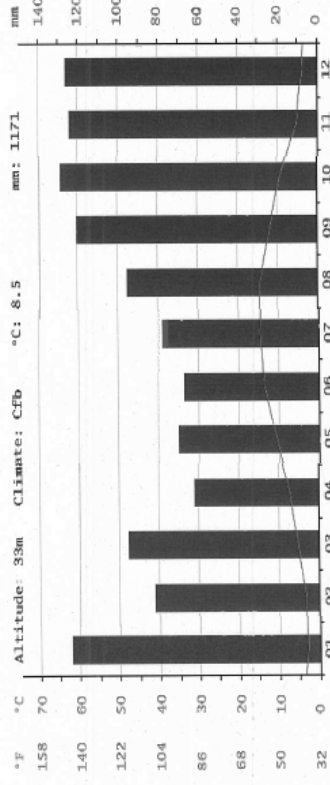


RAINFALL PEAKS IN DECEMBER – AVERAGE OF 170mm  
LOWEST AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IS IN JANUARY – 2.8C

SOURCE: CLIMATE-DATA.ORG

# Glasgow

## CLIMATE GRAPH: GLASGOW

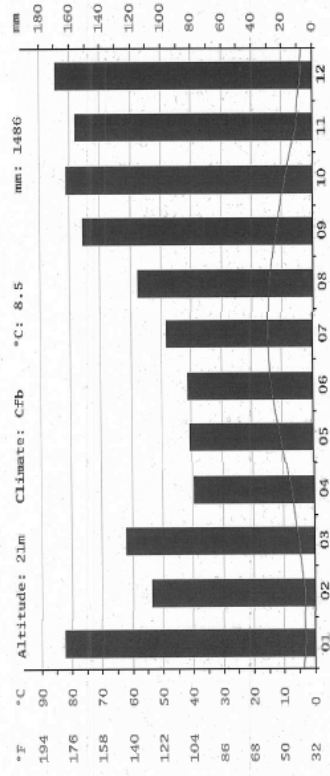


RAINFALL PEAKS IN OCTOBER – AVERAGE OF 128mm  
LOWEST AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IS IN JANUARY – 3C

SOURCE: CLIMATE-DATA.ORG

# Greenock

## CLIMATE GRAPH: GREENOCK



RAINFALL PEAKS IN DECEMBER – AVERAGE OF 169mm  
LOWEST AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IS IN JANUARY – 3C

SOURCE: CLIMATE-DATA.ORG

**2015/16 Budget**

**Saving Option**

Reference Number:	ECOD\RS\H\EDUC\19
Directorate:	Education, Communities & ODHR
Service:	Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy
Team/Section:	Education, Transport
Saving Title:	School Transport Saving
Saving Overview:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change free transport mileage entitlement from the current 1 mile (primary), 2 miles (secondary) to the statutory level of 2 and 3 miles respectively.</li> <li>• 14/32 local authorities currently set limits at the statutory level.</li> <li>• 7/32 authorities set the limit at the same as Inverclyde.</li> <li>• 11/32 local authorities set varying levels between these amounts. This information was correct at July 2014.</li> </ul>
Type:	Reduced Service Provision
Implementation Date:	August 2015
Anticipated Impacts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in mileage maintains compliance with statutory requirements. Most other local authorities set eligibility criteria at national limits.</li> <li>• Increased numbers of pupils walking to school (positive impact on health and well-being)</li> <li>• Possible impact to school rolls e.g. St Columba's High School; there may be a risk to roll viability</li> </ul>
Estimated Employee Impacts:	Temporary Employee (under 2 years) or known retirement
Internal Employees	A very small number of temporary escorts would have their employment terminated.

**Saving Rationale:**

Anticipated savings:£584k  
 Inverclyde has offered a generous free transport policy for a number of years, well below the statutory limits.  
 Setting the limit to statutory levels puts us in line with most other authorities and also gives increased opportunities for children to be active in walking to school.  
 All walking routes will be assessed for safety and exceptions will be made to the limits if a route is deemed unsafe.  
 Children with specific health issues or Additional Support Needs may be offered free transport if required on an individual, needs led basis.

