

Responses to consultation on East Sussex County Council's proposed Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2022-2023

Comments were sought on the Post 16 Transport Policy Statement 2022/23

There were 13 responses made via the consultation hub. These are as follows:

Comments were sought on any aspect of the Post 16 Transport Policy Statement (13)

- 1) There isn't enough information about what help parents can get for their child going to college via transport. I'm a single parent my son wants to go to Lewes college from Eastbourne because Lewes offers higher maths A level, I told him it would be unlikely him being able to go there as I won't be able to afford to send him there everyday, he's not happy about it but how am I able to afford it as I'm working full-time and I pay 44 pound each month for him to attend Ratton school which will come to an end in June after his GCSE
- 2) Should be free.
- 3) This generation have suffered enough detriment to their education from Covid 19. I do not believe there should be any increased charges. If anything charges should be reduced to reflect the difficult experience they have been through and to encourage new opportunities to mix socially with each other to reaffirm their social confidence.
- 4) I currently get the train everyday from Cooden to Seaford. I was only made aware of the buses that ran from Eastbourne to Seaford when I was half way through this academic year and not only would it be easier for me to get to the college, but it would've been half the price than my train fare. (And there would have been less cancellations). I currently pay £800 a year for my train ticket and that will go up next year as I am not entitled to the 50% off.
- 5) Your policy and the enforcement of it is shameful. It is discriminatory against SEND students and takes no account of the impact on families. It is a tipping point and the smug way it is enforced is outrageous. I honestly don't know how you can sleep at night.
- 6) For children with SEN it's not always appropriate or possible for them to travel independently on public transport. Parents that have to work, or have other children to get to school, have no way of getting their children to school if they are excluded from the school transport. This is then detrimental to the child and their family. More help is needed in these circumstances. I actually find it disgraceful that this is even in question.
- 7) My child in year 12 has not had an allocated place on post 16 transport to school throughout the academic year. I live in rural Hartfield with no public transport links to Crowborough where she goes to school. My child has had to move out of my home and live with her father permanently to enable her to access her compulsory post 16 education. This has been hugely detrimental to our whole family and the child, who is trying hard to work, struggling with a 2 household family and unable to live with her mother due to lack of transport provision. This is an outrageous situation to impose on a child.
- 8) Feel we should be given this help sooner to be honest. Waiting lists are holding people back months and they might really need help but are too anxious to ask because they don't want people worrying therefore they are forced to sit alone. If it's a speedier process then maybe more people would do it at school rather than pay ridiculous amounts to support our mental health that has been abused by secondary school atmospheres and we are only being given help to get through it just as we are in our last couple of years.

- 9) there is not enough capacity on the 261 bus as people struggle to find seats and stand very close to the front due to lack of space there used to be two but they got rid of them.
- 10) I think that there needs to be improved public transport across East Sussex, as teens want to go out, and if they went on public transport instead of private transport it would be better for the environment, and also would be easy for teens to arrange. As well as that, if there are more bus times it is much easier to go to and from school, especially if there are things such as after school clubs which would require us to get a later bus (which does not exist).
- 11) Please can the school buses be free, I can't afford to pay £2,000 a year.
- 12) are buses are always late
- 13) Where there is not adequate provision or coverage in a locality - eg Eastbourne for A levels, the LA should be supporting all students to travel to a college where they can access these subjects. The cost of travel is prohibitive to some students attending different colleges and accessing the courses for higher education. Their parents may not be able to access funding as they earn just a bit too much. It is shocking that a town the size of Eastbourne does not have adequate provision to A levels. If the LA can't afford it they should be working in partnership with the FE providers