

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Shellina Prendergast,
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

22/00057

For publication

Subject: Correction to determined 16 - 19 Transport Policy Statement 2022-23

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to the corrected Kent Post-16 Transport Policy Statement

Reason(s) for decision:

1.1 There is a legal requirement for post 16 learners to stay in education, training or work-based learning until they reach 18 years of age, and as young adults there is an expectation they will contribute to the cost of their travel in most circumstances. 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.

1.2 Local Authorities are required to consult on a Post 16 Transport Policy Statement each year by the 31 May, which explains how they intend to support Post 16 learners in the forthcoming academic year. Education Cabinet Committee discussed the 2022-23 Policy Statement on 1 March 2022 and the policy was determined by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills shortly thereafter.

1.3 Following the conclusion of these activities, Officers were informed that the Wheels 2 Work scheme, which is managed externally to the team and which is referenced within the policy, will cease to be offered from the end of the 2021/22 academic year as a result of lack of use.

1.4 It is therefore necessary to remove references to the Wheels 2 Work scheme from the Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2022-23. All remaining transport support options are unchanged.

Financial Implications

2.1 The scheme is uncapped and costs will vary depending on take up levels and journeys undertaken by cardholders, it is therefore difficult to predict overall costs for 2022-23. The current cost of the post 16+ KTS is around £2.9m of which £2.0m is funded from the recharge of the pass. The remaining subsidy of £0.9m is met from the revenue budget. The 2022-23 MTFP includes a saving of £0.350m from increasing the KTS 16+ pass cost from September 2022 to £500. In addition, the Home to school transport revenue budget also subsidises the Post 16 SEN Transport offer. This numbers fluctuate from year to year, but the total subsidy remains between £4-5 million per annum. Kent Wheels to Work was not funded from these budgets and so will have no immediate impact. The decision is limited to the need to ensure that the Policy Statement remains accurate for the forthcoming academic year.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Children's, young People and Education Cabinet Committee will consider this decision on 19 July 2022.

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.....