

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: Post 16 Transport Policy Statement 2015

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to: the proposed Kent Post 16 Transport Policy Statement (appendix 1)

Reason(s) for decision:

- 1.1 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. The transport policy sets out how KCC will meet this duty and what learners in special circumstances can expect by way of support. This report sets out the proposed Post 16 Transport Policy to enable the LA to meet its statutory duty in relation to transport for Post 16 learners.
- 1.2 The attached policy makes it clear that in the first instance there is an expectation that learners will make use of the discretionary Kent 16+ Travel Card, seeking bursary funding support where necessary to access this as a preferred means of accessing their education or training provider but also sets out the duties on the LA to consider requests for transport from students in special circumstances. It remains similar to the existing policy.
- 1.3 The policy has been extended to enable the LA to assist (where appropriate) young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs) to access time limited support with transport to enable NEETs to attend interviews with prospective employers and learning providers.
- 1.4 The feedback to the annual formal consultation is similar to that which has been received in previous years. A summary is attached with more detail but the key theme remains discontent at the cost of the cards to the public. The price was reduced last year and commands an entirely discretionary subsidy from KCC in excess of £300k. These cards offer significant flexibility and end extremely good value for money compared with the price of normal fares. Rail remains a desirable element but it has not been possible to develop such a scheme with operators. Instead, KCC has written to the Transport Minister seeking the government to develop a National scheme to support this age group with accessible rail travel.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

15 April 2015

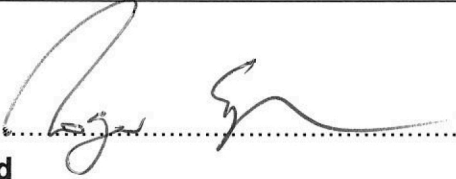
The Education and Young Peoples Services Cabinet Committee considered the proposed decision and discussed the continued support. The Committee voted in favour of the proposal and commented on the generosity of the 16+ Travel Card in these austere times. The committee

resolved to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that he agree to decision to approve the Post 16 Transport Policy Statement to be published by June pending feedback to the consultation.

Any alternatives considered:

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:
None

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Jones', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Date

22nd May 2015