

CABINET STATEMENT

TITLE: HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

DATE: 24th September 2008

BY: Councillor Andrew Morgan, Cabinet Member for Transport and Customer Care:

As we all know, many families across Rhondda Cynon Taf have experienced problems with Home to School Transport, which I readily admit have been totally unacceptable. As Cabinet Member with responsibility for this subject, I would like to place on record that neither I nor any member of the administration or senior officer were made aware of any major difficulties prior to the start of school term.

Only days before, assurances were given to me that other than expected teething issues all was in order ready for the start of the new school term. It is now clear that was not the case, and for the difficulties experienced by the service users, I make a full and frank apology.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update Members on what we are continuing to do to resolve the situation.

Over the last year the Council has undertaken a huge piece of work in reviewing and re-tendering all the home to school transport provision for the 13,000 pupils who attend school via 600 separate routes across the County. This was in order to ensure a good standard of transport provision was provided at the best value for Council Tax payers and the most effective service for school pupils.

Unfortunately in introducing this process for the start of this term many problems came to light including issues with route discrepancies; contract arrangements; licensing; timescales; and pick up and drop off points. We fully recognise that despite our best efforts, many pupils and families did not receive the necessary information in time.