

Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities  
7 September 2010

Recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & University and the Team Manager for Passenger Transport Contracts and Planning

Item	Recommendation	Response
<p>Passenger Transport Framework Tender – School Bus Service, Eye to Arthur Mellows Village College</p>	<p>It is recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University that as a requirement of the Passenger Transport Framework Tender:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Reconsider the decision whereby the school transport service travels from Eye, via Peterborough Queensgate centre, to Arthur Mellows Village College to a service that will travel direct.</li> </ul>	<p>Central Government will publish its spending review on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010. Whatever the outcome, the impact on Peterborough City Council is likely to be significant. Cabinet members have chosen to be pro-active in their approach and take opportunities to deliver our statutory requirements in a different manner, for a reduced cost. One such example is the transport of students from Eye to Arthur Mellows Village College. In August 2010, Stagecoach offered the Council an opportunity to transport a number of students by public transport, using their Megarider ticket, which the Council purchases at a reduced cost. From September 2010, by transferring these students to public transport, the Council is meeting all its statutory requirements, together with complying with the children’s Transport Policy.</p> <p>Whilst I can appreciate the Security Commission for Rural Communities, and many parents’ desire for a direct service from Eye to the College, that option was not open to us as part of our discussions with Stagecoach. Whilst I have given consideration to your request, there will be no changes to the provision of transport for year 11 students at this time. However, I will ask the Council’s Passenger Transport team to monitor the bus service changes in the Eye area and should the opportunity arise, to offer a more direct service, either with Stagecoach or another public transport provider. This will be given full consideration. I can further add that the College is monitoring the situation on behalf of the Education Department and at a recent Governors’ meeting, the head teacher reported that there had been no significant problems with this service so far.</p>

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