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| Committee: | Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness |
| Date: | 30 June 2014 |
| Title of Report: | Removal of community areas from the Home to School Transport policy. |
| By: | Director of Children's Services |
| Purpose of Report: | To seek agreement from the Lead Member that the removal of community areas from the Home To School Transport Policy (HTST) is not taken forward. |

Recommendation:

The Lead Member is recommended to

1) note the information contained in this report and the comments received during the recent consultation exercise; and

2) agree that this proposal is not taken forward

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The report to Lead Member on 11 November 2013 stated there was no discernible financial impact from the proposal, as any savings would depend on parents' preferences for schools for the 2015/16 and subsequent school years. However, it was recommended this course of action would enable to County Council to exercise some control over the HTST budget should a school choose to change their community area which could increase HTST costs for the Local Authority. This issue has the potential to impact in particular on rural authorities and Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire have removed community areas from their transport policy for this reason.

1.2 However the decision made by the Lead Member on 20 January 2014 to implement the existing HTST for children living in shared community areas as written, so that transport would only be provided where the pupil attends the nearest school and meets the eligibility criteria means that the financial risk associated with schools changing their community areas is no longer relevant.

1.3 If at some point in the future, the decision was taken to reverse the decision made on 20th January 2014 to only provide transport for pupils living in shared community areas who attend their nearest school and meet the eligibility criteria, the case for removing community areas from the HTST policy would need to be re-examined.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 Although the consultation documentation stated the County Council was considering removing community areas from the transport policy for all statutory aged pupils, the Lead Member is advised that the proposal relates to secondary aged pupils only. There were no proposals to change the current transport policy for primary aged pupils.

2.2 The consultation on the removal of community areas took place between 24 February 2014 and 3 April 2014. A total of 198 comments were received online and others were received by email and letter. All have been included together with a summary of the online responses as Appendix 3. The County Council recognises this was likely to be an unpopular proposal, and the percentage of online respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal totalled 88.18%, with 11.11% who agreed or strongly agreed.

2.3 In addition a meeting was also held with a number of headteachers. Following that meeting it was agreed that further work should be undertaken to understand better the impact on schools and look at whether there were alternative options.

Positive themes:

- 'To most parents choice of school is more important rather than free transport to that school.'
- 'Schools nearest would mean children attending schools where their class fellows are also in their locality'
- '.....all choices have consequences and if the consequence of not sending your child to the nearest school is that you incur transport costs then you need to bear that in mind when making your decision.'
- 'I am hoping it may open up school opportunities previously closed due to oversubscription.'
- 'This is overdue. For too long now the taxpayer has been subsidising transport for those who have access to schools close by but have had the luxury of free travel to a school many miles from their home.'

Negative themes:

- 'Parents should have the right to choose which school they send their children to when presented with a choice of more than one school without having the added worry of financial implications for school transport.'
- 'Children need the right to be educated at the best school for them disregarding if it is the nearest.'
- 'The serious reduction of choice of school for students and parents appears to be in stark contrast to the government's aim to give greater choice to parents in relation to their children's education.'
- 'The new transport arrangements could lead to fewer families choosing Burwash Primary School means it will affect my children and all pupils at the school because of less money intake.'
- 'I believe this is an unsuitable change to make in a rural area where transport links are not good for children to get to school.'

3 Conclusion and Recommendations

3.1 The Lead Member is asked to note the contents of this report and specifically that the financial risk associated with schools changing their community areas is not currently relevant and therefore it is recommended that the removal of community areas from the HTST policy is not taken forward.

3.2 If at some point in the future, the Lead Member decided to reverse the decision made on 20th January 2014 to only provide transport for pupils living in shared community areas who attend their nearest school and meet the eligibility criteria, the case for removing community areas from the HTST policy would need to be re-examined.

STUART GALLIMORE

Director of Children's Services

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Tel: 01273 335771

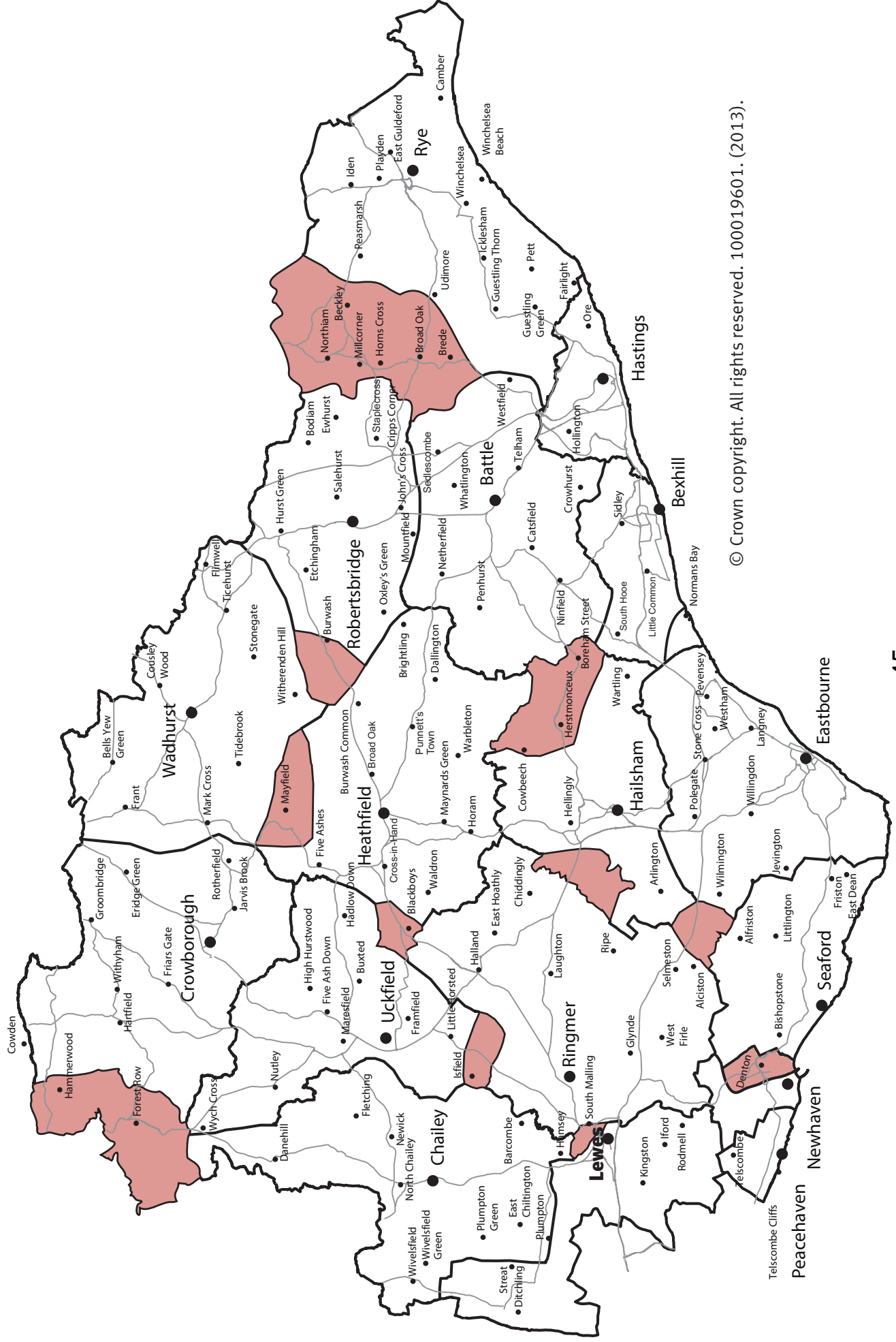
Local Members: All

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Community areas in East Sussex

Appendix 2 – Home to school transport policy for statutory aged pupils

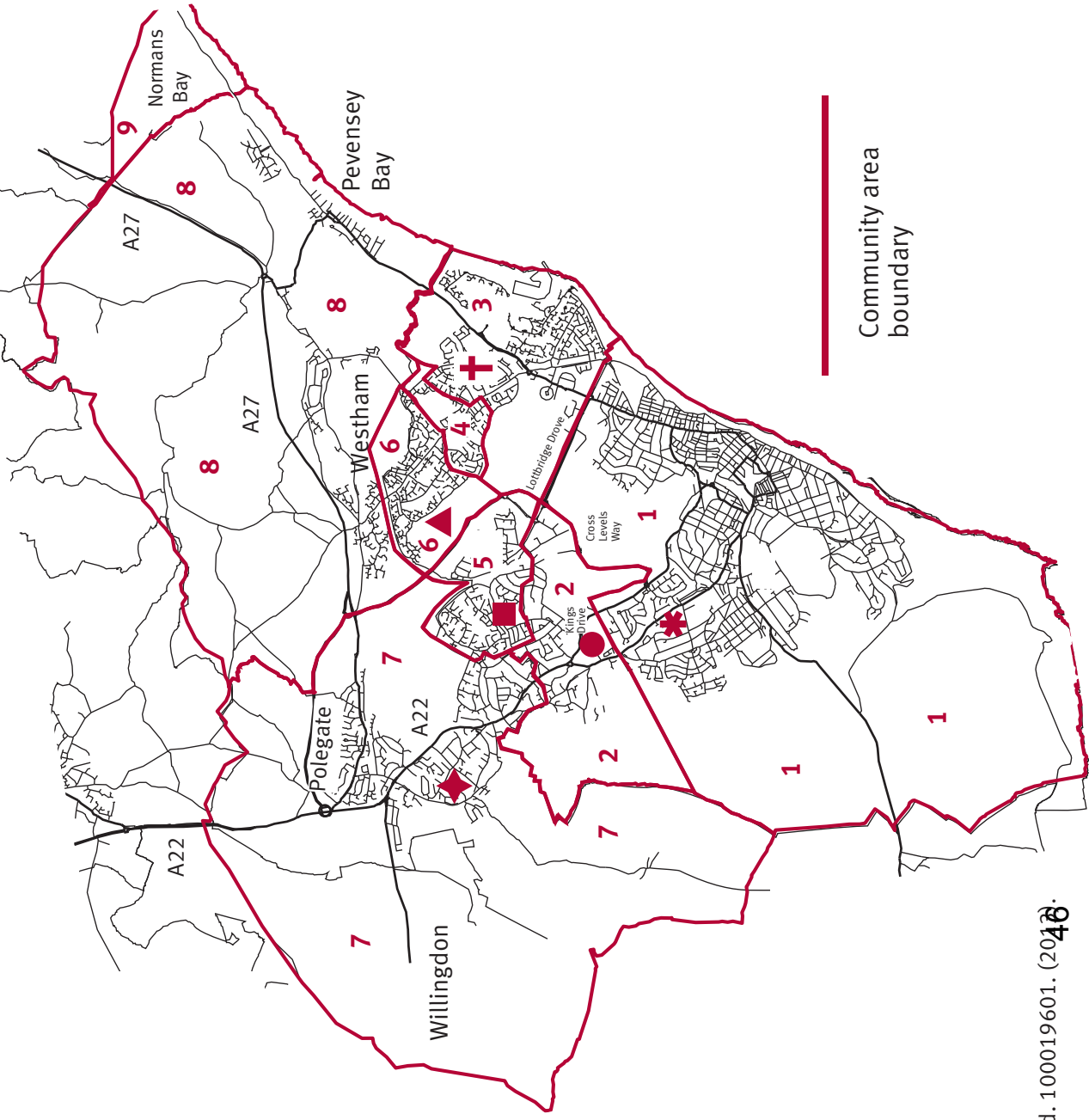
Appendix 3 – Replies to the consultation exercise.

Community areas for secondary schools



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Community areas for Eastbourne secondary schools



| Name and type of school | Areas served |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| GH Gildredge House > F | n/a |
| ● Rattton School Academy Trust > A | 1 and 2 |
| ✚ The Bishop Bell CE School > VA | 3 |
| ▲ The Causeway School > C | 3, 4, 6 and 8 |
| * The Cavendish School > A | 1 and 2 |
| ■ The Eastbourne Academy > A | 2, 5, 6 and 7 |
| ◆ Willingdon Community School > C | 7, 8 and 9 |



School Transport Policy

Date: modified on 5.9.13

Document summary

This document sets out the East Sussex County Council's home to school transport policy for pupils and students who are resident in the county. This policy takes account of obligations and discretions set out in the relevant legislation and regulations.