**Risk Summary:**

Comments: Any risk is associated with public perception in increasing limits.  
 Robust consultation will mitigate this risk.  
 Requires a statutory consultation process.

Type of Risk	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Score
Duty of Care	Minor	Rare	2
Statutory Responsibility	Insignificant	Rare	1
Policy Priorities	Moderate	Unlikely	6
Financial	Insignificant	Rare	1
Operational	Minor	Rare	2
Implementation	Minor	Rare	2
Third Party	Insignificant	Rare	1
Reputational	Moderate	Possible	9

**Corporate Risk Key**

	Acceptable
	Adequate
	Issue
	Significant Risk

**Equalities Impact Assessment:**

The impact of savings require to be equalities assessed. A screening template is attached (Appendix 1) which will guide Officers in identifying if potential equalities issues may arise and whether a full equalities impact assessment is required.

Full Equalities Impact Assessment Required.	Yes
---------------------------------------------	-----

**Financial:**

**Net Saving:**

2015/16 FTE	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 FTE	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 FTE	2017/18 £'000
	365	0	584	0	584

**One off Costs:**

2015/16 FTE	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 FTE	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 FTE	2017/18 £'000

**Financial Assumptions/Notes**

Take saving from August '16 with no anticipated penalties.

SPT have calculated this saving based on pupil post codes and the projected new mileage limits.

Financial Checklist:

Impacts on internal services have been considered and identified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of external income has been identified and allowed for in net saving	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implications on assets have been considered and assessed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Authorisation:

Designation	Signature	Date
Corporate Director		
Head of Service		
Revenues & Accountancy Manager		



## **St. Mary's Primary**

### **Pupil Council Meeting 28.10.16**

#### **Changes to School Transport**

The Pupil Council discussed the changes to school transport.

- Pupils feel that it is unacceptable to make Primary School children travel the additional mileage to get to school. They firmly believe that it would be very unfair to make them walk in cold and icy weather.
- They feel that it would not be fair on disadvantaged children who may not have cars and might need to walk.
- They questioned the idea of public transport being available. Depending on where you live there might not be a direct journey to school and some children might end up having to take two buses.
- They feel, very strongly, that the council should cut other public services and leave the current systems that are in place for school transport, as the new distance would be too long for younger children to travel to school.

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Consultation on School Transport Policy  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

Our pupil council have discussed the proposal to increase the mileage limits for free school transport and they expressed about safe routes to school for all children who would have to walk should proposals go ahead. They also have concerns that some children will not be able to attend the school of their choice due to lack of public transport should a school bus not be available.

St Ninian's Primary School  
Pupil Council

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Transport Consultation  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

I am sending you the two key areas of discussion which our Pupil Council wishes to convey regarding the transport consultation.

1. The pupils feel it is unfair that those who live in Kilmacolm will be entitled to transport while many of those from Port Glasgow will not.
2. Due to the geography of Port Glasgow being very hilly, many pupils could face a long walk to/from school which would make for difficult journeys in winter months in particular.

Kind regards

St Stephen's High School

Student Council

## **Whinhill Primary School and Nursery Class- Parent Council Response to consultation documents**

### **School Transport Consultation**

- Inverclyde Academy has a huge catchment area in terms of geographical distance. We believe it is too far to expect pupils to walk especially in the inclement weather commonplace in Greenock.
- We do not want our children walking in the dark in winter this distance.
- Use of public transport- buses- the timings of the buses don't suit the hours of the school day and for many of our children they may require to access two buses in order to get to school.
- Use of public transport- trains- our pupils would be required to travel from Whinhill or Drumfrochar stations to Branchton. All three of these stations are unmanned and therefore the safety of our children cannot be guaranteed.
- As it seems children with FME will be supported with transport it feels as if people who work are being penalised.
- Will there be paid transport instead? However the privilege pass takes too long to be processed.
- The concerns will also have further impact depending on the decision of the placing request consultation.

