

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

Roger Gough,  
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and  
Education

**DECISION NO:**

19/00017

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

***Each year KCC has a legal duty to consult on its Policy for Post 16 Transport and publish a Post 16 Transport Policy Statement by the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.***

**Subject: Post 16 Transport Policy 2019-20**

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, I agree to the Kent Post-16 Transport Policy Statement and for it to be published by 31 May 2019.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

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. The card will continue to be made available at the agreed cost of £400 a year with no limit on the level of use. 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.

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.

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 7 April 2019.

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](http://www.kent.gov.uk/post16transport).

**Equality Implications**

The consultation and Equality Impact Assessment can be found via this link.  
[www.kent.gov.uk/post16transport](http://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. We have seen an overall reduction in uptake during the course of the last year of about 1000 learners, this has had a financial implication which has meant that income levels are reduced and those using the passes are doing so extensively which is increasing the unit cost of the scheme. For the last 2 years the scheme has required the cards to be purchased on-line and some learning providers have had difficulty developing a purchasing mechanism for their bursary learners this has resulted in them buying saver cards direct from operators for some of their learners and we will continue to explore ways in which we can try to make the scheme

more accessible to those establishments which wish to make bulk purchases. It is therefore difficult to predict overall costs for 2019/20, however, we would expect the level of subsidy required for the KCC 16+ Travel Saver Pass to be similar to the overall cost in 2018-19 where income was in the region of £2.24m and the costs amounted to £3.5m resulting in a net subsidy of £1.26m. In addition, Post 16 SEN transport is also funded in full at a cost in the region of £1.9m.

### **Legal Implications**

Each year KCC has a legal duty to consult on its Policy for Post 16 Transport and publish a Post 16 Transport Policy Statement by the 31 May.

### **Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The CYPE Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 7 May 2019 considered the proposal and the minute extract is as follows:

#### **Minutes:**

103. 19/00017 - Post 16 Transport Policy Statement 2019/20  
(Item 8)

Mr Bagshaw (Head of Fair Access) was in attendance for this item.

1. Mr Bagshaw introduced the report which set out the Post 16 Transport Policy for 2019-20.

Mr Bagshaw then responded to comments and questions from Members, including the following: -

a) Mr Bagshaw talked about the costs associated with the 16+ travel card and said that whilst a full charge was applied by the local authority, schools and colleges in receipt of bursary funding were able to apply that funding for low-income learners.

b) Mr Bagshaw said that instalment plans would be introduced for the 2019/20 academic year which would alleviate the pressure felt by low-income families when purchasing a 16+ travel card. He explained the introduction of on-line purchasing has made the process more straightforward for the majority of users, but added that some large college institutions in Kent have found it difficult to make payments in relation to the 16+ travel card scheme for their bursary learners.

c) Mr Bagshaw confirmed that he could provide more information to Members of the Committee outside of the meeting in relation to the potential impact of amending the scheme to one with reduced travel benefits at a discounted price.

d) Mr Bagshaw confirmed that an item could be brought to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss outcomes of communications between Kent County Council and rail operators with a view to discounted rail travel in the future.

e) Mr Bagshaw confirmed that he could provide more information to Members of the Committee outside of the meeting in relation to the amount of SEND children that had benefited from the 16+ travel card and the amount of SEND children that were in receipt of education, outside of mainstream colleges.

2. RESOLVED that the proposed decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to agree to the Kent Post-16 Transport Policy Statement to be published by 31 May 2019, be endorsed.

### **Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

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**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rogee' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**15 May 2019**

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**signed**

.....  
**date**