

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: AWARD OF A SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONTRACT (TO
ST MODAN'S HIGH SCHOOL) - UPDATE FOR MEMBERS**
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 24 June 2009
Author: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Education Services have produced this report to address the queries raised by elected members at Policy and Resources Committee on 2 June 2009, in relation to the above school transport contract.
- 1.2 The paper in question sought committee approval to accept a tender for a four year bus contract to the cumulative value of £483,360 to provide transport to St Modan's High in Stirling for pupils from the Denny area. This would replace the current season ticket arrangement and result in financial savings to the council.
- 1.3 Members asked that if the contract was changing for pupils attending St Modans High School from season ticket to contract passes, would there be any additional cost for pupils who missed the morning bus or the afternoon bus if they were attending after school activities.

2. IMPLICATIONS FOR PUPILS

- 2.1 For pupils missing the school bus in the morning because they have had to seek emergency medical or dental treatment, there is a facility for schools to reimburse the cost of bus fares.
- 2.2 For pupils that miss the morning bus due to their late arrival at the agreed pick up point, then they must complete the journey at their own expense and no reimbursement of fares will be made. This is the same for all Falkirk Council pupils travelling to school on contracted bus services.
- 2.3 For after school activities, the school will be provided with bus vouchers that can be issued to pupils. They can use these vouchers on any First service at no cost to themselves.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are currently no additional costs for pupils travelling outwith normal times, as this is covered by the season tickets.
- 3.2 Based on information provided by St Modan's, it is estimated that the cost of issuing bus vouchers for pupils travelling from after-school activities would be approximately £4,000/year at most.

- 3.3 The cost of reimbursing pupils attending emergency medical or dental treatment is not easy to estimate, but we estimated this cost to be less than £500/year.
- 3.4 Taking the additional costs of £4,500 into consideration, the annual cost of the contract will be £125,340. This represents a saving of £14,660 over the current annual season ticket cost of £140,000. Over the four year period of the contract, this saving amounts to £58,640.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 **Members are asked to approve the award of this contract for school transport at £120,840 per annum, a cumulative value of £483,360 (plus an annual inflation element linked to the Retail Price Index as per conditions of contract).**

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Director of Education

Date: 16 June 2009

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil