

## **Outcomes of the Public Consultation**

KCC held a public consultation on the proposed post 16 transport policy which ran from 26 March 2015 to 21 May 2015.

There were a total of 199 written responses to the consultation. Responders were asked to categorise the aspects of the Transport policy Statement on which they wished to comment into 4 themed areas. Some respondents commented on more than one theme which explains discrepancy in total comments.

- Eligibility criteria for applying for support (27 comments)
- The 16+ Travel Card (155 comments)
- Types of Travel Available (50 comments)
- Another aspect of the policy (24 comments)

Of these responses

120 responses were received from parents/carers  
46 responses were received from a pupil/student in Yr12 -14  
29 responses were received from a pupil/student in Yr7 – 11  
2 responses were received from a representative on behalf of a learning provider.  
2 responses were received from other parties.

Of the 120 parent/carers that took part in the consultation, 75% responded that their child(ren) did not currently use the Travel Card. This could possibly indicate that these parents/carers are responding to the consultation this year (even though there are no suggested changes to the policy) because for them their child might be making the transition to Post 16 education so will therefore be transitioning between the Young Person's Travel Card and the Post 16 Travel Card which have different associated costs.

## **Comments about the Policy**

The majority of the 170 responses given about the policy felt the cost of the card was too expensive (102 comments). Comparisons between the Young Persons Travel Pass and the Kent 16+ Travel Card were made especially by parents who have students in school using both passes.

The next single biggest issue was the requirement for children to remain in education by law (26 comments).

The inclusion of rail travel on the card was also a theme (12 comments). Because of the difficulties for some students, living in rural areas, to travel to school/college using the bus network, the use of the Travel Card on trains is considered to be as important for students to be able to access their education.

13 comments supported The Travel Card especially with the extended use at weekends and holidays.

### **Equality and Diversity**

The assessment from the consultation shows that of those responses received, the following ethnic groups were identified with 9 responses preferring not to say.

White English 160  
White Scottish 6  
White Welsh 1  
White Other 9  
White/Black Caribbean 3  
Asian or Asian British: Indian 2  
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi 1  
Black or Black British: Caribbean 1  
Black or Black British: Other 1

The following responses identified themselves under the Equality Act 2010 as follows

6 responses considered themselves disabled  
175 responses did not consider themselves disabled  
14 responses preferred not to say.

There were no comments made with regard to those respondents who do consider themselves disabled. However, included within the respondents who do not consider themselves disabled were the following comments:

*Your equality impact statement does not take into consideration those children and young people that are not currently catered for under the disability transport scheme.*

*Equality for all. Why have different terms for post 16. ? Education is important at all ages.*