## **Whinhill Primary School and Nursery Class- Pupil Council Response to consultation documents**

Comments are typed exactly as pupils said

### **School Transport Consultation**

- I don't think it's a good idea because parents who don't have a car would have to tell their child to walk to school which is unfair
  - The weather could be really bad- rain, wind and snow
  - You could slip and break a leg when it is dark and wet and no one would know
  - If everyone could access a school bus it would be much safer in these conditions
- Pupils would need to leave extremely early- up at 7.00am out by 7.30am to walk all the way to school.
- This could be tiring for some children and you don't learn well when you are tired.
- P1 children can't walk a distance like this and parents may be working and if they have to walk them to school it may cost them their job.

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Inverclyde Council to increase the qualification for free mainstream primary school and secondary school transport to children and young people residing more than 1.5 miles and 2.5 miles from their school respectively. In addition it is also proposed to enable those children and young people entitled to free school meals to access transport at closer distances of 1 mile (primary pupils) and 1.5 miles (secondary pupils).**

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Inverclyde Council's proposal to change mainstream school transport policy which will increase the mileage limits for free school transport as set out above. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people attending primary and secondary schools across Inverclyde; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;

- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meetings held on 28 September, 3 October, 4 October and 13 October 2016 and 'drop in' meeting on 31 October 2016 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others;
- visits to the site of All Saints Primary School, Notre Dame High School, St Joseph's Primary School, St Columba's High School, St John's Primary School, Port Glasgow Campus (including St Stephen's High School and Port Glasgow High School) including discussion with relevant consultees; and
- meeting with the Roman Catholic Church representative on the Inverclyde Education Committee.

## **2. Consultation Process**

2.1 Inverclyde Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

2.2 The formal consultation ran from 12 September until 31 October 2016. Public meetings were held on, 28 September, 3 October, 4 October and 13 October 2016. In addition an informal 'drop in' for parents was held on 31 October 2016. An advert was placed in The Greenock Telegraph outlining the proposed changes and inviting the views of interested parties. The council posted the consultation document on its website. Copies of the consultation document were made available at local schools, council customer services and local libraries.

2.3 The council received 1456 responses to the proposal. Of these, 1109 (76.2%) opposed the proposal. Two hundred and fifty-one (17.2%) were supportive. Ninety-six (6.6%) were undecided. Of those who opposed the proposal 72.2% expressed concerns regarding safe walking routes for their child, 62.9% raised lack of alternative transport modes and 18.1% raised concerns relating to childcare arrangements.

- 2.4 Formal written responses were received from a number of Parent Councils. The Parent Councils of Notre Dame High School, St Columba's High School, Whinhill Primary School, St Stephen's High School, Inverclyde Academy and St Andrew's Primary School were not supportive of the proposal. The detrimental effect on young people's learning and attainment, lack of alternative public transport, distances involved, the safety and security of proposed walking routes and impact on parents both in terms of finance and their own employment were of major concern.
- 2.5 Formal written responses were received from a number of Pupil and Student Councils. All Saints Primary School, St Ninian's Primary School and St Mary's Primary Schools' Pupil Councils and Port Glasgow High School's Student Council were not supportive of the proposal. Concerns expressed included the lack of alternative public transport, the safety and security of children and young people undertaking the suggested walking routes, and the sizeable distances to be walked in inclement weather over hilly terrain.

