



Clerk: Mrs A Wright, 62 Well Street, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8QH.

Tel: 01948 861 035 Email: tattenhallpc@outlook.com

Cllr. Martin Barker
Cheshire West & Chester Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Cheshire West & Chester Council
58 Nicholas Street
Chester
CH1 2NUP.

9th September 2019

Dear Cllr. Barker,

RE: Home to School Transport.

At the meeting of Tattenhall & District Parish Council held on the 2nd September 2019 the Parish Council instructed me to write to you with regard to the existing Home to Educational Establishment Transport Policy which is no longer fit for purpose.

The Parish Council discussed the matter following a number of parents of children who are due to start year 7 at the Bishop Heber High School this month raised their concerns and frustrations during public participation.

The current home to school transport policy which was introduced in 2016 has resulted in eligibility to free school transport becoming a postcode lottery for parents living in Tattenhall.

Eligibility to free school transport is not simply based on a family's address but also the admission numbers of schools, birth rates and development which change annually.

As such parents who are applying to schools in October for a child to enter year 7 the following September are not able to do so with the necessary knowledge as to whether they are eligible for free school transport or not. It is understood this was made worse this year as admission figures used by CW&C were incorrect.

The splitting on free school transport to different schools in Tattenhall and other villages has created a complex and unfair administrative system which is resulting in families being unable to send their children to the school of their choice and is discriminating against those living in the rural area where there is limited public transport.

The Parish Council fully recognises CW&C's need to manage budgets however given the complexity of this policy, the administrative burden it has created plus the transport that has had to be provided to take children to different schools it is hard to see that these savings have been achieved.

As such Tattenhall & District Parish Council asks that your Committee undertakes a thorough review of this policy and looks at examples of other authorities polices including Cheshire East and Oxfordshire who have introduced a contiguous village policy allocating free school transport to the same school.

TATTENHALL & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL



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The Parish Council also asks that the Committee reviews the way the distances are measure between schools and homes as it is understood that when admissions look at distances they measure 'as the crow flies' whereas the school transport team measure the route taken and that a single method is adopted.

Tattenhall and District Parish Council would like to offer the Scrutiny and Overview Committee assistance in undertaking this review and would be happy to assist in the collect of information including arranging a meeting with parents in Tattenhall if that would be of assistance.

In conclusion Tattenhall and District Parish Council is calling for a review of the current Home to Educational Establishment Transport Policy which will address the splitting of eligibility to free school transport to various schools across Tattenhall and which will create a transparent and equitable policy for those living in the rural area, allowing parents to choose the best school for their child.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Wright

Clerk to Tattenhall Parish Council

Cc. CW&C Cllr Mike Jones, CW&C Cllr Eveleigh Moore Dutton, CW&C Cllr Paul Roberts, CW&C Democracy and Elections Officer Kerry Twist, Clerk to Farndon Parish Council.