

## Post 16 SEN Transport

### Background Information

#### **Proposals for Post 16 transport for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

##### **Introduction**

Recently post 16 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) travel arrangements have been analysed and a report taken to Sunderland City Council's Cabinet. A full copy of this report can be requested. Current financial challenges and reductions in budgets have resulted in a number of Councils both regionally and nationally reviewing their post 16 SEND transport arrangements. The Council will continue to organise and coordinate taxis for post 16 students with SEND who require them but will be seeking a contribution towards this cost. The cost will be related to the equivalent of an all zone travel pass which currently stands at £651. Within the proposal the Council would still fund the significant majority of transport costs for each young person eligible and there will be no contribution sought from low income families (the criteria for this being eligibility for free school meals or Higher Working Tax Credits) It should also be noted that the Council does not support the home to school/college arrangements for post 16 students who do not have SEND and families of these young people meet the full costs of transport themselves.

##### **What is currently provided?**

The Council currently procures taxis for 245 students with SEND that are 16 years old and above, 140 of which are 16 to 19 years old and 105 of whom are older than 19; this is at a cost to the Council of £591,797 per annum (£309,761 for 16-19 year olds and £282,036 for 19-25 year olds). The average cost of transporting a post 16 student by taxi transport is £2,415 within a range of £1,544 to £11,692 for those travelling the furthest afield within the region. No contribution has been sought from parents/carers of young person to date and the Council has always met these costs in full despite not legally being required to do so.

##### **What are our plans for the future?**

The Council is committed to ensuring it fulfils its home to school/ college transport duties in a way which is fair and flexible. The proposed contribution scheme still supports Post 16 SEND travel and seeks to be a supportive offer which is set within a context of significantly reduced resources for public sector organisations. The Council will continue to promote and support independent travel where this is possible and appropriate however it is recognised that for some young people travelling independently will never be an achievable outcome. In order to increase choice and flexibility with Home to School Transport the Council has also introduced a payment system for parents/carers who wish to fully coordinate their own transport requirements called the School Transport Mileage Rate (STMR). Rather than the Council organising taxi provision, parents and carers are able to receive an allowance to make their own travel arrangements. The rate payable is 45p per mile and is available to parents/carers when the cost of the journey through opting for the STMR is estimated to be the same or lower than the existing taxi arrangement.

### Question 1

**To begin with, please tell us, are you a**

*(please select one answer)*

- Headteacher ..... ☐
- SEN Parent/Carer - Post 16 ..... ☐
- SEN Parent/Carer - Pre 16 ..... ☐
- Non SEN Parent/Carer - Post 16 ..... ☐
- Non SEN Parent/Carer - Pre 16 ..... ☐
- Post 16 SEN Student ..... ☐
- Pre 16 SEN Student ..... ☐
- Member of the general public ..... ☐
- Other (please state in box below) ..... ☐

**Other**

### Question 2

**After reading the information provided, do you feel the proposed contributions of £651 per year (2016/2017) the council are asking for towards the cost of providing transport to school/college/further education for post 16 students is**

*(please select one answer)*

- Too low ..... ☐
- Too high ..... ☐
- About right ..... ☐
- Not sure ..... ☐

**If you wish to provide more information for your answer, please state them here**

**Question 3**

**Are you able to suggest any alternative options (with regards to Special Educational Needs transport) that could help the Local Authority provide this service for parents?**

**Question 4**

**If payment options were available for the proposed contribution, do you think that spreading the cost would help families manage the financial impact this may have?**

*(please select one answer)*

Yes ..... ☐ No ..... ☐

**If you were asked to pay a contribution for the transport, what payment method would you prefer?**

*(please select one answer)*

Monthly ..... ☐

Termly ..... ☐

Annually ..... ☐

Other ..... ☐

**If you have chosen other, please tell us your suggestions here**

#### Question 5

**If the proposed contribution charge is introduced, do you AGREE that there should be a zero cost for low income families? (Low income is defined as those in receipt of free school meals or higher Working Tax credit criteria)**

*(please select one answer)*

Yes, I agree ..... ☐ No, I disagree ..... ☐

**If you disagree to a zero cost option for low income families, please provide reasons here and what contribution do you feel would be reasonable?**

#### Question 6

**Would you personally be affected by the Council's proposal to seek a contribution towards the cost of providing the transport to school/college/further education for post 16 students?**

*(please select one answer)*

Yes ..... ☐ No ..... ☐

If you have answered yes and you would like to tell us how you would be affected, please do so here

If you have answered yes and the proposed charge was introduced, would this affect your decision to access/apply for the transport offered by the Council to transport you/the student to school/college/further education?

