

# MEMBERS HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEALS PANEL

Monday, 14 May 2018

**PRESENT:** Councillor H.A.L. Evans (Chair)

**Councillors:**

G. Davies and D. Thomas

**The following Officers were in attendance:**

S. Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways

L. McFarlane, Learner Travel Policy & Development Officer

K. Morris, Assistant Solicitor

S. Williams, Senior School Organisation Officer

A. John, Assistant Solicitor

M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer

**Democratic Services Committee Room, County Hall, Carmarthen 10.45 am - 10.59 am**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of Personal Interest were made at the meeting.

**3. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 that the following item was not for publication as the report contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**4. TO CONSIDER AN APPEAL BY APPLICANT KK AGAINST A DECISION OF THE AUTHORITY FOR THE NON-PROVISION OF FREE SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute 3 above, not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to a particular individual. The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report included personal information relating to the applicant. Although disclosure would support transparency and accountability in the decision making process, the public interest in maintaining confidentiality outweighed the public interest in disclosure because of the need to protect the identity of the applicant and the family.

The Chair welcomed officers from Legal, Environment and Education & Children Services to the meeting. The Panel considered the written representations of the appellant in respect of the refusal of the Stage 1 Review Panel to grant K.K. free school transport to the nearest LEA designated school which was located within the statutory walking distance and therefore, did not meet the criteria outlined in the Council's policy for the provision of assistance. The Panel considered the observations of the departmental officers, together with the individual

circumstances of the case. The Panel also sought clarification on elements of the Authority's Home to School Transport Policy, the availability of public transport from K.K.'s home address to the designated school and also the assessment of the walking route to the school undertaken in accordance with Welsh Government Guidelines.

**RESOLVED** that in line with the Authority's Home to School Transport Policy, the appeal be refused on the basis K.K.'s home address was located within the statutory walking distance of the designated Local Education Authority School and that the walking route had been assessed as being suitable in accordance with Welsh Government Criteria.

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CHAIR

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DATE