

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr George Candler
Interim Chief Executive
North Northamptonshire Council
Corby Cube
George Street
Corby
NORTHANTS, NN17 1QG

Copy sent via email to: feedback@northnorthants.gov.uk

2nd October 2023

Dear Mr Candler,

RE: HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY CHANGES - PUPILS FROM THRAPSTON ATTENDING PRINCE WILLIAM SCHOOL IN OUNDLE.

Over the course of the weekend, I have received considerable correspondence from local parents, which I shall raise with you formally on an individual basis, relating to the recent changes made to the North Northamptonshire Council home to school transport policy.

Essentially, there is real concern that, in future, there will be no local authority service provided to pupils who live in Thrapston, but who need to get to school in Oundle at Prince William School. I understand that this is a somewhat anomalous situation that has come about through the wider changes made to the policy, that have minimal impact elsewhere. I also understand that there is sensible discretion allowed for within the policy to lay on a special service to meet a particular need, and I would hope and argue that circumstances such as this ought to qualify as such.

I am therefore writing to request that urgent attention is given to putting such exceptional provision in place, not least because of some of the perverse admissions choices some parents may - quite understandably - make, to try and circumvent this cost challenge, but which has the potential to displace other pupils from their more immediate local school, and ultimately end up costing more to rectify in the round.

I would of course be keen to meet to discuss this matter, alongside Councillor David Brackenbury, Councillor Wendy Brackenbury and Councillor Geoff Shacklock, who I know are actively engaged on this issue and have been consistently urging for sensible mitigation of this situation to be considered as part of the, now agreed, wider policy changes.

I very much look forward to hearing from you and trust that a sensible way forward can be identified. I would be grateful for your earliest response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE