

Audit and Governance Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	20 September 2017
Officer	Head of Design & Development and Service Director - Economy
Subject of Report	SEN Transport
Executive Summary	<p>This paper and supporting information provides insight into the work currently being undertaken to address the costs associated with getting Children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) to school and care.</p> <p>The paper also looks at the wider issues that will impact on the choices we will have to make about how we use the transport that we own and the transport that we commission.</p> <p>The paper and supporting information highlights the increasing demand for Education, Health and Care Plans which in turn can, but not always mean an increase in travel costs.</p> <p>There are real opportunities throughout a review with public sector partners to integrate more fully our transport needs which in turn could provide a more flexible and cost effective way of transporting children and young people with SEND.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment: NO but any changes to policy will require EQIA's to be undertaken.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>We have used information from many sources to report on actual demand and future predictions both in terms of EHCP and where that translates into need for transport.</p> <p>We have reviewed best practice for other areas and through the activity indicated in the paper acted upon the learning that we made.</p>

SEN Transport

	<p>Budget: The unit cost per traveller is decreasing but this is being offset by the increasing demand for travel. This in turn creates budgetary pressure. The projected overspend in the current financial year is £1.2 million subject to outturn of new contract.</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Current Risk: HIGH/ Residual Risk HIGH</p> <p>The report covers the current work to address some very complex reasons and issues for this budget pressure. There are both financial and reputational risks</p>
	<p>Other Implications: As arrangements change either in the short or medium term consideration such as sustainable routes to school will need to be considered (independent travel training). Some children with SEND are also looked after and we need to be mindful of the corporate parenting principles that are now contained in legislation</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>The committee notes the content of the report and supporting material and request further updates on the progress being made.</p>
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<p>The committee will be able to fulfil its role in providing oversight and assurance of those things that present risk to the organisation.</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>Presentation/Score Card</p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	
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