



Post-16 Transport Policy Statement Consultation Details

Name of Local Authority: Buckinghamshire Council

Department Responsible: Transport Services

What is the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement?

The Council has a statutory duty to prepare and publish an annual Post-16 Transport Policy Statement (the Statement). This Statement specifies the arrangements for transport that the Council considers it necessary to make in order to facilitate the attendance of sixth form students receiving education or training. The Statement is published in line with the statutory duties under the Education Act 1996, including s.509AA and s.509AB and takes into account the Department for Education statutory guidance – Post-16 transport to education and training - January 2019.

The Buckinghamshire Post-16 Transport Policy Statement provides information on travel and transport arrangements that are available to young people who are above statutory school age, which ends on the last Friday in June in the academic year in which they turn 16. The statement applies to any young person who lives in Buckinghamshire.

Why is Buckinghamshire Council consulting?

The Post-16 Transport Policy Statement is reviewed annually and was last consulted on in Autumn 2020.

What are the proposed key changes for the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement?

We are proposing to update the wording of the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement to make it clearer to parents by providing clarification and more detail to some parts of the Policy Statement. Changes proposed are:

- Section 2: Details of our consultation approach
- Section 4.1: More information added on special tickets for students
- Section 6.1: Clarification of the Personal Transport Budget offer
- Section 6.3: Clarification on Council organised transport for a fee, notification that the annual fee structure will be reviewed each year and the revised annual fee proposed for 2022-23
- Section 6.4: Clarification that to apply for the reduced annual fee the threshold for household income is £21,000 a year before deductions, that the severe financial hardship applications are reviewed by a panel and the reduced annual fee proposed for 2022-23
- Section 6.5: Clarification of the meaning of “a new course”
- Section 8.2: Clarification of when payments need to be made
- Section 12: Clarification on appeals process to reflect the Council’s current Home to School Transport Policy

We are also proposing a small increase in the annual fees and charges in line with inflation. We currently spend a significant amount on Post-16 SEND transport and these costs are rising every year. The annual fee for Council organised transport is a small contribution towards these costs. We are therefore proposing a 3% inflationary increase, based on Retail Price Index (RPI) as at September 2021, to the annual fee for Post-16 SEND Council organised transport from September 2022. This will increase the annual fee from £900 to £927 (£600 to £618 for the reduced fee) for the 2022-23 academic year.

The proposed changes are **highlighted in yellow** in the Draft Post-16 Transport Policy Statement document.

What is the scope of this consultation?

We are asking for feedback on the changes detailed above, which have been highlighted in yellow in the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement document.

We are not consulting on the continuation of charges for Post-16 educational transport from 2021/22, as this was consulted on in Autumn 2020. You can see more information and the outcome of that consultation on our [Home to School Transport Policy and Post-16 Transport Statement 2021/22 Consultation webpage](#).

The consultation process and how you can take part

The consultation will run from 18 October to 29 November 2021 and we would welcome your comments and opinions. We would like to hear your views and invite you to complete the short online questionnaire by visiting the consultation website at <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/integrated-transport/post16/>.

Alternatively, if you would like to receive a paper copy please call 01296 387439. The closing date for you to submit your feedback is Monday 29 November 2021.

Please be assured that the information you provide will be used only for the purposes of this consultation and will be kept confidential and stored securely in line with data protection laws.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document and provide your views. Updates on the consultation and subsequent decisions will be posted on our consultation website at <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/integrated-transport/post16/> after the consultation closes.

Next steps following consultation closure

The dates outlined below are all indicative.

- **Close of consultation:** 29 November 2021
- **Consideration of consultation feedback:** December 2021 – January 2022
- **Final Policy Statement agreed by Cabinet Member for Transport and Leader of the Council:** March 2022
- **Publication of the Post-16 Transport Statement:** April 2022