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Qualifying for home to school transport

The following circumstances explain when support can be given. If your situation does not fit the policy, then you will be responsible for making the transport arrangements.

Statutory walking distance

We will provide free transport between home and school for children over 8 years of age who live more than three miles (4828 metres) from the designated* school, or two miles (3218 metres) for children under 8 years of age. This is known as the **statutory walking distance**.

Distances are measured by the shortest available walking route using our Geographical Information System, taking account of, for example, passable public footpaths.

*The designated school is either the school suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude which serves the area in which the child lives, or if there is more than one school, the nearest school to the home which is suitable for the child and at which a place is available.

Route safety

Where parents challenge the suitability of a route to school, the Director of Transport and Environment will assess the route and report on its safety using nationally set standards. The standards assume that the child is accompanied by a responsible adult. To qualify for help the child must be attending the **designated*** school. If alternative safe routes are available within the statutory walking distance then no help will be given.

Low income groups

Children from low income groups are defined as those who are entitled to free school meals (for criteria go to - eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/meals/free) or those whose families are entitled to the maximum level of Working Tax Credit (WTC).

You can tell if you are in receipt of maximum WTC from your tax credit award notice issued by HM Revenue & Customs. Part 2 entitled 'How we work out your tax credits' includes details of WTC elements other than child care. It then lists 'any reduction due to your income'. You are in receipt of the maximum where the reduction shows nil (£0.00).

Primary age pupils – Children who qualify for assistance until age eight because their **designated*** school is more than two miles but less than three miles from their home, will continue to receive transport help if they are from a low income family.

Secondary age pupils – Children from low income families will qualify for free transport to one of their three nearest schools from where they live, provided the school attended is more than two miles but less than six miles. Distances up to two miles are determined by using the shortest available walking route whereas the six mile upper limit is measured using roads only.

Secondary age pupils attending church aided schools – Children from low income families attending the nearest church school preferred on grounds of religion or belief will qualify for free transport to that school if it is more than two miles but less than fifteen miles from home. Confirmation of baptismal status or support from the parish priest/minister is required.

Pupils unable to walk to school

Some children with SEN and/or a disability may not be able to walk even relatively short distances to school. Similarly, children with a mobility problem (including temporary medical conditions) may also be unable to walk to school.

To qualify for help, your child must be attending the **designated*** school. We will need to see medical evidence from a consultant or GP who must confirm the medical condition and that your child cannot walk the statutory distance. We will also need to know how long transport assistance is required and an indication of what mode of travel is appropriate. Where agreed, cases will be subject to review.

If you believe that your child needs help with the home to school journey due to their SEN or disability, you should call the Specialist Transport Officer on 0345 60 80 190 or email sen.transport@eastsussex.gov.uk for more advice.

Disabled parents/carers

If you are prevented from walking or accompanying your children on the home to school journey because of a disability, we may be able to assist with travel costs. This generally applies to parents of primary aged children as secondary aged pupils are expected to undertake the journey to school unaccompanied.

To receive help, your child/children must be attending the **designated*** school and in deciding whether to assist, account will be taken of the distance to school. Where the distance is very short, assistance may not be agreed, especially for a child in the upper juniors.

You will need to complete an application form and must attach medical evidence from a consultant or doctor (note – a fee may be charged for supplying relevant medical evidence and any costs would be met by the parent). We will not pay for this evidence. Transport will not be arranged until relevant evidence is provided. Cases agreed will be subject to regular reviews.

Transport assistance is not provided when parents are not available to accompany their child to school for other reasons.

Permanently excluded pupils returning to a school

Transport to a more distant school will be given if a child has been permanently excluded and can no longer attend their **designated*** school provided that they meet the distance or low income rules. Transport will be in place on the sixth day following the exclusion.

Attendance at College Central

Children attending College Central (formerly known as a Pupil Referral Unit) will be considered for assistance with transport in the same way as children attending **designated*** mainstream schools i.e. distance/low income reasons.

Travel provision given to 'eligible children'

Mode of travel

In most cases, we provide transport to get pupils between home and school at the beginning and end of the school day. This is done by supplying a ticket for use on public services or by allocating a seat on a hired vehicle.

Pick-up points

Pupils and students are collected as near to their home as possible although they may have to walk a 'reasonable' distance to meet the transport. This will usually not exceed one mile from the home address. The responsibility for ensuring a child's safety in getting to and from the picking up/setting down point rests with the parent/carer.

Journey time

There are no legal guidelines for what is a reasonable journey time. This will depend on the age and individual needs (e.g. SEN) of a child and the nature of the journey. However, we aim to ensure that no child will have a journey of no more than 75 minutes with the exception of school placements outside of the county, which will inevitably take longer.

Payments to parents

When there is no suitable public service or hired vehicle, parents willing to make their own arrangements receive help with the cost of two return journeys per day based on the distance between home and school. Payment is made on a family basis at the current rate of 25p per mile since the cost will be the same whether a parent takes one child or more.

Assistance will not normally be given to parents who prefer to make their own arrangements to transport their child to the **designated*** school where a public service or a hired vehicle is available.

Circumstances when transport is not supplied

Provision other than at the start or end of the school day

Our duty is to provide assistance to get children to and from school at the beginning and end of the school day. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to arrange and pay for transport at other times. For example, we do not provide transport for:

- Breakfast or after school clubs/extra curricular activities
- Medical appointments
- Parents evenings or 'taster' days
- Work experience
- Fixed term exclusions
- Off site educational placements

Independent or private schools (including nurseries)

Assistance is not given to children attending schools in the private sector unless the placement has been made by the Special Educational Needs team and transport has been recommended.

Dual addresses

We only accept responsibility for the transport of children between their **main** residence and school. Where children have more than one address, a determination needs to be made as to which address the child/ren in question habitually reside. This would generally be where most school nights are spent but may include factors such as where the child is registered with a doctor or where the child benefit is paid.

Living within the statutory walking distance

No assistance with travel costs will be given where the distance between home and either the designated school or the school attended is less than three miles (two miles for children under the age of 8 or low income families) unless the route has been classified as unsafe **or** the child/parent has a disability **or** the Transport and Student Support Panel has agreed to make an exception to the normal policy.

Denominational primary schools

There is no policy to support children attending a denominational church aided **primary** school for reasons of religion or faith.

Pupils with special educational needs

Who is eligible?

Children are entitled to assistance with transport in accordance with the policies outlined earlier in this statement. As a result, transport is not automatically given just because a child has a statement of special educational needs.

Some children with special educational needs, especially those attending special schools, will require extra help and we will consider the additional needs of each individual child. This includes; a) the physical ability of the child to walk the prescribed distance and b) the capability of the child to walk (bearing in mind it is assumed that the child will be accompanied by a responsible adult). Transport is **not** provided because of

working commitments.

It should be noted that we are obliged to consider transport to the *nearest suitable school*. If by parental preference a more distant school is named in the child's statement but in the authority's view the child's needs could be suitably met at a nearer school, any transport shall remain the responsibility of the parent.

A separate document detailing the full transport policy for pupils with special educational needs is available.

Spare seats on hired vehicles

Vacant Seats Scheme

Requests are sometimes received from parents who wish their children to use a hired vehicle when they do not qualify travel assistance. If spare places exist, the parent may purchase a travel permit.

Payment must be made in advance and the cost from September 2013 is £120 per term* for a secondary aged pupil and £60 per term* for pupils attending a primary school (*based on the six term year).

A second or subsequent child from the same family is entitled to a 25% reduction in the cost. These charges are subject to a yearly review.

Seat allocations

Where there is more demand for places than seats available, the following priorities will be used to determine who can travel.

1. Pupils attending the **designated*** school but do not qualify for free school transport. Those living furthest from the school are given the highest priority.
2. Other pupils. Those living nearest to the school are given the highest priority.

Places cannot be guaranteed and it must not be assumed that this scheme will always be available. For instance, if a statutory traveller needs a place on a hired vehicle, **non-statutory** travellers will have to be removed. If this is the case, it will be for parents/carers to decide how to get their children to school in the future. Full details of the Vacant Seats Scheme are available from the Client Services Transport Team on 01273 335088.

Post 16 transport

Commitment

The providers of post 16 education in East Sussex believe in the principle that no student aged 16 to 19 should be deprived of the opportunity to continue their learning because of the lack of transport or the finance to enable them to use transport. The providers have, therefore, developed policies which ensure there is provision for students in greatest financial need by assisting in whole or in part towards the cost of transport. A statement is revised annually and is available online - connexions360.org.uk/workandmoney/fesupport

Appeals and complaints procedure

Transport and Student Support Panel

Staff in the Children's Services Department are not empowered to deviate from the stated policy outlined in the section *Qualifying for home to school transport* on page 2. Where applications for assistance with transport are refused, parents may appeal to the Transport and Student Support Panel which can consider particular personal and/or financial circumstances. The Panel comprises three elected County Councillors who consider applications for assistance with transport that fall outside of the stated policy.

The Panel exercises the discretion available to them very carefully, and it is only in the most exceptional circumstances that assistance is agreed. The Panel's decision is final and there is no right of appeal.

Parents will need to fill in an application form and supply any supporting evidence at the same time. Call the Principal Admissions and Transport Officer on 0345 60 80 190 for more details.

How to complain

The County Council is here to serve the people of East Sussex. Services are provided as efficiently as possible and it is expected that staff are helpful, courteous and explain things clearly whether on the telephone, in writing or face to face.

Sometimes things do go wrong and parents/carers may not be happy with the service received. We welcome comments, good and bad, as an opportunity to put things right and improve our services. Complaints will be looked into fully and fairly. If it is found that something is wrong it will be put right. Parents should inform us if it is felt that the council has *failed to do something, done something wrong or acted unfairly or discourteously*.

Contact the Departmental Complaints Officer who will be able to give advice – the details are shown below. Written complaints can be sent via email or addressed to the department concerned marked for the attention of the Departmental Complaints Officer at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1SW.

Contact details for complaints officers

for issues related to eligibility: **for issues related to daily operation:**

Children's Services
01273 482511

childrenservices@eastsussex.gov.uk

Transport and Environment
01273 482317

tecomplaints@eastsussex.gov.uk

Contact your County Councillor

Parents can also contact their local County Councillor – details can be found in the leaflet 'A guide to your Council and Councillors' available in council offices and libraries, or on our website.

Ombudsman

If we do not succeed in resolving your complaint, you may wish to refer your complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is independent of all government bodies and can look into your complaint. They will usually only investigate your case after you've given us a chance to deal with it.

Contact details:

Phone: 0300 061 0614

Email: advice@lgo.org.uk

Website: www.lgo.org.uk

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| Respondent 1 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| My second son will be starting at the school in September 2015 and will not qualify for free transport under the proposed rules. My elder son currently qualifies and will still be at the school in September 2015. So if I want free transport for my younger son he will have to go to a different school than his brother! |

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| Respondent 2 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Neither agree nor disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>There is no indication of how the distance is to be measured. If the distance to be measured is by a program such as AA Routefinder, does this take into account non-useable routes such as weight restricted bridges?</p> <p>Are low income families (IE in receipt of free school meals) still to be allowed a choice between the two nearest schools?</p> <p>What happens with students entering 6th form? This will be compulsory from September 2014. Does that mean that 6th form students will get free transport to the nearest suitable school whereas their younger siblings may still pay? IE Etchingam children attending Robertsbridge until the end of year 11 as opposed to paying to go on transport to Uplands. Robertsbridge has no 6th form so Uplands becomes the nearest suitable school.</p> <p>What happens in the case of children who are allocated a place at their community area school because there is no space at their nearest school, who pays the transport costs then? We are talking about distances in excess of 3 miles regardless of community area or nearest school?</p> |

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| Respondent 3 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>Parents should have the right to choose which school they send their children to when presented with a choice of more than one school without having the added worry of financial implications for school transport. This is often a difficult time of transition for children and parents and when the difference in distance involved could be quite small and family budgets tight they will feel they cannot send their child to the school they feel best suits their child. If more time, money and effort was spent ensuring all schools were of an equal academic and pastoral standard this might not be an issue! We looked at both schools we were eligible for but I definitely would not have chosen to send my child to the second school we were given the choice of despite our house being 2.5 miles closer to it. This would have had a major impact on our family life if we were having to pay for school transport.</p> |

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| Respondent 4 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |

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| Agree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| Free Transport should be given only to those who really need it, regardless of distance from school. To most parents Choice of school is more important rather than free transport to that school. If parents choose a school further away than the local school then parents should be prepared to pay additional travel costs .If a family is facing hardship then they could apply for a means tested bus pass or whatever help is given to free transport . |

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| Respondent 5 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| free transport should be provided to nearest community school as this would be the school the child should go to . If you are going to change this you should change the community area to include the nearest school.You don't say if the proposals would include schools in neighbouring counties, which are sometimes the closest . |

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| Respondent 6 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| We chose our daughters school as the best to suit her. We are well within catchment but would either have to pay for transport or move her mid way through her education. If you are within catchment and over 3 miles away transport should be free or you are removing choice that the government clearly gave us. Each school has different specialties ie Robertsbridge is maths and computing specialist but Rye is not. Why should we have to send our children to a school which may not meet their needs? I have other children following to Robertsbridge and there is no way I could afford to pay bus fairs for all 3, which could be seriously detrimental to their education. Children only get the one chance at a good senior school education and its is wrong for the council to take the decision out of parent hands on a purely financial basis |

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| Respondent 7 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |

All school children should have free school buses from the county council if they attend a school within that county council. Why discriminate? This is a disgrace. I would love to hear your response.

