

Outcomes of the Public Consultation

KCC held a public consultation on the proposed post 16 transport policy which runs from 21 March 2016 to 9 May 2016.

As of 27 April 2016, there were a total of 85 responses to the consultation, which is a significant decline from last year, in spite of similar consultation methodologies being used. 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 (15 comments)
- The 16+ Travel Card (65 comments)
- Types of Travel Available (18 comments)
- Another aspect of the policy (13 comments)

Of these responses

42 responses were received from parents/carers

36 responses were received from a pupil/student in Yr12 -14

3 responses were received from a pupil/student in Yr7 – 11

4 responses were received from a representative on behalf of a learning provider.

0 responses were received from other parties.

Of the 42 parent/carers that took part in the consultation, 62% 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 73 responses given about the policy felt the cost of the card was too expensive (49 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 (24 comments).

The inclusion of rail travel on the card was also a theme (11 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.

3 comments suggested that they would prefer to be able to pay for the card on a monthly basis.

3 comments stated that it was unfair that every student was charged the same amount as travel requirements vary.

2 comments complained that pensioners are provided free bus passes when students are required to pay.

2 comments raised concerns that the policy was too difficult to understand.

3 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 11 responses preferring not to say.

White English 63
White Scottish 1
White Irish 1
White Other 2
White/Black Caribbean 1
Mixed: White and Asian 3
Mixed: Other 1
Asian or Asian British: Indian 1
Asian or Asian British: Other 1

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

5 responses considered themselves disabled
70 responses did not consider themselves disabled
10 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.