

By: Dr M R Eddy, Chairman of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
Mr P Sass, Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

For: Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 8 April 2009

Subject: Kent Freedom Pass

Classification: Unrestricted.

Background

Members of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee discussed the issue of Kent Freedom Pass at our last meeting in February. Concerns were raised over:

- a. The eligibility under the scheme of children who live within the administrative county of Kent but who travel outside of the area to attend school;
- b. The possible adverse impact on the lawful rights of a number of young people to travel freely, together with details of the number of young people affected by what the Committee believes is an anomaly within the current scheme;
- c. An assessment of the degree to which the scheme is promoted across Kent and the takeup of the scheme particularly in areas of relative deprivation;

Information on the Kent Freedom Pass scheme states that

“For clarity, this means that non-Kent residents attending schools in Kent and Kent residents attending school outside of Kent (such as Medway, East Sussex, London etc) are not eligible to apply”. www.kent.gov.uk/kentfreedompass

Documents attached

- Information leaflet for parents and students
- The concessionary travel scheme for young people in Kent scheme definition (with effect from 1 April 2009)
- Participating schools – Scheme year 2009/10
- Participating operators – Scheme year 2009/10
- Terms and Conditions – Scheme year 2009/10

Possible Decisions

The Committee may either:

- a) comment to the Chief Executive and the relevant Managing Director;
- b) report to the Council;
- c) refer any issues arising from its debate for consideration by a Policy Overview Committee or the Cabinet.

Background Documents (available on request)

- a) Minutes of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee 10 February 2009
- b) Report to Cabinet 'Free Travel for 11 – 16 Year Olds' 3 December 2007
- c) Minutes of Cabinet 3 December 2007
- d) Report to Cabinet 'Free Travel for 11 – 16 Year Olds' 8 February 2007
- e) Minutes of Cabinet 8 February 2007