

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Long,
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00012

For publication

Subject: Proposed 16 - 19 Transport Policy Statement 2021-22

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to Kent Post-16 Transport Policy Statement

Reason(s) for decision:

- 1.1 KCC has a duty to consider applications for transport and is required to enable access to education. In most circumstances it meets this duty through the KCC 16+ Travel Saver pass. This is a generous discretionary scheme which aids access to both education and employment with training. Learning providers, at their discretion, can subsidise this using bursary funding and we would expect bursary to be provided for up to 50% of the cost for low income families.
- 1.2 KCC has a duty to consult on and publish its Post 16 Transport Policy Statement each year. Whilst there is no statutory duty to provide transport for Post 16 Learners, there is a duty to consider applications for assistance with transport and to enable access to education and training to age 18 years. The transport policy sets out how KCC will meet this duty and what learners can expect by way of support.
- 1.3 While the ongoing uncertainty around COVID-19 means that some questions remain as to how school/college transport will be provided in the forthcoming academic year, it is important that sufficient transport provision is available for those families and learners who need it. While current government guidance on transport advises that journeys be kept to a minimum, it does acknowledge that alternative options will not be available for all travellers and so ensures that remaining transport options are as safe as possible. As the current year's policy did not limit KCC's ability to make these necessary adjustments, no significant changes have been made for the 2021/22 academic year. Officers will continue to monitor how the pandemic develops, alongside any changes in government guidance to ensure that the transport offering remains suitable.
- 1.4 Schools, colleges and learning providers have been consulted, as have their students. Neighbouring local authorities and Public Transport have also been included in the consultation, as have parents. The consultation on the proposed policy ran until the 5 March 2021. Due to the pre-election period, the outcome of the consultation was considered at an earlier Committee meeting than usual. As a result, the initial Committee report was based on nearly 5 weeks' worth of consultation responses, with an addendum circulated shortly before the meeting to update statistics and key themes.
- 1.5 The policy is attached as Appendix A, a summary of consultation responses is attached as Appendix B. A copy of the consultation document can be found at

www.kent.gov.uk/post16transport

Financial Implications

2.1 The scheme is uncapped and costs will vary depending on take up levels and journeys undertaken by cardholders. Whilst KCC is not directly funded to support any transport requirements for learners over the age of 16, KCC has made significant financial commitments to Post 16 Transport. The LA commits in excess of £5 million on Post 16 Transport and draws an income of less than £2 million. Numbers fluctuate from year to year, particularly following the limitations imposed by COVID-19, however the total subsidy usually averages around £3 million per annum.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

This decision will be considered by Children and Young People cabinet Committee on 9th March 2021

A consultation was held between 25 January to 5th March 2021 [Post 16 Transport Policy 2021-22](#)

Any alternatives considered:

All alternatives will be considered following the consultation period.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

Signed.....

Date.....