

## RESPONSE TO PANEL QUESTION

Response to the further question to Place Directorate following meeting on 27 Sep:

**Q:** *Do we include in our discussions with transport companies any requirements about effective pollution management? Also how do we monitor and take account of their actual behaviours? For example ensuring that those who transport pupils, when waiting, ensure schools their engines are turned off to minimize pollution?*

**A:** The Council procures transport for those pupils who meet the criteria set by the Welsh Government for entitlement to free transport. Most of the transport for mainstream pupils is provided using buses and minibuses and that for pupils with additional learning needs is provided by minibuses and taxis.

All taxis used on school transport have to be licensed and comply with the Licensing Authority's vehicle standards for Hackney and private hire vehicles. The majority of vehicles are licensed by Swansea Council with some by Powys and Neath Port Talbot. Buses and Coaches must comply with Department for Transport vehicle standards.

With regard to contract services funded by the Council, the Home to School Transport Terms and Conditions of contract contain the following wording:

- No vehicle used in the performance of the Contract to wait on the public highway for longer than is necessary to pick up and set down passengers.
- Where layover time exceeds two minutes at any collection point, engines shall be switched off. The idling of vehicle engines should be kept to the minimum.
- No Vehicles used in the performance of Contracted Services shall be parked overnight on any public highway.
- All vehicles provided under the terms of this Contract shall be a maximum of 15 years old, for the duration of each contract except PSV minibuses with 9 to 16 passenger seats which must be under 12 years old.

The Council employs a Survey Team of part time staff who monitor the operation of these service on site. In addition to this the Licensing division of the Council undertake their own monitoring of licensed taxi and private hire vehicles.