

## Outcomes of the Public Consultation

KCC held a public consultation on the proposed post 16 transport policy which ran from 26 February to 8 April.

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 from 26 February until the 8 April 2018. It was promoted in the following ways:

- KELSI bulletin
- Emails to stakeholders
- Letters to parents that have purchased the 16+ Travel Card
- Posters to be used by learning providers to promote the consultation to students

Were there any other responses received, perhaps by letter/email from learning providers, Public transport, Neighbouring authorities etc expressing their views? If so, views can be summarised in this doc.

There was a total of 91 responses to the consultation, including 2 responses from via post. 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 (8 comments)
- The 16+ Travel Card (81 comments)
- Types of Travel Available (19 comments)
- Another aspect of the policy (14 comments)

Of these responses

70 responses were received from parents/carers  
 16 responses were received from a pupil/student in Yr12 -14  
 1 response was received from a pupil/student in Yr7 – 11  
 3 responses were received from a learning provider  
 1 response was received from other parties

The majority of parent/carers and pupils/students who took part in the consultation currently use the travel card.

## Comments about the Policy

Responses to the consultation were consistent across the different groups.

The majority of the 83 responses that left comments about the policy felt the cost of the card was too expensive (36 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 biggest issue was the requirement for children to remain in education by law (23 comments).

The inclusion of rail travel on the card was also a theme (3 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.

12 comments were made about the poor levels of service in the public bus network. This related to overcrowding, lateness, unhelpful drivers and a general lack of usable information.

15 comments suggested that they would prefer to be able to pay for the card on a monthly or instalment basis. 4 comments requested that parents be given the option of purchasing a 16+ Travel Card that had the same limitations at the Young Person Travel Pass (excluding weekend and evening travel), but at a reduced cost. Public Transport are currently investigating whether this is possible for KCC's Young Persons Travel Card and if this is achievable, further work will be completed to ascertain whether this option can be made available for 16+ Travel Card applicants.

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

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

### **Vacant Seat Payment Scheme (VSPS)**

Parents were asked if they agreed with a reduction in the cost of VSPS from £490 to £400. The following responses were received:

|            |    |       |
|------------|----|-------|
| Agree      | 59 | (67%) |
| Disagree   | 3  | (3%)  |
| Don't know | 26 | (30%) |

### **Equality and Diversity**

Where these numbers do not aggregate to the total number of submissions, it is as a result of the respondent choosing not to answer the question.

The assessment from the consultation shows that of those responses received, the following ethnic groups took part:

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| White English                 | 74 |
| White Scottish                | 2  |
| Asian or Asian British: Other | 1  |

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Black or Black British: African  | 1 |
| Black or Black British: Other    | 1 |
| Mixed: White and Black Caribbean | 1 |
| White Welsh                      | 1 |
| White Other                      | 1 |
| Prefer not to say                | 7 |

The following responses identified their gender as follows:

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Male              | 16 |
| Female            | 65 |
| Prefer not to say | 8  |

When asked if the responded considered themselves disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010:

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Yes               | 1  |
| No                | 86 |
| Prefer not to say | 2  |