I'd also like to comment on the way your proposal is written. It would be fantastic if you wrote something in plain English. The page I was directed to was the most confusing load of old nonsense I've read for a long time. I'd be really keen to know who this was tried out on before it went online. Or was it just shown internally to people who understand what you are talking about?

Respondent 8

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 9

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This could limit choice for parents on low incomes and could lead to lowering of attainment for some students if, for whatever reason, they now have to move schools as transport to and from becomes problematic. Feels like the poor being penalised for being poor; the children of working parents paying the price, again.

Respondent 10

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 11

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I disagree because For various reasons a school that is further away from a home may be better suited to the child's needs. i.e the focus of the school may be on music or sport etc. which the school nearer to the child's home may not be & if for instance the child is heavily into music, sport etc they could possibly lose out by having to attend the nearer school.

Respondent 12

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 13

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 14

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 15

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Schools nearest would mean children attending schools where their class fellows are also in their locality. The nearest school, therefore, should reflect their community regardless of which LA it falls into.

Respondent 16

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Takes away the choice of school for those on low incomes and not benefits

Respondent 17

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Every parent wants the best for their child, that's why the government produces Ofsted reports and league tables so parents can compare schools; like for like, apples with apples. If a better performing school falls within the community area for a child then they should have every right to try and get a space at that school without having to worry about whether they would qualify for free transport or not because there may be another school closer, with spaces, which may be isn't even in their community area. Everyone in the community area, served by a better performing school, should have the same right to apply to that school and whether a child qualifies for free transport shouldn't be an admission criteria that any parent should have to worry about. It should be a level playing field for all applicants to the school, without outside influences like free transport blurring the selection process for parents.

Respondent 18

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 19

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This would not dramatically affect me. However I do not drive and one of my children attends Chailey School. I am aware that quite a large number of children attending Chailey could be affected by this. This means that parents without transport or unable to afford transport would be faced with applying to a school that they could get a place in or applying to a school that their child could get to, but probably would not get a place at. This action would only hit the poorest children and the children whose parents did not drive, who are far more likely to be parents who have disabilities. It is an action that comprehensively attacks those who are most disadvantaged.

Respondent 20

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

School admissions are a very contentious issue and if there is space for a pupil outside of their 'community area' i believe that they should be allowed to take it and the parents not penalised by having to pay for additional travel expenses. Many people can't afford to move in and out of a catchment area to qualify for free transport - so there is a chance of ghettoising some schools. All of our children should have a free education at the school of their choice, i know this is idealistic and not the case but i do feel that transport to school should not become an additional barrier to admission.

Respondent 21

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

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| Disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| The proposal seems to make no sense to me. If the preferred school is to remain for the purpose of admissions, then the offer of transport should be to this school. |

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| Respondent 22 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| I feel that a parent ought to be able to choose a school for their child irrespective of transport costs within a community area.. I also believe that children from less affluent areas should be supported financially to attend schools outside their immediate area if that is what they want both for their benefit and the school they want to go to. I am not affected by the proposed change. |

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| Respondent 23 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| It should be a matter of principle that the provision of education in the UK is free and, therefore, that the ability to attend a preferred school school also be free. There are clearly several scenarios I can foresee instantly where this change will impose a significant cost on certain families some of whom will be least able to afford these costs. These changes will have no impact on my family at all as we are lucky enough to be able to walk the short distances to school safely. |

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| Respondent 24 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| it represents a deterioration in parents ability to choose the school they would like their child to go to in conflict with government policy to extend choice. also, if someone chooses a school that meet the criterion for free transport but don't get a place in the community area they are then penalised. |

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| Respondent 25 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |

it is removing the freedom of choice for many parents in rural areas such as ourselves who will not be able to afford the transport costs if their preferred school is not the local one. so regardless of the LA saying that admissions criteria will stay the same in reality it wont. the LA will still have to provide our children with a bus pass due to the fact that even the closest school is over 3 miles away so why not let the children use it regardless of which school the bus serves.

Respondent 26

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

The definition of nearest suitable school is predicated on the councils definition that proximity and availability of space is the only criteria for determining what is a suitable school for a child. There are many other criterias why a child may or may not thrive in an environment and the parents / carers and even the child themselves will have a better understanding of what is required. Will also further impact on the property prices as people will be forced to move to properties closer to the school of choice. Also the impact on environment as people may choose to transport their child to school themselves, impacting on congestion and emissions.

Respondent 27

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I have an 11 year old daughter in Year 7 at Claverham Community College and a 9 year old daughter at Crowhurst Primary School who is hoping to join Claverham in September 2015. Under the proposed changes **** will be allowed to catch the bus to school from the end of our road and **** will not. Seriously, are we living in 1950's America where one person can catch the bus and one person cannot? Both myself and the girls' mum work full-time and we rely on a neighbour to drop **** to school everyday whilst **** walks a few yards to catch the bus. Our neighbour has a younger child currently attending Crowhurst but is younger than **, so when **** begins at Claverham our neighbour cannot get to 2 separate schools at the same time every morning and afternoon. The other option is one of us to stop working in order to get **** to school which means we will not be able to afford our mortgage and bills. Despite the fact the same bus, with the same driver, going to the same place, will be operating! It's absolutely crazy and is yet another example of the erosion of country life in our village. I attended nearly every meeting in the open consultation over the Link Road and yet it still went ahead, we have no street lights, Station Road where we live is untreated in cold weather as it is not council owned, we have part-time emergency services and now the best local secondary school which every Crowhurst child has fed in to for many, many years is now becoming unobtainable because ESCC want to phase out this essential service to our small rural village. Please, please think of the impact this will have upon the children of Crowhurst and the life-changing consequences for the families of those children.

Respondent 28

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

The reason I have stipulated I disagree is because the bus companies do not provide children fares (unlike train companies). So the cost of me sending 3 children to secondary school (I live in Ninfield) will be approx £2000 a year! I cannot afford anywhere near this and will leave me no option but drive the children to school, a lot of parents feel the same way, not very environmentally friendly but a lot cheaper!

Respondent 29

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

My son is only in year 2 so it will not affect me for a few years. However if these changes are made (which are basically more tax) I will not be paying bus fees and therefore will need to drive my son to school. From discussions I have had with other parents they would do the same. This would not only mean more cars on the road but also more congestion at the school. Children from Ninfield have always gone to Claverham and my other concern is that this would change. I would not be willing to send my child to Bexhill High.

Respondent 30

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

By forcing parents to pay for transport to school, which has been free i.e. paid for by the taxes we pay, for decades, the council is restricting the choices available for students and parents. I am fundamentally opposed to this unfair restriction - our children are the future of this country and their education should not be put at risk.

Respondent 31

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 32

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

The serious reduction of choice of school for students and parents appears to be in stark contrast to the government's aim to give greater choice to parents in relation to their children's education. The geography of the county also goes against schools that are in a hinterland in relation to the proposed millage limits (which seem extremely restrictive).

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| Respondent 33 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| Parents should be able to choose the preferred school of their choice without financial implications of having to pay for travel to and from schools |

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| Respondent 34 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| no impact on my children. but its just darn stupid. when i put into your website a search for my local primary school (barcombe - a 5 min walk) it wasn't even on your list. distances measured As the Crow flies when rural roads weren't built by crows. this means that there will be some kids who will find themselves going to schools that take longer to get to. there's a dangerous loss of community and to the community if you start splitting groups up like this. or families where children have already started at a school and this proposal is looking to send siblings in other directions. Reduction of parent power and the ability to choose / or the school's ability to market itself and improve itself. I think you're creating more Pastoral and more Economic problems that you think you're solving. |

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| Respondent 35 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| Parents and their children would be at a distinct disadvantage in terms of choice of school. This is not in the best interests of their education and will have a detrimental effect on their ongoing development into adulthood. |

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| Respondent 36 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| In practice this seems detrimental to the wellbeing of the children. Transition from primary to secondary is a stressful time for both parents and students. To imply that transport would not make a difference to the choice of which school individuals can go to is an oversight. Not only students from low income families will have to account for travelling expenses which could mean that young children are separated from their friends, or be forced to attend a school the family does not want them to attend. This can impact on a childs life in many ways. |

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| Respondent 37 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |

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| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
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| Respondent 38 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>Children need the right to be educated at the best school for them disregarding if it is the nearest. You are planning to take this away from most families as the poorest in this country are the hard working families that are struggling to make ends meet. This is yet another stress as they will not be able to send their children to the correct school where their other siblings have been to because you have withdrawn the transport. You will still be supplying buses from those areas but they will be half empty as only the FSM and richer student will be able to afford to use them.</p> <p>How short sighted is this. I thought there was meant to be freedom of school open to all not just the ones who can afford it or are on FSM.</p> <p>Good/ outstanding school could be closed down as a result of this.</p> <p>Hope you can live with that.</p> |

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| Respondent 39 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>Whilst the proposed changes do not affect a parent's choice of school, it will have significant impact on families for whom cost of travel is a concern.</p> <p>For these families, where financial implications are an issue, being forced to send them to the closest school may not necessarily be the most appropriate choice for a pupil.</p> <p>The difference in achievement in pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to those not disadvantaged has already been identified as significant. By financially forcing these families to choose the closest school for their child we may not be providing the best education opportunity for that child.</p> <p>Aside from the quality of teaching, this restricts the choice where a smaller, more nurturing environment may be more suitable for a child from a disadvantaged background.</p> |

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| Respondent 40 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |

I feel very strongly that this is removing a huge element of choice from parents as to what school their child attends. Realistically, in the current economic climate, very few parents will have sufficient disposable income to pay for the transport of their children to schools, particularly where more than one child is in the family. Obviously, in a rural area like ours this will impact massively on choice of education, with parents feeling they have no option to any other than the closest school, even if they know that an alternative school would suit their child's needs much better. Once again, it will only be the financially well off in our community who will actually be able to have a choice. This move will impact on employment, as well as the standards in schools. It will eventually lead to the closure of smaller isolated schools, and create large, more impersonal establishments, where personalised learning will be a thing of the past. I see this move as an enormous step backwards in the local education provision.

Respondent 41

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Although there is still an element of choice about where to send your child to school, financial constraints will dictate that the decision will not be based on which is the best school for your child.

Respondent 42

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

The new transport arrangements could lead to fewer families choosing burwash primary school means it will effect my children and all pupils at the school because of less money intake.

Respondent 43

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Contravenes parents' choice of school- favours those who can afford to pay for transport. Undermines schools' efforts to continually improve standards with a view to attracting parents. Threatens schools that are , by chance , situated near several others

Respondent 44

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This will cause a mixture of confusion, extra administration and could very possibly have severe impacts on those parents / carers who rely on the current system 'as is'.

