



meeting	CABINET COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PROVISION OF TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
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date	15 October 2007
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agenda item number

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTORS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES AND COMMUNITIES

Transport Provision for Children and Young People

Purpose of report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to;
 - (a) Update on progress with regard to the consultation on School travel Pathfinder proposals, and the draft bid (**Appendices A and B**).
 - (b) Update regarding a possible Concessionary Travel Scheme for young people.

Information and advice

Background

- 2 At its meeting on 13 June 2007, the Cabinet Committee considered the following:
 - a. The Sustainable School Travel Strategy for Nottinghamshire 2007 - 2011
 - b. The potential for a bid for School Travel Pathfinder Status
 - c. Concessionary Travel for Young People
3. At its subsequent meeting, Cabinet approved the Sustainable School Travel Strategy for publication on the NCC website in August 2007. Cabinet requested that consultation on outline Pathfinder proposals be undertaken.

Progress re the consultation and drafting of the School Travel Pathfinder application

4. **Appendix A** "Travel to school in Nottinghamshire; A school travel pathfinder scheme" is the consultation document currently in circulation to stakeholders county wide. The consultation period closes on Friday 19 October 2007, and responses will be analysed in order to inform the shape of the final bid proposal. The feedback and the bid will be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 14 November 2007.
5. Currently responses received to the consultation are in excess of 1,065.
6. Further clarification has been received from the DCSF regarding Pathfinder funding and requirements. Up to £12million is available for up to 20 Local Authorities (LAs) for the duration of the scheme, ie; start up or pump priming funding in 2008 / 2009, followed by funding for the implementation of schemes between September 2009 and April 2013. This is comprised of the following:
 - a. Up to £200K per successful bid as start up funding 2008 – 2009
 - b. £1.3M for 2009 /2010, to be shared by up to 20 LAs, the proportion of this per LA will be dependent upon the detail of the proposals
 - c. £3.7M for 2010 / 2011 also across all the participating LAs
 - d. £5.1M for 2011/ 12 (as above)
 - e. £7.3M for 2012 /2013 (as above)
 - f. Charging is not an essential requirement of schemes, though the DCSF wishes to see affordability and sustainability in the proposals
7. The DCSF has been made aware of concerns in Nottinghamshire and other interested LAs about the proposed distribution of funds across the lifespan of the scheme. Modelled in this way, there are reservations that this will limit the extent to which innovative schemes can be implemented. It is being argued that it would be significantly more beneficial to 'front load' the amount available to optimise the impact of the programmes.
8. Further progress is being made in relation to preparing a bid while the consultation is underway, including;
 - a. Discussions with Local Authorities of Cheshire, Norfolk and Nottingham City to propose a sharing of good practice and innovation between the LAs as an element of each bid. Cheshire is seeking to build on developments in chain already including enhanced cycling schemes in partnership with Sustrans. Norfolk is exploring a targeted approach in discrete localities, focusing on improved access to post 16 education, and a specific concessionary scheme for 14 – 19s. Nottingham City is considering options to improve school link services. Other LAs of Lincolnshire, Suffolk and Essex with whom we have been in discussion are not proposing to progress a bid at this stage but may do so at a later date

- b. Through collaborative working, we are able to share expertise and resources in the drafting of each bid
- c. A very early draft bid for Nottinghamshire is available **Appendix B**, and will be developed and amended subject to receipt and collation of responses to the extensive consultation process.

Concessionary Travel Scheme

- 9. Broad proposals for a scheme have been discussed with the major transport operators who have indicated their support in principle and willingness to work with the council on the scheme. The County Council is currently considering its funding position for 2008 / 2009 and an indication of the budget required to introduce a concessionary fare scheme for young people has been submitted. If introduced with effect from September 2008, in advance of, or in the absence of a Pathfinder scheme, costs would be in the region of £1M for a part year, or £1.5M for the full year. This could benefit over 50,000 young people across the county.
- 10. It may be necessary to phase in a scheme subject to availability of funding. The introduction of a scheme would require a 9 – 12 month lead in period to enable regulatory requirements to be met, and to allow for effective marketing and awareness raising.

RECOMMENDATION

- 11. It is recommended that the Cabinet Committee;
 - (1) notes the proposed early draft School Travel Pathfinder application, **Appendix B**,
 - (2) notes the latest position re a Concessionary Travel Scheme for young people

DR ROBERT GARNETT

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Background papers available for inspection

Nil.

Electoral division(s) affected

Nottinghamshire

M19C1938