

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"> 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. 	<p>Central Government will publish its spending review on 20th 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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