It is also not very well explained and I think many people will have difficulty understanding both the concept and implementation of the concept. This will rebound on the schools who already have enough to deal with.

If the driver of this is savings, then alter your focus to other areas that may have less impact on schools and education.

Respondent 45

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I am a teacher at Chailey School. This change would seriously disadvantage any student who wished to attend Chailey School if the family cannot afford to pay for transport, if there was a closer but less successful school. It is also very likely to affect the number of pupils able to enrol in Chailey due to our location and ultimately this must leave the school in danger of eventual closure. We are then talking about huge job loses for staff.

Respondent 46

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This is social engineering

Poorer children will be forced to go to worse schools

I say this as a relatively well off parent who could afford to send my child to the better school

Respondent 47

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Children would be separated from their community and friends solely on their parents ability to pay. Dividing a community in this manner would be detrimental to the children and their parents who will be under financial pressure at a time when day to day living is already difficult for many. Poorer families will become identified and their children potentially open to humiliation and bullying.

More cars will be on the road as parents opt to drive their children to their community school. For parents they will save money if they car pool but this will increase the already congested roads to most schools at the beginning and end of the day.

Parent choice is compromised where their community school is a better school than their closest school. Some areas will have an outstanding school alongside an inadequate school. Children's education will be penalised if their parents are unable to pay transport costs.

Respondent 48

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| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| It removes genuine choice for parents. Rather than choosing the school that is best for their child, schools will need to be considered according to financial situation. This is appalling. This will have a huge impact on families with more than one child as the cost will be significant. Likewise, excellent schools will suffer a fall in numbers and run the risk of closure. This cannot happen. |

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| Respondent 49 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| the reason our special needs children are eligible for transport to and from school is because they are unable to make their own way to school the the same as other children the same age as them, as a parent we would all love our children to be able to cope the same as other children and make their own way there but this is not possible for us. for children going to school under 3 miles away from home this mean parents will need to take them there, bearing in mind many do not have transport of their own and secondary schools are not as close to home as primary schools. for those choosing a school which is not their closest school it takes away our choices. just because on paper a school can manage their needs it dosnt always mean this is the best place for your child, personally my son goes to a secondary which is not our closest but it is where he felt the most happy and comfortable and especially for our special children this is so important for them if they are going to make progress and learn that they feel happy at school. |

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| Respondent 50 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| The natural choices of school for those in the Danehill/Chelwood Gate Parish are Chailey and Uckfield. Not Crowborough. For my family, Chailey is easily the main choice. I do not understand why transport would not be funded to this school. This will cause significant expense. £120 per half term is simply as step too far for families (that are not counted as low income) who are already feeling continually squeezed. |

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| Respondent 51 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| My son attends Chailey at the moment. He is in year 8. My daughter is in year 5 at Forest Row Primary. My son will carry on having the transport why would his sister not be able to join him on the same bus? |

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| Respondent 52 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| No direct impact on me personally, but I firmly believe that the existing system supports the right of parents to choose which school their child should attend, without potentially burdening them with additional expenses if the preferred option lies outside the "funded area". |

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| Respondent 53 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| This would have an impact on my current 8 year old daughter who will start secondary school in 2015. Her elder sister and brother attend a school in the community catchment (claverham) although there is another school nearer by they currently receive free school transport. should this proposal go ahead this would mean that my elder daughter would be eligible for free transport but I would have to take my youngest daughter to school and this is ridiculous. There is an open speed limit that my youngest daughter would have to walk along if she was to go to the nearer secondary school (helenswood) and I feel that this would not be a safe option for her to attend this school as she would not receive free transport as it is not more than 3 miles from our home. I think that if this proposal was to go ahead this would have detrimental affects on many families especially those who live in westfield! |

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| Respondent 54 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
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| Respondent 55 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| The 'catchment area model helps to ensure that students are provided with the appropriate local school. This model will change that dynamic and this is not to the benefit of communities or schools especauilly where there are strong links between feeder schools and the main partner. |

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| Respondent 56 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Agree |

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 57

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Firstly, I would love to know why this is effectively the third time you have asked parents about this policy, I did this consultation twice last year.

Secondly, why do you get to decide which school is the most 'suitable' for my child? Have you met my children? Do you know their needs? Do you know their friends and what schools they are going to? As it happens Hastings Academy is my nearest school (I live in Broad Oak) As I currently see it there is no bus route running there from Broad Oak so will you go the expense of running a bus from my address to this school? Way to go if you are looking to save money from the budget.

Thirdly, what if the school you have decided to choose as the most suitable for my children is not actually suitable for my children? As I understand it academies specialise in specific subjects which may not be the most suitable for my child.

I would like to see a choice in where I send my child and by having to pay for transport to school my choices are being limited.

Stupid idea and bored of having to repeat myself on what is now the third consultation!

Respondent 58

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

i think this will have huge environmental impact with the number of cars dropping off and collecting children instead of using the bus especially for claverham as this area is highly congested anyway. also i have 4 children some of which will be at primary school whilst the others are at secondary school making it impossible for me to drive them all to school. I will have 3 children at claverham at the same time and live in ninfield so this would cost me £45 a week to send them to school which is ridiculous they cannot walk to either bexhill high or claverham so i don't see why you should have 1 free and not the other. People should be able to choose the school that they want to go to if they are in their catchment area not be influenced by how much it is going to cost to send your child there on the bus.

Respondent 59

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I believe that parents should have a choice of school. In the current climate, cost is a big factor and parents may not be in a position to pay for transport. If this is the case, then why should a child be forced to attend their nearest school? This proposal will affect my family, with a child in the Broad Oak area wanting to go to Robertsbridge but likely to have to go to Rye College as transport cannot be afforded.

Respondent 60

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Parent choice should be the key factor when deciding an education for their child. This proposal removes that choice and is purely based on cost. It is wrong that a child should miss out on a place at their preferred school (particularly in a joint catchment area) because of transport costs. Not all people are in a position to be able to afford transport costs and it is a shame some will be affected for life by this.

Respondent 61

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Common sense. If 2 school places available

Respondent 62

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This is detrimental to families living rurally and divides up small communities. most children will have gone to a primary that is a feeder school to the secondary and community links would have been made.

Respondent 63

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

You removed the free transport option from faith schools so the same should be applied to all schools so it is then a fair and equal policy

Respondent 64

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

The impact might be that we would end up having our children at separate schools. We have one child at secondary and one due to go in 2015.

Respondent 65

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This is overdue. For too long now the tax payer has been subsidising transport for those who have access to schools closeby but have had the luxury of free travel to a school many miles from their home. I expect most are in a position to pay for their choice of school.

Respondent 66

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 67

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Don't know

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I went to secondary school at Willingdon School and I lived in Stone Cross. Local children were used to leaving primary school and moving onto Willingdon and Willingdon School was built by an Act of Parliament to cover children from all these rural areas: Hankham, Westham, Pevensey, Pevensey Bay. Under the new proposals although the school was built for them the children would get transport to The Causeway School instead. This needs to be sorted out because of the Act of Parliament. It seems that Willingdon School is now for children who live nearby in Eastbourne and this forgets the Act of Parliament for rural children. My own children live in the far outskirts of Chiddingly and have had county transport to Ringmer School as they are within the catchment area for Ringmer. We live at the Chiddingly end of Stalkers Lane, Chiddingly. Children who live in the East Hoathly end of Stalkers Lane do not currently get transport to Ringmer as they are outside of the catchment area. This is strange as the East Hoathly end of Stalkers Lane is nearer to Ringmer School than where I live. Perhaps the new arrangements would sort this out. I do know that if you are a family in Stalkers Lane and you do not get transport it impacts significantly on the family's life and perhaps the mother's working life. This needs to be looked at.

Respondent 68

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This is THE most idiotic, Orwellian nonsense I've ever heard and pretty typical of the sort of backward, lack of common sense thinking we're left with these days.
So your child can't get into the nearest school, because it's not in your 'community area' but can't get transport to the school that it HAS got into because it's not the nearest school - are all of you mad? Has anyone actually said this idiocy out loud or thought about pragmatically?
How much money is being wasted on this idiotic idea?
How about streamlining the idiots out of the council, that might save a few bob?

Respondent 69

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

We live in Five Ashes which has Heathfield Community College as it's designated school, however my son attends Beacon Academy and there is currently no direct bus link whether free or paid.

Respondent 70

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

It would have no impact on us anymore. However this proposal is yet another example of shifting schooling costs onto the individual rather than using income taxes/council taxes to provide for these essential services. Of course it would have minimal impact on the better off, but once again the lower income families would be made to suffer.

Respondent 71

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I live in five ashes and I am the parent of a pupil who will be starting secondary education at Beacon school crowborough this september, most of the leaving children from five ashes primary school now attend beacon with parents having to transport the children each day, there will be an increase in pupils attending beacon over the next few years as there will be siblings moving up from five ashes school.

I believe it would help the children gain their independence and confidence by catching the bus plus free up traffic in the crowborough area and reduce the carbon impact locally.

Respondent 72

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I have lived in my village for nearly 20 years and part of the decision was on the basis that it was in the catchment area for Claverham school. The schools in Hastings and Bexhill have always been poorly performing which formed my decision that Claverham was the best option for my children. My eldest child (now nearly 20) attended this school with all his peers from our village and my 2 younger children 1 is at the school and 1 is will attend in 2 years time (currently in year 5).

To remove this service from a rural area will have a massive impact on our village and other surrounding villages. Our village and rural areas have no pavements or street lighting. This is not ideal or safe for groups of school children to walking around even in day light let alone after dark. The lanes are narrow in places with many blind bends. Station road - cars speed along as people are late for trains and I myself walk down this and often find it to be far from safe. We have very limited public transport already and the trains are constantly disrupted (I commute to London everyday) and bus replacement services are frequently in use. These DO NOT run to our village and taxi companies take people to our village. This would mean my young girls getting in a taxi cab unsupervised with an adult (mainly male drivers) who are do not believe are CAB checked and driving through dark lanes in the winter months. You would not allow a child to travel in a car with a teacher without necessary checks in place. The distance is judged by crow flies not by road or rail transport which to me seems very out of date and a ridiculous way to judge a childs journey. Both myself and my partner work full time and would not be able to take or collect our children from the school. To allow one of daughters on the bus but not the other makes no sense! How are you saving money if the bus still runs for a time and yet you refuse to let children use it? It seems to me the only way you can is by charging parents for the younger siblings and if this is what you are proposing then why cannot you just be honest and say that? This will put significant pressure on lower income families. Who would want siblings travelling separately you - effectively they will be forced to pay. I pay substantial amount each month in council tax and even more in income tax - and yet my village has no pavement, no street lights, no visible police presence, buses do not run through our village so no public transport - and the trains are extremely limited - outside of rush hour only 1 an hour. We have millions being spent on a by pass to Bexhill - and yet links to London, which improved would provide untold regeneration to the whole area, are totally inadequate. The council is disrupting our whole village and effectively turned it into a construction site and now you wish to further disrupt us with another cut to our services. If you go ahead with this proposal after the terrible train service - no buses and now a bypass going through parts of our village - I will leave the Rother area. I find all the changes you are making are totally illogical. This bus service is vital for children to travel safely to school. I refuse to send my child to the St Leonards Academy when her sister already attends, and is happy at Claverham - or are you expecting me to remove them both, disrupt their education to send them to a school that is frequently underperforming and has very poor pass rates?

Respondent 73

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

The proposal to retain community areas for school admissions purposes whilst removing the link for the purposes of free transport is utterly flawed - either make distance to schools a criteria for both or retain the link between admissions and transport entitlement. This is a muddleheaded proposal which will impact most detrimentally on poorest families who may not be able to afford to send their child to their designated school if it is not their nearest but will also have lower priority for admission to the nearest school if it is outside their community area. If they are not admitted to the nearest school because that is oversubscribed will you pay their transport to their designated school or simply use this policy to deprive them of their legal entitlement to school transport altogether?

Everyone knows that councils have to make savings and school transport is an obvious, and some might say legitimate, target, but this proposal has not been thought through properly and, in my opinion, could well be open to legal challenge on the grounds that it will impact disproportionately on lower income households who will be disadvantaged in the school admission process by their inability to pay for transport to their designated school.