*(please select one answer)*

Yes ..... ☐ No ..... ☐

#### Question 7

**Are you aware of Independent Travel Training (ITT)?**

*(please select one answer)*

Yes ..... ☐ No ..... ☐

**If yes, would you/your child be interested in undertaking this training?**

*(please select one answer)*

Yes ..... ☐ No ..... ☐ Not sure ..... ☐

If "no" or "not sure", please use the box below to give any reasons why you would not be interested in the training and tell us if there is anything that may change your mind/opinion about this

**Question 8**

**Are you aware of the School Transport Mileage Rate (STMR) offered to parents/carers/young persons by Sunderland City Council?**

*(please select one answer)*

Yes ..... ☐ No ..... ☐

**If yes, would you be interested in taking part in this scheme if this was an option?**

*(please select one answer)*

Yes ..... ☐ No ..... ☐ Not sure ..... ☐

**If "no" or "not sure", please use the box below to tell us why and let us know if there is anything that may change your mind/opinion about this**

**If you would like any further information regarding Independent Travel Training or the School Transport Mileage Rate or if you are interested in applying for one of these options, please contact Paul Tomlin, Transport Lead on (0191) 561 2284.**

## About you

Sunderland City Council want to deliver the highest quality services to everyone, whatever their background. You are not required to complete any of these sections, but telling us about your background will help us to make sure that we are meeting the needs of all our communities. If you feel that the group you identify with is not listed feel free to write this in. All responses will be treated in confidence.

### Gender

#### Please specify your gender

(please select one answer)

Female ..... ☐

Male ..... ☐

Transgender ..... ☐

Prefer not to say ..... ☐

### Age

#### Please specify your age group

(please select one answer)

17 or under ..... ☐

18-24 ..... ☐

25-44 ..... ☐

45-59 ..... ☐

Over 60 years ..... ☐

Prefer not to say ..... ☐

#### How would you define your sexual orientation?

(please select one answer)

Heterosexual ..... ☐

Gay ..... ☐

Bisexual ..... ☐

Lesbian ..... ☐

Prefer not to say ..... ☐



## Ethnicity

**What is your ethnic group, choose ONE and tick the appropriate box**

*(please select one answer)*

### White

- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British* ..... ☐
- Irish* ..... ☐
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller* ..... ☐
- Any other White background* ..... ☐

### Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups

- White and Black Caribbean* ..... ☐
- White and Black African* ..... ☐
- White and Asian* ..... ☐
- Any other Mixed background* ..... ☐

### Asian or Asian British

- Indian* ..... ☐
- Pakistani* ..... ☐
- Bangladeshi* ..... ☐
- Chinese* ..... ☐
- Any other Asian background* ..... ☐

### Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

- Caribbean* ..... ☐
- African* ..... ☐
- Any other Black background* ..... ☐

### Other ethnic group

*(please select one answer)*

- Arab* ..... ☐
- Any other ethnic group* ..... ☐

### Other ethnicity

The above ethnic groups are those categories used on the 2011 census. If you feel that these categories do not represent your ethnicity please use your preferred description here e.g. Polish

**If you selected other, please write in your ethnic group in the box below**

### Religious belief

**What is your religion?**  
(please select one answer)

- No religion ..... ☐
- Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)  
..... ☐
- Buddhist ..... ☐
- Hindu ..... ☐
- Jewish ..... ☐
- Muslim ..... ☐
- Sikh ..... ☐
- Any other religion ..... ☐

### Other religion

**If you selected other, please write in your religion below**

### Disability

**Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?**  
(please select one answer)

- Yes ..... ☐ No ..... ☐

### Impairment

**If you are disabled, how would you describe your disability? (tick all that apply)**  
(please select all that apply)

- Visual impairment ..... ☐
- Speech impairment ..... ☐
- Hearing impairment ..... ☐
- Mobility (a wheelchair user) ..... ☐
- Mobility (not a wheelchair user) ..... ☐
- Mental health condition ..... ☐
- Long term medical condition ..... ☐
- Learning disability ..... ☐
- Hidden impairment ..... ☐
- Other ..... ☐

### Impairment other

**Please specify disability**

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