

School Transport Policy Review 2025

Equality Impact Assessment Summary

School transport policy review aims and objectives

The council's Home to School Transport Policy explains the rules for travel assistance for children aged 0-25 years. The council also has a duty to publish a Post-16 Transport Policy Statement each year. The school transport policies follow the law and current government guidance. Where we propose changes to these policies we must hold a public consultation.

The proposed changes to our school transport policies

- Make clear the travel assistance eligibility and offer for children aged 0 to 4 years and young people aged 16 to 25 years.
- Explain the travel assistance eligibility for pupils from low-income families.
- Explain when travel assistance will not be provided.
- State that transport for post-16 students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) won't start until payment arrangements are made.
- Reduce the detail for the Spare Seats scheme and link to the webpages instead.
- Reduce the detail in other areas, like public buses and trains, and link to those webpages instead.
- Add more information on Personal Transport Budgets and on transport eligibility for students with an education, health and care plan (EHCP), including post-16 students on supported internships.
- Add more information on Post-16 Council arranged SEND transport.

How these changes might impact service users

- Disability: The proposals aim to make the policies clearer.
- Race and Ethnicity: Making the policies easier to understand could help families who don't speak English as their first language.

How the council will consider the feedback

- When the consultation ends, we will read all the responses and summarise them.
- A report will state the consultation's feedback and explain how we could reduce any negative impacts.
- The report will be discussed by the Leader of the council and cabinet members, and a decision will be made.

Summary

The council want to make the school transport policies clearer and easier to understand. In some parts of the policies we have added more information. In other parts we have reduced the level of detail. Where we have taken out detail, we have linked to webpages for those who would like to know more.

We are asking people for their views on the proposed changes.