Respondent 74

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 75

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Chailey School offers and has always offered a personalised education service because of its size and rural aspect. Students should not have to choose much larger schools in the area because of their family's financial situation or the lack of availability of public transport. The cost, at present, of around £700 per annum, per student, would make attendance here prohibitive for many families and this would take away parents' ability to choose a school more suited to their child's ability or needs.

Respondent 76

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

If a house move is forced upon the parents due to circumstances beyond their control and wish to keep their child at the same school (perhaps the child is in their final year or close to it) as the child has attended since year one then a forced school change would be detrimental to the child's learning (loss of friends, new teachers, new surroundings etc.) when the child should be concentrating on his/her exams.

Respondent 77

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

We live in a very rural area and with 2 children at different schools - 1 primary and 1 secondary - if I had to transport them both to school one of them would never arrive on time.

Respondent 78

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I live in Forest Row and have 2 children attending Chailey school, these changes will have a huge financial impact on our family at an already difficult time after my husband was made redundant and is now on a salary that is 50% less.

Respondent 79

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Ridiculous. Parents will end up choosing the nearest school to save on transport costs, regardless of whether it is the most suitable school for their children's needs. Sending a child to the school best suited to their individual needs will become a 'luxury' that many will not be able to afford. The costs of sending a child to a school that's not the very closest are phenomenal - where are families suppose to find that extra money from? Discriminates against those families in less favourable financial situations. Wrong.

Respondent 80

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Because by doing this ESCC will deplete the intake of Chailey Secondary school which will affect the high standards and quality of the school. There are no new houses being built in the area so there is no way the school will be able to make up it's numbers. Class sizes will be reduced and the reputation of the school will suffer; there will be less pupils and less funding. In future years ESCC will have to step into plough money into the school to help maintain the premises etc; so while it looks like a good money saving exercise on paper at the moment it won't save ESCC any money in the long run. BTW my child won't be affected at all by this Policy- I just think it is a little short sighted.

Respondent 81

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I feel that removing free transport would affect Chailey School which has provided a fabulous learning environment for my three successful children. People outside the area would be likely to send their children to a closer school and numbers would go down. The school is in a fairly remote area, and surely depends on these numbers to provide the fantastic education that it currently does.

Respondent 82

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

It is really important for students from a rural area to have a choice to go to a school also in a rural area. This policy will see students from the same village going to different schools. A big part of rural life is community, by doing this you will split communities. The parents who pay will still have a bus provided which will potentially be undersubscribed. I find it hard to see how you will be saving money. Potential for local schools to be oversubscribed so ESCC will have to pay for transport to a school further afield. Appalling lack of insight into educational needs.

Respondent 83

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

The 3 schools deemed as designated schools for my home address have been deemed as appropriate schools for more than 30 years and children from my village have been offered free transport to them for that time. As we are close to the boundary with West Sussex we would be forced to send our children to an out of county school something that has been discouraged by ESCC for many years also it would mean either my eldest child moving schools in her most crucial years or sending my middle child to a different secondary school possibly out of county thus meaning having 3 children at 3 different schools, or withdrawing my children from School altogether. As my husband is disabled and we live on benefits paying transport costs is not an option we can even consider neither can we transport our children to and from school so yet again the poor miss out on a decent education at what they consider to be the best school for their children because of penny pinching bureaucrats. I also wonder how much more congestion will be caused at already badly congested school gates and surrounding roads at beginning and end of school day by parents dropping off and picking up children because they have decided to transport them to school themselves rather than pay transport costs

Respondent 84

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

If this policy came into effect it would mean that schools such as Chailey would lose a large percentage of pupils therefore possibly forcing it to close. With the other schools that pupils would be eligible for transport for becoming oversubscribed thus forcing parents onto the roads in cars and to pay large amounts in bus fares. I think it is not well thought out.

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| Respondent 85 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| No impact on me, however it is detrimental to Chailey School |

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| Respondent 86 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| The most appropriate school to your child isn't always the nearest one in distance!! Furthermore, if the closest in distance is not within the "catchment" for your postcode you may not have a choice and will have to send your child to the furthest of the two school. In effect, if County Admissions, sends your child to the catchment school (which is further), then I feel help with transport is a necessity! |

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| Respondent 87 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| Although I appreciate the need to cut costs I feel broader consideration should be given to those families who already have some siblings in secondary school. I have a younger daughter who looks forward to following her older sister to Claverham in a couple of years time and it will be very difficult to explain why her older sister is able to get on a bus to go to school, but she can't. For those with children not yet going through the secondary school to the rationale is clear why escc need to introduce these new changes in policy, but for those children who are due to follow their elder siblings to the same secondary school, and are within the catchment area with the elder child currently receiving transport, I urge you to consider whether transport could be provided to those younger siblings when they join their family at that school. Even if it means the family is required to pay something towards this. In my situation, I work in London and transport was as much of a consideration as the school itself. Please would you kindly consider my comments in this consultation. |

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| Respondent 88 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| whatever happened to choice? kids in rural communities are often isolated due to the lack of transport. this just takes away more choices from them. a choice of one is not a choice. |

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| Respondent 89 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly agree |

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 90

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Although this does not affect me personally, I believe that the current policy should be continued. Parents and children will naturally wish to continue to apply to their community school, if this is their expected school and they live 3 miles away, then transport should be paid for. I can not understand why admissions and transport would have different qualifying criteria and no rationale has been given.

Respondent 91

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Proposals wouldn't have a huge impact on me but would to others. Rural areas are consistently getting hit and this is just another example. We need the transport more than ever. Rural bus services in Plumpton especially day time is appalling.

Respondent 92

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I don't understand that if the Council has set the catchment area and if you then live within that catchment area regardless of proximity to other schools - then you should providing you meet the distance criteria get free bus service - I stress the Council dictated the catchment area and therefore the school the children will attend.

The upshot of this will mean more traffic going to the school, more problems at the school at drop off and collection times - higher risk of accidents at the schools, increased traffic on the roads unnecessarily - it is short sighted and not joined up thinking. Don't penalise hard working people who already pay considerable taxes who qualify for a school because you dictate the catchment area and now you are looking to penalise them with a short sighted proposal. The cost of running the buses won't change you will just have less pupils using them and per head your cost will go up and then the environmental cost will be significant.

Respondent 93

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Seeme to remove the 'choice' element when deciding which school to send your child to

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| Respondent 94 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Agree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>I agree with the proposal but I think children with SEN need to be excluded from this policy even at School Action and School Action Plus i.e. who may not necessarily have high enough needs to support SEN Transport</p> <p>For these children and young people, the nearest school may not be the most appropriate choice due to there pastoral needs. I also think there should be opportunity to receive if it is subsequently found the school is not the most appropriate choice. Other than SEN, this could include bullied children and non-attenders.</p> |

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| Respondent 95 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>Our local primary school is in a rural location. Public transport links are poor. At present our feeder secondary school is located 9 miles away. This change would mean that transport would not be provided to the secondary school which has traditionally served our village school. Depending where they live, children from this village might end up at one of several schools which are closer to their postcode. The policy undermines the idea of school cohesion. Links have been forged between the secondary school and the feeder primaries. Students will lose the benefit of this. Also, you state that ESCC has a legal requirement to provide transport to students of school age, but it does not pay for the transport of any students at faith schools. Families who need assistance have had to turn to the school for financial support which is coming out of the governor's fund at one of these faith based secondaries. This could be the precedent set for many more schools if transport links are changed.</p> |

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| Respondent 96 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |

It is a nonsense on the one hand to be removing the community area for the purposes of home-school transport, but on the other hand to be retaining it for the purpose of admissions. You will end up with a position whereby children who are entitled by their community area to attend a particular school (and will have a greater entitlement to do so than to attend a school which may be geographically closer but in a different authority's area), will have to choose between choosing that school (which by implication is likely to be the one with which the child is most familiar, his/her older siblings and peers are likely to attend and for which natural links exist between it and the primary school) and choosing to keep transport costs down. From this September I will have three children all at Chailey School. There is no way that I could afford to be paying for school transport for all of them, and whilst I know that this is not what is being proposed, the thought that other people may have to when in good faith they simply wish to send their child to their community school, beggars belief. I strongly urge you to abandon this idea. How can the admissions system's criteria encourage attendance at one school, whilst the transport policy could be entirely contradictory to this? Children of parents who cannot afford to pay for transport may end up being split up from their friends & peers by being sent to a school which is simply closer in order to save costs and, knowing the value of having children move up to a secondary school with which their primary school has links, with which they are already therefore familiar and at which they will have the support of existing friendships, I believe that this is appalling.

Respondent 97

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

If you change the criteria for school transport then why not for admissions. When more than 1 school are in the Community area, transport should be offer for the one chosen by the family. Choosing the right secondary school is extremely important and is about integration, how well the child will do and how happy the child will feel in his/her school. It surely shouldn't be about money as I understand that if my child wishes to go to his/her designated school and if it is not the closest than I will have to pay for the transport. It is not fair to put a price on education and actually take the choice of schools away from the family as for a lot it will be about paying or not for transport.

Respondent 98

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

it will lead to the death of schools in remote rural areas (such as Chailey) who's headcount and therefore funding will fall, impacting the services available to those who continue to go there. My daughter will still be at Chailey as the free transport from Forest Row is removed, and will therefore be impacted by reduced education services. Would you consider a 'parachute' payment scheme to help quality schools whose headcount falls due to this proposal and who would otherwise therefore lose part of their funding from the EA.

Respondent 99

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

We chose a secondary school for our daughter without any prior knowledge of changes to the school bus proposals. These changes would have affected our choice of school as there might now be no free school bus travelling between Isfield and Ringmer. It seems very unfair that this will be decided when we have already been accepted at Ringmer school for start in Sept 2014.

Respondent 100

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I do not think this is a fair change, how can you have one policy that says your designated school is one thing then have a transport policy that says you will not get free transport to that school in spite of it being over 3 miles away because another school, for which you are not in the catchment for us closer. utter madness , my eldest child will attend Claverham community college this year and will qualify , however when my youngest goes in three years time we would have to pay . This would be a real struggle financially , I think we pay a lot of taxes already and get very little back and this is another cost cutting exercise that will effect a lot of hard working people and their children .It feels like a back door policy to change the community areas !

Respondent 101

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I do not think this is a fair change, how can you have one policy that says your designated school is one thing then have a transport policy that says you will not get free transport to that school in spite of it being over 3 miles away because another school, for which you are not in the catchment for us closer. utter madness , my eldest child will attend Claverham community college this year and will qualify , however when my youngest goes in three years time we would have to pay . This would be a real struggle financially , I think we pay a lot of taxes already and get very little back and this is another cost cutting exercise that will effect a lot of hard working people and their children .It feels like a back door policy to change the community areas !

I also concerned that an already busy road system would get a lot more traffic as parents opt to drive there children to school rather than pay for public transport .

Respondent 102

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Negative effect it would have on Chailey School. It is an excellent rural school and well serves the villages surrounding it. It has been part of the educational fabric of the communities surrounding Chailey - I have lived in Mid Sussex all of my life and know many who have attended Chailey and now their children are at the school. If the proposed changes are implemented the potential reduction in numbers of pupils could make the school unsustainable. By asking parents to pay transport costs the council is effectively removing choice. Chailey offers a nurturing environment in a smaller school. The large town based schools do not suit every child. Chailey is a successful school which the council should be supporting not undermining. I have had two children go through Chailey School and the third is currently in year nine so the proposal would not impact me.

Respondent 103

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Where we are is extremely rural and our school is served by a school bus (use to be 2 buses). I can see instances where transport exists and will continue but some children will not be eligible, or even will be provided with transport to another nearer school. This would mean current bus running with less children and extra transport having to be provided to other schools.

I think it's difficult to provide a policy that will fit aall cases.

Equally the 3 mile rule is difficult to apply in our area as the country lanes are not safe for anyone to walk to schools.

Respondent 104

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

There is potential for a very negative affect upon our school numbers should this proposal be agreed. At present a school bus service runs from Burwash Common (in our agreed community area and clearly part of Burwash Parish) to the school and those parents choosing to use the bus, which is an increasing number, get free transport. However there is a slightly closer school for these parents which is Broad Oak. It is possible that without the bus service parents may choose this school instead of Burwash. We already have a brand new school at Etchingham being built which is now far nearer to Burwash than previously and will boast facilities such as a nursery on site.

