

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10 OCTOBER 2019

**Question to Philip White
Cabinet Member for Employability and Skills**

By Charlotte Atkins

Question

“The Cabinet Member and Leader know of the ongoing campaign by Perton Action for Safe School Travel (PASST) to ensure that appropriate transport options are in place for students going to and from local schools. Will the Cabinet Member and Leader meet with members of the group to discuss their concerns and help to find solutions to the current impasse?”

Reply

The authority is aware of the ongoing campaign of Perton Action for Safe School Travel (PASST). Their concerns were considered carefully by the county council during, and following, the conclusion of the stage 2 travel assistance appeal in December 2018.

The appeal concluded that the county council’s school travel policy and the law had been applied correctly, that there were no exceptional reasons why Perton should receive preferential treatment compared to other communities across Staffordshire and, therefore, that pupils who live below the statutory 3-mile walking limit were not entitled to free travel assistance.

Affected parents were advised that the county council’s two-stage review and appeal process had been exhausted and that the decision was final. Parents were advised of their right to complain to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, and following a complaint, the LGSCO advised the authority, in September 2019, of their intention to investigate.

Given that the Cabinet Member and Leader of the Council support the appeal decision and that an LGSCO investigation is ongoing it would not be appropriate for us to meet with the action group until that independent process has reached a conclusion.