

Committee:	<b>Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness</b>
Date:	<b>11 May 2015</b>
Title of Report:	<b>Post-16 Transport Statement 2015-2016</b>
By:	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
Purpose of Report:	<b>To approve the proposed Post 16 Transport Statement for the 2015-2016 academic year</b>

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***Recommendation:***

**The Lead Member is recommended to approve the Post-16 Transport Statement for the 2015-16 academic year as shown in Appendix 1, following the required consultation.**

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**1. Background**

- 1.1 East Sussex County Council provides discretionary transport support to students of sixth form age through a number of schemes. These are funded from the home to school transport budget and a smaller Children's Services Department budget for grants towards the cost of transport.
- 1.2 The Home to School Transport budget covers the following areas:
  - specialist transport for students needing support due to their learning difficulties and/or disabilities;
  - bus season tickets or free coach permits to students from low income families who live more than 3 miles from their nearest school or college; and
  - subsidised rail tickets for all students regardless of family income.
- 1.3 A separate budget, held in the Admissions and Transport Team, funds termly grants to students from low income families who live over 3 miles from their school or college, where bus travel is impractical. The level of grant given varies according to the distance travelled. **Appendix 1** (Section 5) sets out the levels of grant available.
- 1.4 Adjustments to the level of support in recent years have enabled the savings identified in the medium term financial plan (2013-2016) to be met.

**2. Supporting information**

- 2.1 Local authorities are obliged to consult on and publish the transport policy statement each year. The statement must specify the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the authority considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.
- 2.2 The proposed Transport statement for 2015-2016 is shown in Appendix 1. The changes from the current policy are minimal with amendments to dates and prices only.
- 2.3 Consultation took place between 23 February and 23 March 2015. In total one positive comment was received, which is available for inspection upon request.

**3. Conclusion and reason for recommendations**

- 3.1 The County Council has carried out its legal duty to consult on the annual Transport Statement, and the comments received show no opposition to the proposals outlined in the Transport Statement in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to agree the Post-16 Transport Statement as the County Council's policy for supporting post-16 students with the cost of transport to their further education provision from September 2015.

3.3 Further savings may need to be identified from these budgets and consultation on proposals to further reduce the support available may need to be considered later this year.

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Local Members: All

Background Documents:

Post 16 transport to education and training

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Proposed Post 16 Transport Statement