It seems to me that if you are in the community area and you are more than 3 miles away you should be entitled to transport. I also feel that many parents may well be unaware of this proposal and will simply assume they will be entitled to a bus if they choose Burwash as they will have chosen their community school so this would make logical sense.

I have been pleased to see in the last few years numbers using the bus growing, not only from a school numbers perspective but also from an environmental perspective. There are far too many cars around schools which in rural areas is hard to avoid but is aided by the bus service- what has happened to the plans from East Sussex regarding reduction of traffic and pollution?

Respondent 105

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Proposed alterations

- affect families' free choice of school within this rural area, a cardinal point of Government policy
- affect rural Schools, esp. Chailey which historically draws from a wide variety of villages and which enjoys the confidence of parents as shown by its subscription
- disadvantages students from Forest Row who currently travel on a direct pick-up route (Danehill & North Chailey) as compared to tortuous route round Ashdown Forest to Crowborough.

Respondent 106

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This policy change will have a significant adverse impact on children living in rural areas where there public transport infrastructure is poor.

Respondent 107

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

At the present time, everyone has the opportunity to request that their child goes to a school that they feel would "Educationally" be of benefit to them. If these proposals go through then it will mean that education comes second to finance. A lot of people are in the position of not being rich and not being part of the low income bracket, therefore, paying bus/train fares for their children really stretches their income to breaking point (especially if they have more than one child). I am certain that there are other areas that could be cut or pared down to find these savings. Perhaps some of the overpaid heads of the Council could take a drop in pay or at least don't have a pay rise for a couple of years.

Respondent 108

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I believe this is an unsuitable change to make in a rural area where transport links are not good for children to get to school. The issue is therefore not just of putting children at a disadvantage if their parents are not able to afford the cost of transport to school but also making it logistically very difficult for some children to go to the school that would serve them best.

Respondent 109

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

In 2015 i will have 2 sons attending claverham cc Battle, I attended the same school and so did my parents, we moved to Westfield in order to give my sons the same superb secondary school i attended.

I currently have a third son at primary school (westfield) in 2015 he will be in year 3.

why cant it be put to parents that if savings are to be made then parents able to pay towards the travel costs do so, rather than change the set up completely?

I want my sons to attend the same school for many reasons as im sure other parents do.

The new proposals are crazy, re think if the reason is just money and not the lives of families being torn apart by this.

Respondent 110

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

The council should only provide transport to families that don't have access to public transport for their children to attend school. And the family should contribute at least 80% of the transport cost unless both parents are unemployed.

The taxpayer should not have to bear the cost of this service. Parents need to take responsibility for their kids and not expect everyone else to pay for (financial assist) for them. As for the Council, you talk about financial pressures, well 'wake up and smell the coffee' stop wasting our money and cut out all this waste and start to spend our money (not yours) wisely that will bring real tangible benefits.

Respondent 111

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Living in a rural area options are limited to us by removing this facility we are even more limited at the choices we make and subsequently are able to offer our children.

Respondent 112

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I strongly disagree as this removes the opportunity of choice. Different schools suit different children, and if the child is forced to go to a particular school because of transport issues rather than the school a few miles further away then it will cost the Council more money to rehabilitate that child than the cost of transporting them to school.

The future is our children. Stop messing them around as if they are worthless. They will be in charge of YOU when you get old.

Respondent 113

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

As a parent I had the opportunity to choose a school for my child based on government led results, sibling attendance and my child's specific needs.

Unfortunately with the new proposal none of these issues that I feel are extremely important, seem relevant and the huge cost of transport to her current school will be a major consideration.

If this proposal is implemented it will have a major impact on Chailey school that has year after year performed at a very high level, meeting and surpassing government and county standards - I would struggle between either paying the transport costs or sending my child to Sackville which is a huge school that is currently under special measures.

We both work and pay council tax, which has increased again this year and unfortunately the cost of transport added to our ever increasing bills will mean that we will have to consider making huge changes or sacrifices.

Respondent 114

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

You are proposing to move community boundaries that have been in place for decades. Small communities know where their children are going to go to school and it is vital to keep these boundaries so that good relationship bonds and stability are maintained. In Ashburnham village all the children have gone to Dallington since the school in Ashburnham closed in the 1950's. They went there because it was another small village school and at the end of the road. Under the new proposal children living in certain parts of the village would go to Ninfield school, this would divide the village unnecessarily and require two buses to be sent by the county instead of the one that already runs, thus will cost you more.

Respondent 115

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Living in a rural community on the border between two counties the nearest secondary school (as the crow flies) is not the main school (or part of the integration process for many primary students).

Respondent 116

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I understand that budget has been cut, but limiting peoples choice of where to send their kids to school is not the answer. There are families that are on the outskirts of our town that would be nearer to the school in the next town by only just a few meters. Currently they have the choice to send their kids to either and would be supported with transport by both. These families would be discriminated against getting the support they need to transport their kids to their preferred school under this new propasal, it effectively takes away some families right to chose between schools, leading to a lack of healthy competition between schools.

Respondent 117

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

it is illogical that you could be allocated a school according to your community area which you then do not get transport to.

Instead you can get transport to some school you stand no chance of getting into as it is not your community school.

The transport policy should reflect the school admissions policy.

ESCC keeps telling us to get out of our cars, but policies like this force the public to use cars more and more. Then the schools & police etc start complaining about parents bad parking.

The impact of removing transport to the community school will be huge. with parking and traffic problems for the schools and an increased number of admissions appeals due to parents finding they are unable to get their children to school. This is a "save a few pennies to wast pounds and pounds" policy

Respondent 118

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

My eldest child is at Chailey and I believe it is the right school for my other child who is 8.I will not be able to send both children to the same school-a logistical nightmare for working parents. Also the nearest school to us is Sackville in West Sussex -a school which only last year received a most appalling OFSTED inspection. Under the proposals my parental choice for schooling my youngest child is NO Choice at all !!!!!

Respondent 119

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

As a successful school with a wide catchment area, Chailey School would be disproportionately and unduly affected. It appears that Chailey School would be the nearest school for only a very small number of secondary-aged children, and therefore would have serious ramifications for the school's future. Unintended consequences such as this would doubtless affect other schools in similar contexts just as adversely, and, if efficiency savings imposed by central government is the aim, then a blunt instrument such as this - and reducing parents' choice in secondary school to means testing by proxy - appears an extremely unfair way of doing so.

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| Respondent 120 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>Main reason - Safety and reliability - currently I know there to be a safe reliable option (the bus) for ensuring that my eldest gets to school - I would be happy to pay for it.</p> <p>When this comes there will be limited options for safely and reliably getting my youngest to school so I expect I will end up driving her. I suspect this will be the tendency of other parents. Can you let me know what consideration you have as to the impact of this and what plans you have to ensure the availability of public transport that can be used safely and independently by an 11 year old.</p> |

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| Respondent 121 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>Their would be no impact to me personally other than to put undue pressure on oversubscribed schools and leave other schools with falling admission numbers when they have capacity. The reason for my disagreement is that I do not believe that it will save any (or even some) money. Where villages currently have two designated schools, ESCC will still need to provide transport to both schools, but in all likelihood, one will be full (or even require two buses) and the other may have very few passengers. Fill the buses is the way to save money, not to tell the children where to go.</p> |

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| Respondent 122 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>This will not impact me unless I move. It will, however, affect others in my community. Children who have been at primary school together may not be able to go to secondary school together.</p> <p>This could pressure on other local schools for places such as Ringmer and Priory because of children not getting transport to Chailey school.</p> |

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| Respondent 123 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |

All children should have transport to school for free. We need children in education, and easily for them and their families, so they can concentrate on getting on with learning. Not exhausted from long walks to and from school.

We also need parents in work. My husband and I are both teachers. We are considering that I may have to reduce my hours or give up completely to be able to manage getting our children to secondary school. That not only affects my family but the special school I work for and have long and outstanding experience in.

We want our children in county schools. Currently we will be sending our children out of county to school as this is better than the current alternative of academy or our chosen preference being without a public bus route at all.

Respondent 124

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This is discrimination against pupils who live at a different end of the catchment area. A school's catchment area is supposed to represent the area it requires its' pupils to live in. The Council will discriminate against those in part of it by not offering them transport to school.

Respondent 125

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

There is not enough public transport to get all children from Forest Row to Sackville. Two years ago, before a coach was provided, some children were left stranded in Forest Row unable to get on a bus to school.

There was some suggestion they should walk. Depending on where you live in Forest Row that could entail a 30-50 minute walk - if you are a fast walker. I don't suppose many year 7s could get there so fast. They also carry heavy bags and PE kits. Inevitably parents will end up driving children to school, enormously increasing traffic up the A22 morning and evening on what is already a busy route. This is worse for the environment, worse for the kids who don't learn to be independent and impossible for parents who work. Its also worse for the situation outside the schoolgate where primary school children are also arriving at the school opposite Sackville. There must be some way of providing transport from Forest Row to - what is after all our nearest -school. Even if you asked parents for a small contribution towards the cost that would be a much more practical solution than having dozens of cars driving up and down every day.

Respondent 126

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Knock on affect for funding for Chailey School which will adversely affect the quality of education including the range of subjects and extra-curricular activities.
 It will also mean that parents unless they can afford public transport will not really have a choice in secondary school.
 Children who have been at primary school together will now be split affecting friendships which will have a huge impact on settling into secondary school.
 Yet again the council is targeting vulnerable families

Respondent 127

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I have one child attending robertsbridge community college.
 If the new proposals were brought into effect it would mean sending his younger brother to a different secondary school as it is not the nearest to still receive free transport.
 I feel separating two siblings to attend different secondary schools at the same time is totally unacceptable just for the only reason of free transport.

Respondent 128

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Many parents in this rural area have to travel quite far to secondary school. Choice of schooling is restricted anyway by catchment as well as distance. I have been told that parents choosing a selective school across the border in Kent have their transport costs paid whilst we here in East Sussex will be penalised for choosing a school which we feel will best suit our child's needs. In my case I would not have been able to get my children in to another school locally as both of the secondary schools which I would have chosen are over subscribed and you would not get in if not in catchment.

Respondent 129

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

My son will be affected by this proposal and his journey to school would become dangerous if transport was taken away as it would not be safe for him to walk to school from our address. There are no footpaths or lighting in this area and for an eleven year old boy to be expected to walk or cycle this distance would be unmanageable. If as parents we are then expected to transport him this will add to the traffic and pollution on route to the school. There will be safety issues around the amount of extra traffic on the road outside a school and additional traffic through Battle for those parents currently moving their children though Battle at school opening and finishing times.
 This is another attack on education and the pupils which are supposed to be served by this county.

Respondent 130

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| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| I am against this proposal. This will complicate things for students that have settled in a certain school that isn't their nearest, especially if they cannot afford the changes. This inconvenience is even more so if the student in question is in the middle of an important school year. |

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| Respondent 131 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| This will discriminate against those families who cannot afford to pay for transport costs, but who wish choose a school because it best meets the needs of their child, regardless of distance. |

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| Respondent 132 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
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| Respondent 133 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| I am strongly opposed to this proposal to remove the community area transport to the 'nearest suitable school'. It would mean a high cost/time expense on the family, which we cannot afford. |

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| Respondent 134 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
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| Respondent 135 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |

Children in the state sector should also have the right to some choice of school since some schools are 'science' and others offer better arts programmes. Just because a child lives 3 miles from a 'sport academy' does not mean they must attend it. Parents cannot foresee changes in schools provisions when they buy houses!

Respondent 136

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

My head teacher has argued that the changes will mean that parents don't have a real choice of where to send their child. My counter argument is that all choices have consequences and if the consequence of not sending your child to the nearest school is that you incur transport costs then you need to bear that in mind when making your decision. I'm not sure that it is the taxpayers responsibility to fund the consequences of private decisions. At the moment this change will not affect me. If however I should move house, further away from the school, it would not occur to me to expect the taxpayer to then fund my children's journey to school. Any additional costs I would incur I would expect to bear myself.

