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1. Summary

- 1.1 Mr Page, Chair of Governors at Saint John the Baptist School, has appealed, on road safety grounds, against the decision not to provide assistance with school transport for pupils that live to the West of Whiteley, to St John the Baptist School, Titchfield Common.

2. Background

- 2.1 Pupils who live in East Whitley are entitled to assistance with home to school transport as the walking route via Whiteley Lane was deemed as unsafe by a Regulatory Panel B Committee in March 2010. The walking route for pupils from the West of Whiteley was not examined at this meeting.
- 2.2 Pupils attending St John the Baptist School from the West of Whiteley who live more than 2 miles from the school are eligible to assistance with transport up to the end of the school year in which they have their eighth birthday (i.e. end of year 3). The distance then increases to 3 miles.
- 2.3 Measurement of the nearest available walking routes from St John the Baptist to the West of Whiteley was carried out using a calibrated 'truemeter' to establish the 3 mile 'cut off' point on the 5th of January 2010. All of the houses in the West of Whiteley area were within the 3 mile limit.
- 2.4 The walking route from West Whiteley had previously been assessed as 'safe' in June 2009. To ensure that current local factors such as new developments and changes to the road infrastructure were taken into account, the decision was taken to have the route assessed again.

3. The Appeal

- 3.1 The route has to be considered against the national Local Authority Road Safety Officers' Association (LARSOA) criteria for the Assessment of Walked Routes to School (Appendix 2).

- 3.2 An on-site inspection was undertaken on Friday the 17th of December 2010 by a Principal Road Safety Officer from Hampshire County Council's Road Safety Team. The salient points of this report are in Appendix 1
- 3.3 The proposed walking route(s) were declared as safe as per the LARSOA guidelines
4. **Conclusion**
- 4.1 Members will have had the opportunity to inspect the walking route. The County Council's position is that, under the criteria, the walking route is available.
- 4.2 It is for Members to consider, following the guidance of Appendix 1:
- (i) whether the nature of the route, or an alternative route, means that it is available for children if unaccompanied; and
 - (ii) if the answer to (i) is no, whether the route is available if accompanied.
- 4.3 If the answer to (ii) is yes, separate consideration by the Children's Services Department would be given to any representations by parents or carers who are unable to accompany their children by virtue of individual circumstances.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background papers

The following documents disclose facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

NB the list excludes:

1. Published works.
2. Documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.

TITLE	LOCATION
Correspondence and notes from site inspections and telephone conversations	Environment Department Passenger Transport Group

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