

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Regulatory Committee Appeal Panel
Date:	4 December 2014
Title:	Home to School Transport Appeal – Walking Route
Reference:	6326
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Summary

1.1. The appellant has appealed, on the safety of the walking route, against the decision not to award free school transport to her daughter, from Chaldon Green to The Costello School in Basingstoke.

2. Contextual information

2.1. Chaldon Green is North East of The Costello School. The walking route is within the statutory three miles distance beyond which free transport is provided for pupils from the beginning of the school year in which they have their ninth birthday.

2.2. The route from Chaldon Green to The Costello School is 2.5 miles.

2.3. The appellant has raised concerns over the safety of the walking route to the school from her home.

3. Performance

3.1. The route has to be considered against the national Road Safety GB criteria for the Assessment of Walked Routes to School (Appendix 2).

3.2. An on-site inspection was undertaken on 03 October 2014 by a representative from Hampshire County Council's Road Safety Team. The Senior Road Safety Officer's report is available in Appendix 1.

4. Other key issues

4.1. Hampshire County Council's Home to School Policy defines the criteria for pupils of compulsory school age attending mainstream schools;
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/traveltoschool/school-transport.htm>

5. Conclusion or Recommendation(s)

5.1. Members will have had the opportunity to inspect the walking routes. The County Council's position is that, under the criteria, the walking route is available.

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.

5.2. 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.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

Correspondence and notes from site

ETE Directorate

inspections and telephone conversations

Passenger Transport Group

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/equality/equality-assessments.htm>

*Inset in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state*

- (a) why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- (b) will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions.*

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?