

## **APPENDIX 1**

- 1) Has the Education Department considered establishing its own fleet and the cost of doing this?

*Following a successful pilot during this year's Autumn Term, where the use of a fleet vehicle was trialled for the purpose of parallel education transport and adult transport, the education department will investigate further and pilot education transport in some areas. This gives an opportunity to calculate costs and to map possibilities for the future.*

- 2) What rights do the authority, and the transport providers have to terminate contracts?

*Conditions within the transport agreements enable the authority and the provider to terminate transport agreements. The conditions vary depending on the agreement.*

- 3) What kind of training is provided to taxi drivers and to people who escort children, especially in relation to special schools?

*Child protection training is provided by means of e-modules when a driver's badge is applied for, a certificate is obtained after completing the training as evidence. The certificate will need to be renewed every 3 years in parallel with the renewal of the driver badge.*

- 4) What are the DBS arrangements regarding education carriers?

*In relation to the authority's taxi drivers, the following applies:*

*"Update driver's license every 3 years so update DBS at the same time. In addition, a medical test certificate will be necessary. A record is kept on the taxi licensing department's database, and a warning/letter will be sent out in good time to remind that an update is necessary.*

*In relation to the authority's bus drivers, the following applies:*

*"Update DBS certificate every 3 years. A record of the data is kept on a spreadsheet in the transport department.*

*In relation to the authority's travel escort drivers, the following applies:*

*"Update DBS certificate every 3 years. Update First Aid certificate at the same time. A record of the data is kept on a spreadsheet in the transport department.*

- 5) What exactly are the rules regarding free transport?

*The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 (the Measure) sets out the legal framework that specifically applies to travel and transport provisions for learners traveling from home to school in Wales; with 'Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance' (The Guidance) published in 2014.*

*The Measure states that local authorities must*

- *Provide free transport from home to school for learners of compulsory school age who attend a primary school who live further than two miles from the nearest suitable school;*
- *Provide free transport from home to school for learners of compulsory school age who attend a secondary school who live further than three miles from the nearest suitable school.*

6) Is there any intention to review the qualifying distance for free transport?

*We will review the qualifying distances when reviewing the transport policy and follow guidance in the statutory requirements in doing so.*

7) Does the Transport Policy go beyond the legal requirement?

*In addition to what is stated in the statutory requirements, the authority offers empty seats as part of the empty seats scheme which generates additional income and facilitates transport for some learners. A free Post-16 Travel Pass is issued to transport learners to school or college although there is no statutory duty on the Council to do so.*

8) How do Gwynedd's education transport policies and overspend compare with other authorities?

*Recent national discussions suggest that authorities across Wales are facing the same challenges regarding increases in education transport costs, and the picture is very similar across the rural counties of Wales which have similar geographical challenges to Gwynedd.*

9) What are the arrangements when a school closes? Is there an attempt made to ensure that children go to the nearest school?

*Designating an alternative school for a situation when a school closes is part of the process of reviewing a school's future. Transport costs are part of the considerations, and revenue savings obtained from closing a school contribute to an increase in any transport costs due to the closure process.*