Respondent 137

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 138

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

it would seem logical to send your child to the nearest school. If your choice is to send your child to a school further away then you should pay for the transport. The down side is that it will put more traffic on the roads, create more pollution and cost parents considerably more in time and fuel.

Respondent 139

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 140

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

As a parent with children at secondary school and primary school. This proposal would mean that families would not have a choice in secondary schools if they could not afford the transport. This may also mean that families with younger children would not be able to attend the same as their siblings because of the cost of transport. An appalling suggestion.

Respondent 141

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

My eldest son is in year 7 at UplandsCommunity College.We chose that school because we believe it to be the best school for our son.When we applied to the school we were living in a house that was considered eliagble for free transport.We have since moved ,only a mile up the road, and on the same bus route, but we now have to pay for transport because we are closer , by 0.3 miles to Beacon, a school we have no desire to send our son to.
We also have twin boys, who we intend to send to Uplands. The transport costs will be ridiculous!! Where as i totally understand money is tight i do think there should be some be a more flexiable way of getting these children to school.

Respondent 142

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 143

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Currently bus passes are very, very expensive - £720 a year - which many parents would struggle to pay. We are lucky in East Sussex to have good schools and to be able to choose. In a lot of cases, parents are happy with the choices, however a significant number of parents have very definite preferences on schools for a variety of reasons. It could be that the Senco provision for certain categories are much better at different schools, or they want their child to go to a different school from someone who has been systematically bullying them for years. or the provision for certain subjects that a child excels in is outstanding at a particular school etc. It is therefore very unfair that a child may suffer by having to go to the nearest school on grounds of cost. Many parents do not just have child at secondary school, and so the cost could rise unacceptably - in my case, as I have three children at secondary school it would rise to a staggering £2,160 which on top of all the other costs of uniform, lunch, school trips, educational materials would be unmanageable.

Respondent 144

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

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| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| My son is in year seven and has just settled in to his new secondary school. I am a single parent and would not be able to pay for school transport. My son would certainly not want to change schools now so this could put me in a very difficult situation. |

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| Respondent 145 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| I live in Mayfield, which does not have a secondary school. My child is not yet at an age where her secondary school needs to be considered, but I believe I should be entitled to have the choice of school. If, for example, I take the view at that time that Uplands is failing its students but Heathfield or Beacon are not then I should be entitled, since Uplands' failing is the direct responsibility of ESCC, to select a more appropriate school. Alternatively, we live on the edge of the village. All of my daughter's friends in the village may go to, say Heathfield, because that is their closest school, but Uplands might be ours. Our daughter should be permitted to go to Heathfield without us having to incur any financial penalty for her exercising what might be the most sensible educational choice for her. I am a firm believer that a good education is the most important thing we can give our children and is the most important service offered by any strand of government. The journey to school is an important aspect of the happiness of the child and thus their ability to achieve to their potential whilst at school. There are numerous alternatives that should be considered but it is not apparent that any have. For example, ESCC could adopt a similar scheme to Kent whereby children have to buy a pass for a relatively small amount but which can then be used for all journeys, not just school journeys. Or, frankly, the Council can tell the government that it is the democratically elected body for the management of schools in East Sussex, was elected more recently than was the government and if it wants to put up council tax to pay for services which the electorate want then that's exactly what it will do. If councils will not stand up to governments, then I cannot see the point of them. Another complaint I have about this proposal is that we are not told how much the proposed change will save, or what the actual words of the policy will be, as opposed to some general comments on what the change is supposed to mean. I cannot agree to something which is being hidden from me. |

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| Respondent 146 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| My children attend their school of choice . This would have financial implications on us as parents and I believe take away our choice. |

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| Respondent 147 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |

I have two children who attend Uplands Community College and they take the bus from just outside the house in Flimwell to school, this is our nearest secondary school and I hope we will not be affected by these proposed changes.

Respondent 148

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

We live in an area with only 1 designated school but have chosen to pay for a place on the council bus for our daughter to go to Uplands, which I already do not think is fair as it potentially restricts our freedom of choice. This proposal will mean that many more parents are also going to face difficult - or impossible - choices for their children. It is much better to encourage school bus transport to minimise the impact on the environment of too much car travel . Too many parents will jump in a car to get their children to their chosen school rather than pay the £720 a year. Greater car useage puts more pressure on badly maintained roads. It is the poorer parents and more vulnerable children who will lose out, as usual. I know someone who was bullied at primary school and if they had gone to Beacon would have had to face those bullies for a further 7 years. Instead the parents had to pay for him to travel to a different school in order to make a fresh start. Children who have been bullied or had problems at other schools might have an urgent need to move to a different school and now might have to pay for the privelege under the new proposals. Also, there should be a recognition of the differences between Urban and the much more diverse Rural school catchments and transport issues in the transport policy. If the council makes what is perceived to be a high 'one size fits all' vacant seat charge to many more children who previously could have had free transport it will generate much bad will and be counterproductive. Finally, if many more children on my daughters bus ended up paying I would think it was fair to reduce the vacant seat charge for the group, otherwise the proposals are simply a thinly veiled way of the council generating an income stream from those parents exercising choice to cover the rest.

Respondent 149

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I thought we were all given choices in life to follow the path we choose but changing the system would take away that choice. I have incurred great travel expense over the years as I chose to send my children to a secondary school of their choice which was in Sussex not Kent. Before the introduction of the Freedom pass I paid £14 per child per week. The nearest school to us 'as the crow flies' would have meant them taking two buses and leaving home at 7.15am whereas the bus stop for the Sussex school is 2 minutes away round the corner. Using 'as the crow flies' is a ridiculous and out of date method. How could you implement it? Please put an end to choices in education only for those that can afford it and either leave the current system alone or amend it to be fairer and include everybody.

Respondent 150

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This would remove my children's independence.
 I would not have any way of getting them to or from school,
 I already have to take one child to a different primary school by car and one child into Tunbridge Wells,
 Two of my other children use the bus service every day to get to Uplands Community College.
 It is too expensive to pay for this service every day.
 Rural communities have few services to draw on already
 Many children make use of the service
 You are assuming that parents have other means, or the money to get their children to schools which aren't local to them because they live in a rural area
 Children's services have already been cut significantly, you should not be cutting more.

Respondent 151

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I always thought that free transport was only to your nearest appropriate school anyway? When my child started at secondary school there was no transport from our village but ESCC laid on free transport for not only my son but the other 15 children in the village. (After a short campaign by myself) This seems fair to me.

Respondent 152

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

It effectively removes the right to choose the best school for your child if you are unable to afford transportation to and from school. This means, yet again, only the wealthy or those who are able to move into the appropriate school catchment area will have the right to choose which school to send their child to.

Respondent 153

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

ESCCs school transport policy offers no parental choice without the ability to pay for it and rather than making cuts to services you need to be looking at the true impact of the policy. Preventing young people from accessing their choice of education provider due to high transport costs can lead to disengagement and ultimately becoming NEET which has untold costs to society and young people in the long term. ESCC refuses to recognise the true impact of school transport costs and doesn't care. Wouldn't it be good to have an innovative cc who value education and promoting choice and affordable access and seek out ways to provide it.

Respondent 154

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 155

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Numerous pupils select schools on personal preference and ability suited to a particular schools? Your transport proposals prejudice against appropriate selections due to prohibitive transportation costs. This proposal should not be considered further and funding needs to be maintained for this critical facility.

Respondent 156

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Would not allow children to have a choice of school and also stop pupils from accessing some schools
We live in a fairly rural area and if transport links were better this would not be a problem but there are NO buses in stonegate not even to the station

Respondent 157

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 158

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

We are told by Government that right of parents to have the best choice of school for their child (ren). By doing this you are taking away our freedom of choice for our children. It could have an impact on East Sussex schools with regards to Kent authority offering a different more fairer system.
Not all people can afford such a huge cost for transport to school - if they have more than one child.
As a single mother on working tax credit i find it very hard to make ends meet and would definitely struggle to find an additional cost to get my child to school.

Respondent 159

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

While the proposal may not impact me at this time I uphold the right of any child to be educated in the best place appropriate whether that is the nearest school or not. Removing this transport would mean that only parents who are in a position to pay for or drive their own children to school could chose to do this.

Respondent 160

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Impact on parents choice of schools.

Respondent 161

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I feel very strongley this proposal will discriminate against lower income families removing the choice of schools for them.

Respondent 162

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

My daughter is statemented and attends Heathfield Community College, as I felt that this school could give her what she needs more so than the designated school in our area. I think it is unfair that we are penalised for choosing a school outside of our catchment area where transport is concerned, not every designated school is suitable for each child. I knew I would have to pay transport costs, but that was at the back of my mind when choosing the right school for my daughter, I wanted what was best for her, and I feel that I made the right choice. To have free transport would be a bonus, as like others, being a single parent I am on a very tight budget. For my daughter this was the 'most suitable school' for her needs.

Respondent 163

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This will limit the choice of school for many children. It will also increase traffic on the roads at school run time

Respondent 164

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Living in a rural area and as a working parent, transport to school is vital for my child. Where we live walking to school is sadly not an option as the majority of the route has no pavement and it would be dangerous to walk along what is a very busy road. Paying for transport would cause hardship and would be difficult to maintain. The proposal would take away choice of which school a child attends, obviously there is criteria anyway but this would be very key in the decision making. I feel this proposal is discriminatory and should not be implemented not just for my child but for all the other families that would be adversely affected. Thank you

Respondent 165

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

This would not have any impact on me financially as the closest School is Uplands, I am however thinking of many of my daughters friends on an average to low income with three children at the same school who could ill afford the new "tax".

Respondent 166

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

The decision to remove transport to the further school would mean our 11 year old son, due to start secondary school in My 11 year old son Sept 2014 will not be able to travel by bus to Uplands school with his older brother, who will still qualify for transport as he is already using the service. Are siblings not encouraged to attend the same school? Are we supposed to change our plans for his schooling?

I am concerned also that this decision effectively removes any choice for many people in a joint community area.

Respondent 167

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 168

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Living in such a remote location, this proposal loses my children the right to choose a school, that fits their needs. House prices in towns will increase even further due to "outstanding" schools, further pushing out people's choice. I've seen this in suburban areas as ppl try to get closer and closer to the school. It's already incredibly difficult without any added pressure. If my child fits into the closest school to our house than that's fine, but each child is an individual and some just don't work! If I have to pay is rather take them myself but rather difficult when you have children in primary school. But if this comes into place I will and therefore more cars, parking issues etc.

Respondent 169

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Respondent 170

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I live in Forest Row and less than 3 miles from my nearest secondary school, Sackville in East Grinstead. I am also in the admissions area for Beacon and Chailey. If this proposal goes ahead and funded transport to Beacon or Chailey disappears, we will be left with no way of getting to the schools in the admissions areas, since there are no public busses serving that route.

Until funded transport disappears, I understand that we will be eligible to apply for the Vacant Seat Scheme which is not only expensive at £120 every half term, but it comes with no guarantees that our children will get a seat. So at the last minute we will need to find alternative transport to either Chailey or Beacon - not easy without public transport.

To ensure consistent attendance, we might be best off choosing our nearest school Sackville, which is in West Sussex. There is at least a public bus service going there and at the moment a free bus because the path from Forest Row to Sackville was deemed unsafe. However, if at any point in the future, that path was deemed safe again, we would need to pay £550 per year for one child.

I do not qualify as low income, but the impact on our family finances with two children going to attend secondary school in the next few years of either the public bus to Sackville or the Vacant Bus Scheme to Chailey or Beacon would be huge. Also, I would like to still have the choice of my child going to the schools in our admissions area and feel confident that there would be some kind of transport to get them there.

Respondent 171

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly agree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I am hoping that it may open up school oportunites previously closed due to oversubscription.

