

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 FEBRUARY 2023

REPORT ON: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE – REMOVAL OF TAXIS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING CITY CAMPUS/CONSORTIA ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 60-2023

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform committee of the savings proposed for financial year 2023-24 regarding travel costs associated with City Campus/Consortia arrangements.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended, with the introduction of free bus travel for all Under 22's, it is proposed to remove the current taxi arrangements for children attending Consortia Arrangements or the City Campus, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The implementation of this proposal will result in a saving amounting to £44,000 in financial year 2023/24 and £70,000 in a full financial year.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 The University of Dundee previously catered for City Campus for Advanced Higher Subjects not delivered in home schools. Young people travelled on service buses to City Centre to attend the University. This provision was for S6 pupils studying Advanced Highers. Since COVID, the City Campus has not returned to the University and the Campus classes are delivered on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon in the school where the delivering subject teacher is at. Currently these young people get a taxi to the host school from their own school and then to home.
- 4.2 It is proposed the City Campus will return to the University for session 2023/24 which will mean, with the introduction of free bus travel for all Under 22's, young people will be able to use the public bus service to attend their classes on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
- 4.2 There are a number of young people from S5 and S6 who travel to other schools on Consortia Arrangements for Highers and Advanced Highers. These are more frequent and can be daily for some young people. Currently a taxi is provided to take the young people to the delivering school and return to home school after the lesson. With the introduction of free bus travel for all Under 22's, young people will be able to use the public bus service, where appropriate.
- 4.3 In some circumstances it might still be necessary to provide taxi transport, but these should be far less frequent than has previously arisen.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of / mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Audrey May
Executive Director Children and Families Service

February 2023

Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: -2023

Document Title: Removal of taxis for young people attending city campus/consortia arrangements

Document Type: Other Description:

To inform committee of the savings proposed for financial year 2023-24 regarding travel costs associated with City Campus/Consortia arrangements.

Intended Outcome:

It is recommended, with the introduction of free bus travel for all Under 22s, it is proposed to remove the current taxi arrangements for children attending Consortia Arrangements or the City Campus.

Period Covered: 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024 Monitoring:

Chief Education Officer will review and evaluate the impact of the removal of taxis for young people attending city campus/consortia arrangements.

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Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: No Impact

Disability: Negative

With the removal of the taxi service, the young people will have to travel to their nearest bus stop and use public transport – this could potentially be more difficult for some of our young people. Mitigating action would be that the taxi service will be provided where necessary – as identified in the report.

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: No Impact

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: No Impact

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

Fairness & Poverty

Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	Not Known
Lochee:	Not Known
Coldside:	Not Known
Maryfield:	Not Known
North East:	Not Known
East End:	Not Known
The Ferry:	Not Known
West End:	Not Known

There potentially could be geographical impacts within wards as the frequency & availability of bus services vary across the city but the detail of this for each ward is not known. If a bus were to be late or not to turn up, for example, then the young person could miss their lessons. There may also be issues with being able to attend on time as it may take longer to get from A-B than a taxi would. Mitigating action would be that the taxi service will be provided where necessary – as identified in the report.

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: No Impact

Carers: No Impact

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Lone Parent Families: No Impact

Single Female Households with Children: No Impact

Greater number of children and/or young children: No Impact

Pensioners - single / couple: No Impact

Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact

Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact

Homeless: No Impact

Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact

Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: No Impact

Education & Skills: Not Known

It is not known whether the use of buses as the main mode of transport will impact on education and access to this provision - there may be issues re missing classes but if these arise, alternative transport provision will be looked at on an individual needs basis. Attendance will be carefully monitored and any issues addressed promptly.

Income: No Impact

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): No Impact

Affordability and accessibility of services: No Impact

Fuel Poverty: No Impact

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: No Impact

Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation: No Impact

Employment Opportunities: No Impact

Education: Not Known

It is not known whether the use of buses as the main mode of transport will impact on education and access to this provision - there may be issues re missing classes but if these arise, alternative transport provision will be looked at on an individual needs basis. Attendance will be carefully monitored and any issues addressed promptly.

Health: No Impact

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: No Impact

Overweight / Obesity: No Impact

Child Health: No Impact

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: No Impact

Transport: Positive

There is the potential for an increase in use of bus travel as a result of this move away from taxi provision.

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: No Impact

Adapting to the effects of climate change: No Impact

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: Positive

Reducing the use of taxis and replacing with better use of sustainable public transport will have a positive impact on this factor as it will result in fewer vehicles being used to transport young people to and from the College provision.

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: No Impact

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: Positive

Reducing the use of taxis and replacing with better use of sustainable public transport will have a positive impact on this factor as it will result in fewer vehicles being used to transport young people to and from the College provision. This may also give rise to a potential reduction of emissions.

Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: Positive

Potential for positive impact in relation to a reduction of emissions as increase in bus use will mean less individual taxi usage.

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: No Impact

Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic Assessment (SEA)? No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Corporate Risk

Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: Not Known

There might be the potential for political/reputational risk if there are issues with the provision of bus services, which are not within the Local Authority's control.

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: Positive

There could be a positive impact on economic and sustainability matters for council as the alternative mode of transport is the local bus service which is already in place across the city.

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: Positive

There is the potential for a positive impact on the environment as there will be a reduction in emissions with the move towards greater use of bus transport rather than taxis.

Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.