

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

18/00016

For publication

Subject: Post-16 Transport Policy Statement

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, I agree the final 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 16+ Travel Card. This is a generous discretionary scheme which aids access to both education and employment with training. The card will continue to be made available at the agreed cost of £400 a year with no limit on the level of use. Following feedback to last year's consultation, the pass will now be made available through a centralised application process to KCC. 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. The transport policy sets out how KCC will meet this duty and what learners can expect by way of support.
- 1.3 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 8 April 2018.
- 1.4 The Vacant Seat Payment Scheme allows some learners, including those in sixth forms and colleges, to purchase a spare seat on vehicles that KCC hires to transport eligible learners to their place of learning. There is currently a disparity between the cost of VSPS and the 16+ Travel Card, which can create an additional financial burden on Kent families who cannot make use of the 16+ Travel Card. This year's consultation proposed to reduce the price of VSPS from £490 per annum, to £400, the same price as the 16+ Travel Card.
- 1.5 The policy is attached as appendix 1 and a copy of the consultation document and the equalities impact assessment can be found via the following link: www.kent.gov.uk/post16transport

Financial Implications

- 2.1 The scheme is uncapped and costs will vary marginally depending on take up levels and journeys undertaken by cardholders. We would expect the level of subsidy required for the 16+

Travel Card to be broadly similar in 2018-19.

2.2 The proposed reduction in VSPS pricing will likely result in a yearly loss of revenue in the region of £9k however this is in the context of a £2.37m overall spend on Post 16 mainstream and SEN transport.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

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.....