

Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget Proposals 16/17: Home to School Transport – Other proposals		Caroline Corcoran - Service Manager	19 January 2016 Version 2 (Exec)
Proposal:	<p>To remove the discretionary entitlement to transport to the catchment school for primary school pupils.</p> <p>To make changes to the Fare Payer Scheme, with regard to train prices, sibling discount and bus prices, including changes to post-16 bus prices.</p>		
Total budget 15/16:	(Mainstream school transport): £1.6m	Recommended Officer saving 16/17:	£140,000 (9%)
Initial proposed saving 16/17:	£140,000 (9%)	Final recommendation to Executive 16/17:	To proceed with this savings proposal, without any modifications.
Nos. of responses:	<p>There were 5 responses from individuals about the Fare Payer Scheme proposals. We also took account of other comments made about elsewhere in the Home to School Transport consultation by users, which were related to but not specific about the Fare Payer price.</p> <p>There was one response about the proposal to remove the discretionary entitlement to transport to the catchment school for primary school pupils. This response supported the proposal.</p>		
Key issues raised:	<p>Concern that the price of £684 was too high and would be a burden on families, especially low income families.</p> <p>Suggestion that a lower rate is charged (especially for low income and rural families with post-16 students).</p>		
Equality issues:	None were drawn out from the responses.		
Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users:	Suggestion	Council response	
	Lower rate for low income families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-16 students from low income families can apply for bursary funding, which is provided from the government to schools and Colleges, and our website explains how this applies to different educational establishments. The price for all age groups can be paid in up to 8 instalments. 	
	Lower rate for rural families with post-16 students who rely on transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal retains a guarantee of a place on the school bus for post-16 students who live further than 3 miles away from their nearest or catchment school/College, although this is not a financial benefit for the families. The price can be paid in up to 8 instalments. The proposal includes the ability to consider exceptional circumstances for post-16 students on a case by case basis. 	

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Alternative options for applying the saving in this area:	Suggestion	Council response
	Parents would be willing to pay a small amount but expect the Council to subsidise the rest of the cost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="987 253 2112 320">• We would have to make savings elsewhere to be able to charge a lower rate, with a greater subsidy from the Council.
Suggestions for how others may help contribute:	No responses received	
Officer conclusion as a result of the responses:	The exercise has not highlighted any impacts that are not already anticipated.	
Officer recommendation as a result of responses:	Feedback has not uncovered any further issues which would prevent the council from proceeding with this proposal. It's therefore recommended to implement this proposal with no changes.	

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