Respondent 172

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

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| Disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>We have sent our child to a school that is out of catchment for free school transport but is one of three state schools that we could choose from.</p> <p>The fact that the school is in East Sussex and we have to pay £15.00 a week when children from Kent pay £100 a year is galling. Because we chose to send her to the school that was not our catchment school we feel we are being penalized.</p> <p>There should be free or subsidized travel to school.</p> |

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| Respondent 173 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>How can you justifiably differentiate between the transport area and the admissions area for school transport - living in the catchment area of one school and knowing your child is going to attend that school is a cornerstone of UK education policy. It would be wholly unacceptable not to provide transport for the child to attend that school as you are currently legally obliged to do. This takes no account of there being possibly being no public transport to a closer school and that the cost of paying to be transported to the catchment area school may well be beyond the financial means of families living in the catchment area. There would surely be a legal redress for these families. At the very least it would discourage such families from sending their children to school. I would be disgusted at these cost saving measures that would have a direct impact on the provision of education to children. I would vote against such proposals in any election or ballot. Cost savings can be achieved by being more efficient and not wasting money on far less important projects.</p> |

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| Respondent 174 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>The nearest school is definitely not the school we want our children to go to. If the proposal goes ahead it will cost us £28.00 a week or be late for work everyday and more reckless driving on our roads by parents trying to get their children to school on time and also to work. We can't afford to send our children to private school but do not see why we should send our above the average achieving child to an under achieving school. And as we both work we do not qualify for a full scholarship, unlike those who do not work, claim benefits and have 3 children, all qualify for full scholarship! Get your act together and stop punishing those of us who keep your country a float and don't take it for every penny like some do!</p> |

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| Respondent 175 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>My son has ASD. The closest school will not give him the level of support he needs so I will be choosing a different school. It is unfair that we will be penalised regarding transport when we are only trying to give our son the best support in school.</p> |

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| Respondent 176 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| I think this is just a way of providing a rationale not to provide School Transport! Why do I say this, well if your child is in a School Community Area and has always been entitled to attend a particular Secondary School, plus due to their home location would have also been allocated free transport, this whole scenario could now change, as if the policy is amended you will be able to cease the transport arrangement if there happens to be a Secondary School in a neighbouring area and are also potentially forcing parents to choose a particular School based on transport costs as opposed to educational or Ofsted rating - hardly free choice or supporting the less well off who can't afford not to take up free transport - if this what UK Government Education Policy is all about now - less choice and segregation? |

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| Respondent 177 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| The majority of our children currently go onto Claverham, because they are in the catchment area. Under the new way of measuring distance some of them, at the southern end of the village, may find their transport funding withdrawn. It seems wrong to penalise them for choosing to attend an outstanding school in whose catchment area they live. |

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| Respondent 178 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| It removes choice of school for those who cannot afford to pay. It discriminates against less well off families and children. It discriminates against rural families. |

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| Respondent 179 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |

I believe that these proposed changes would have a detrimental effect on Claverham Community College and the families it serves for a number of reasons. Families would in effect have the choice to go to their community school removed if they do have the funds to support their choice of school. Thus disadvantaging already vulnerable families. In rural areas there is often not a viable public transport network, thus meaning that if the school bus to Claverham is not provided the parents will have no choice but to either use private transport or accept the school transport to another school. Families with multiple siblings will find the possible financial implications of these proposals potentially crippling. This could force rural communities into a position where only those that can afford it are able to attend the community school with those who cannot afford the transport costs being sent to other schools. The impact of significant changes to the budgets of rural schools, especially those whose community areas are close to urban areas, could have a huge impact going forward on their ability to function. The reduction in school transport could see a significant increase in traffic on rural roads as parents seek alternative transport. This could have a major environmental impact and force families and young people into situations which pose a significant to their health and safety. This is a particular issue in rural areas where the choice of transport is often the school bus or private transport. The savings made from these proposals may well not be significant as transport providers may charge a similar charge for routes where distances are similar, or only differ by a small margin, but the route to a more urban school poses more significant issues with regard to traffic congestion. Rural schools serve often wide spread communities and are a focus for local people who they have often served for generations. These proposals would seem to undermine these relationships and breakdown traditional values and connections. The schools seeing the main impact from these proposals would seem to be amongst the highest performing schools in the county and those who have sought to remain as Local Authority schools. These proposals would seem to be sending a message that the Local Authority wishes to disassociate itself from these schools and the families in their community areas.

Respondent 180

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Parents should not have to take into account whether or not they will receive school transport when choosing a school for their child.
All children should receive school transport to their chosen school until the child finishes their studies. This should include sixth form students.

Respondent 181

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

Removing community areas for transport could lead to pupils in Crowhurst being allocated Claverham as they live in the community area for admissions but not being eligible for transport.

Respondent 182

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

If a child lives within the catchment area of their chosen school and therefore is offered a place at that school, transport should be provided to that school not the nearest school that may not be suitable for that child.

I wish my daughter to attend the same school as my son who currently has transport provided to that school, but if these changes took place she would be offered transport to another school that i do not wish her to attend. I feel this makes no logical sense.

Respondent 183

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

It is going to become a discriminatory system, meaning that like in Kent where only the rich can then have a choice of providing the best possible education for their child. It is a rural area, the road network, parking and transport links are non existent and altering the current system would make it impossible for many. We do not have any other option that the current school bus as there are no public transport buses from our location to school. There is horrendous parking and the traffic is already dangerous to the school village without potentially adding hundreds more cars to it for those that have the option to drive. It will remove choice for alot of people who will not be able to afford the monopoly of the bus company fee and will then be forced to accept a second or third choice school based on cost. It is supposed to be a free education system we pay for with our taxes.

Respondent 184

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I think transport should be free to children

Respondent 185

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

It is too far and too dangerous for my daughter to walk to school and as i leave for work at 5.00am it is not possible to take her

Respondent 186

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I understand that the council needs to save money but I don't believe the proposed will achieve this. In Forest Row approximately half the children go to Sackville School which will become the new designated school for this area. These children currently pay for their own transport but will now be funded under the new rules. Thereby eliminating the savings made by penalising the pupils who go to Chailey, our nearest East Sussex school.

Whilst there is currently space at Sackville there may not be sufficient for pupils who will now be considering it over Chailey to benefit from free transport. West Sussex CC are not obliged to provide spaces for East Sussex residents. Sackville is currently designated as 'Requires Improvement' by Ofsted so is not comparable to Chailey which is 'Good@

I am also concerned that should the numbers travelling to Chailey diminish due to this change in policy, you may decide school transport to Chailey albeit funded by parents, will not be viable and stop the service. There is no other means of transport to Chailey other than by car, which would not comply with your stated aims to encourage sustainable transport.

This policy could also have a negative effect on the school itself. Should pupils move away from Chailey as a consequence, the school may become unviable and possibly close

Respondent 187

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

His is taking away parental choice of schools. Not all parents would wish to send their child to an academy. I deem the most suitable school for my child to be the one that delivers the best teaching, results, social inclusion and size of school. The school that my child would be eligible for would not meet that compared to where he is now (if I was at the first admission stage)

Respondent 188

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

I feel that it would severely restrict my options for my childs schooling. It would effectively mean everyone living under 3 miles from a school will not get any help with transport, and anyone wishing to attend a school over three miles away will only get help with transport if it is the school nearest to them.

Having had 3 children at our nearest school without transport provision, we moved them because of the poor standards there, and would like the option to place our 4th child at a different school, but will be unable to do so if there is no transport for him. This proposal eliminates any kind of choice for parents who cannot drive their children to school.

Respondent 189

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

The pupils at a school such as Chailey come from villages all over East Sussex, most of whom rely on free transportation. If this was to stop, schools like this which attract families due to it's size, location and ability to cater to children from all backgrounds, would struggle to stay open. It also reduces choices of schools based on an ability to pay for transport.

Respondent 190

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

We live approximately 5 miles from Uplands community College, my daughter who attends this school uses the bus service on the days I work and my middle daughter starts Uplands in September and will also need to use the school bus. I am very concerned as to how my children will get to school with out this service, as we don't live in walking distance to their school. I think making changes in any way to this service will be extremely detrimental to many parents and pupils.

Respondent 191

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

By doing this you take away choice! Chailey school has been the catchment school for Forest Row for decades - leave it as it is. It smells suspiciously like plans to close rural communities schools like Chailey in order to facilitate the expansion of academies!

Respondent 192

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

seems environmentally unfriendly - lack of availability of school bus (if don't chose the school nearest) will lead to more parents driving - more pollution and congestion.

Respondent 193

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

My son attended a school of choice, which under your proposal would mean he wouldn't have been able to have this choice. I think that to just take into consideration distance from one's home as being a priority over the happiness of a child is not what I would expect of a council. Has the council considered that the amount of children having to attend their nearest school, could put that school under considerable strain to provide places eg. A lot of children in Forest Row attend Chailey, but under your proposals they would have to go to Sackville. I don't believe that Sackville could provide that number of extra places.

Respondent 194

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| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>This measure would lead to parents being obliged to send their child to the nearest school whatever its nature or suitability, as few people can afford such on-going costs, particularly for more than one child. Since schools have been encouraged to offer different specialisms by government policy and even to become academies, not all schools are suitable for all children. In our case, Chailey is the only available state school which is relatively small and in a rural location (a natural progression from our relatively small, rural primary school in Forest Row) as well as specialising in languages and humanities, which are our child's preference over engineering and sport (the specialisms of the nearest, much larger, town based schools). Additionally, we have already put two children through Chailey school with great success: they settled immediately; formed suitable friendship groups and received an excellent education, achieving top grades across the board. Having had such good experiences with Chailey, we are naturally not willing to send our third child elsewhere.</p> <p>If this bus service were removed, we would be unable to send our child to the most suitable state school, despite being within the catchment area, as there is no public transport between Forest Row and Chailey.</p> <p>This seems to be totally contrary to the government's policies on educational choice, as well as being discriminatory against the poorest students.</p> <p>There is also the damage to Chailey that would be done by depriving it of these students: a decreased intake would necessarily lead to the school shrinking and having to lay off staff, which would affect the education of those children still at the school. In addition, sixth form providers would experience a knock on effect, as students in the larger, nearer schools would stay there for sixth form.</p> |

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| Respondent 195 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |
| <p>Children need to go to school, correct? What happens when schools over populate and a child from a family which have little income can't go to the closest school? Do they not go to school? Will they have to be home schooled? No! And the idea of having to pay for transport it disgusting, and clearly we're living in a era where people don't have enough money to keep paying out here and there.</p> <p>Overall, I believe this will encourage less, and less people to send their children to school, and just homeschool instead.</p> |

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| Respondent 196 |
| Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy? |
| Strongly disagree |
| If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you |

Whilst my son will be able to keep his free school transport, as he is already receiving it, however I feel that this will change if this proposal is approved. This is just a "foot in the door" for the council to then start planning the complete removal of free transport.

There are better ways to make savings than taking away a child's free travel on a bus. The choice of school I send my son to is very important for his education and that will be outside the free route with your plans, the impact of cost on me is massive - that should not impact a child's education but with your plans this inevitably will.

I object to your plans.

Respondent 197

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

There need to be affordable options for parents to be able to choose the school they want for their children. It should not be that working families not entitled to benefits should not be able to access transport for their children. I would like to send my child to Chailey, I live in Forest Row, we are working parents so we can not take him to school. We understand cuts need to be made and are prepared to contribute however there needs to be an option for children. Chailey is a smaller rural school rather than a big comprehensive yet if transport is taken away we will not have the option to send him there. We will have to send him to a school out of county. The other option Beacon is an Academy which is not our choice. We are very aware that there is a political agenda behind this consultation to persuade people to use Academies. The previous consultation was totally ignored by the council I will be interested to see how this one is "vanished".

Respondent 198

Do you agree with our proposal to change the current Home to School Transport Policy?

Strongly disagree

If you wish please give your main reasons for your answer to Q4, including any impact the proposal would have on you

If this is a "real" public consultation unlike the first, which the majority of parents responding said to keep the buses and the will of the people was totally ignored by the council! I will be interested to see if the results of this one are published and the will of the people is honoured. I wait with baited breath!

The agenda behind this is all about the academies and their push for pupils of a certain socio-economic background. Read academy, see old failing school, but give it a new name and we can try and sell it to the poor suckers who have no real choice of school! All I want is a subsidised bus to a school of MY choice. Not having to rely on public transport or the lack of, which in my area which restricts my choice to one school, out of county. I am willing to pay, but it seems it's always the same, if I was on a low income and qualified for free school meals I would have no end of choice but because I work, I feel I am being discriminated against by the council.