### **3. Educational Aspects of Proposal**

- 3.1 The proposal has the potential to allow the council to make savings of around £170,000 each year thus avoiding the need for this level of savings in other areas of education provision. This would enable the council to support all children and young people to achieve their full potential and in doing so protect the use of resources that are required to ensure high quality learning and teaching is maintained across all Inverclyde schools. The proposal has potential health and wellbeing benefits for children and young people through increased physical activity and active travel to and from school. As a result, this proposal offers potential benefits to children and young people across the whole council area.
- 3.2 All parents, staff, children and young people who met with HM Inspectors did not support the proposal. They indicated concerns over the safety of the proposed walking routes to school and the journey time. Of particular concern was the volume of traffic and the lack of footpaths, lighting and traffic controls at key crossing points. They raised particular safety concerns over the use of known shortcuts by young people which could put young people at risk. Teachers and parents raised concerns over the level of rainfall Inverclyde experiences (double that of Glasgow) and that the gradient of some of the hills are very steep and exposed to the elements. They were also concerned that some young people did not have the appropriate clothing or footwear to walk this distance.
- 3.3 All parents, staff, children and young people who met with HM Inspectors raised concerns over the potential impact on young people's attainment where they arrive cold, tired, wet and possibly late to begin the school day.

Teaching staff raised particular concerns that the school day would be disrupted by late comers and the potential for an increase in non-attendance and absenteeism. Concerns were also expressed for those young people who play instruments, carrying large and heavy equipment over a significant distance in adverse weather. This may have a negative effect on the future uptake of music or after school activities.

- 3.4 All parents, staff, children and young people who met with HM Inspectors expressed concern over the lack of alternative transport options, in particular the lack of direct bus routes and the possible increased flow of traffic around schools should more young people be driven to school. Concerns were also expressed over the proposed reduced mileage element for those young people entitled to free school meals. They felt this was a direct contradiction to removing barriers and could result in stigmatisation. Teachers and parents raised concern over the potential impact on school rolls as a result of increased placing requests to schools closer to home.
- 3.5 All parents who met with HM Inspectors indicated concerns over the potential economic impact on families, both in terms of costs of public transport and employment. For example, accompanying young people to school due to age or vulnerability, impact on travel time to work and costs of public transport. This was of particular concern for families whose children attend different schools.
- 3.6 The council also received a written submission from the Diocese of Paisley. The Diocese did not support reducing eligibility for school transport beyond the current distance limits. Specific concerns were raised about the proposals having an adverse effect on school attendance and as a result on overall attainment. The Diocese was of the view that the more affluent, outlying areas would benefit most with the impact of the proposal falling disproportionately on those areas of Inverclyde experiencing high levels of deprivation. Concerns were also expressed about the possible detrimental impact on Inverclyde's Catholic schools provision both in terms of the asymmetrical placement of Catholic schools within their catchment areas and the lack of public transport connecting Catholic schools with their communities. In taking forward its proposal, the council will need to engage with the Diocese to address these concerns.

#### 4. Summary

The proposal to increase the qualification for free mainstream primary school and secondary school transport to children and young people residing more than 1.5 miles and 2.5 miles from their school respectively and to enable those children and young people entitled to free school meals to access transport at closer distances of 1 mile (primary pupils) and 1.5 miles



(secondary pupils) has some potential educational benefits. Financial savings made in this area may reduce the need for savings in other areas, including resources for learning and teaching. Valuable resources required to ensure high quality learning and teaching across all Inverclyde schools will be secured. Children and young people will benefit through increased physical activity and active travel to and from school. There is, however, almost universal opposition to the proposal from parents, school staff, children and young people across the council area. In taking forward the proposal, the council needs to address the significant and reasonable concerns of many stakeholders who responded to the survey or met with HM Inspectors. It needs to address the concerns of young people and their families about the safety and security relating to walking routes and any issues of increased congestion around schools. It also needs to address the concerns of teaching staff with regard to the potential disruption to learning and impact on improving attainment that any increase in late coming might generate. The council should also engage directly with the Diocese of Paisley to address concerns raised.

HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
November 2016

**Inverclyde Council: Education and Communities**

**School Transport Consultation Review – Safe Walking Routes Assessment**

If you have any questions or comments with regard to the proposed safe walking route to school for your child, please complete the box below. To ensure that we are able to provide an individual response to your concern please provide your name, Address and Email address.

**Name**

**Address**

**Email Address**

**Comments**

**This form should be returned to:**  
Education Services  
Wallace Place  
Greenock

