

Timeline of Events

- **June 17th 2014** - Elected Members agreed to review the Transport Policy at the Freedoms and Flexibilities Members Workshop.
- **July 2014** - Education and Transport Officers undertook detailed work on the financial and operational aspects of the review to prepare consultation documentation.
- **August 8th 2014** - Hard copies (Welsh and English) of Draft Policy were sent to all parents of pupils in years 7 – 11 accessing school transport in September 2014. This was sent via first class mail.
- **August 12th 2014** - Consultation published on the Denbighshire Website and press release completed.
- **August 13th 2014** - Email copies of consultation papers sent to all consultees as follows:
 - Conwy County Council;
 - Flintshire County Council;
 - Wrexham County Council
 - The Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and the Wrexham Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority;
 - Head teachers;
 - Chairs and Clerks of Governors of all schools;
 - All Denbighshire County Councillors;
 - All Assembly Members and Members of Parliament;
 - Internal Staff;
 - City, Town and Community Councils;
 - Welsh Strategic Group;
 - School Business & Finance Managers
- **September 9th 2014** – Report to Full Council at which members resolved that *‘members received and considered the Revised Home to School Transport Policy, which would also be presented at Scrutiny and Cabinet’*
- **September 11th 2014** – Report to Communities Scrutiny at which members resolved that subject to the comments made at the meeting recommend to Cabinet that from September 2015 onwards –
 - (a) *Free school transport should be provided to each pupil in secondary education who qualifies for free transport, from a designated pick-up point to their ‘nearest suitable school’, and that pupils who are currently attending a school which is not deemed to be their ‘nearest suitable school’, being given free transport until such time as they cease to attend that school;*
 - (b) *Concessionary travel should be available at designated pick-up points to new pupils who choose not to attend their ‘nearest suitable school’ only if surplus places are available on already commissioned school transport, and*
 - (c) *For clarity the name of the policy should be amended to ‘Home to School Transport Eligibility Policy’.*
- **September 12th 2014** - Consultation closes at 5pm.

- **September 13th, 14th & 15th 2014** - Consultation responses collated
- **September 16th 2014** - Papers for Cabinet finalised
- **September 30th 2014** – Report taken Cabinet. Some concerns were raised at the meeting. Cabinet asked that an impact review of the policy be undertaken following its implementation. Cabinet resolved that it :
 - (a) agrees to amend the existing policy to introduce central pick up points for all secondary school pupils;*
 - (b) notes the full policy in Appendix 1 to the report which in summary will provide free transport to the nearest suitable secondary school from a designated pick up point;*
 - (c) allows existing secondary school pupils to continue to access free transport for the remainder of their existing statutory school life from a central pick up point;*
 - (d) notes there is no change to transport for primary school pupils;*
 - (e) agrees that the recommendations above be implemented immediately in accordance with the Council's call in procedure rules contained in the constitution in light of the circumstances set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report;*
 - (f) requests that the Welsh in Education Strategic Group review the language categorisation of all schools during the autumn term and present a report to Scrutiny in early spring 2015, and*
 - (g) an assessment of the impact of the review of the policy be conducted and presented to Scrutiny at the end of the first year of implementation.*
- **1st October 2014** - New Policy published and sent to all schools on 30th Sept 2014
- **May 2015** – Letter sent to parents confirming changes to the policy and that pick-up points will be implemented from Sept 2015. Also sent to schools for distribution to affected parents.
- **3rd July 2015** – The draft list of pick-up points was sent to Councillors for consideration.
- **7th July 2015** – Informal Council meeting to discuss the draft pick-up points. Some minor changes made after consultation.
- **Week beginning 10th August 2015** - Letters sent to parents detailing their designated pick-up point and times.
- **Week beginning 17th August 2015** – Letters sent to the parents of pupils attending St Brigid's, because of the nature of the school with primary and secondary pupils sharing the same bus.