

Responses to consultation on East Sussex County Council's proposed Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2023-2024

Comments were sought on any aspect of the Post 16 Transport Policy Statement 2023/24

Twelve respondents left comments to the consultation. A further seven people registered with the survey but did not leave a comment. The results are as follows:

- 1) The journey to my college will take 3 hours roundtrip - using the Plumpton school bus. I feel if public transport from battle was more accessible this journey could be shortened.
- 2) Please have the trains working as much as possible.
- 3) I think as a parent students are required to stay in education so transportation should be free to encourage students to continue education for as long as possible.
- 4) Our village is not served by a Beacon school bus service. There is no public bus to Crowborough from our village (except one bus, mid-afternoon, three days per week - with no returning service). Therefore, there are no public or school transport services available to Beacon students of any age in our village. Therefore, discussion of passes and discount cards is irrelevant - without a regular and reliable bus service serving our village, using a car is the only option (it's five miles, uphill on narrow lanes, so walking or cycling are not viable options). ESCC and central government need to invest in increasing and improving public transport more broadly.
- 5) No particular comment. A free bus service would be useful.
- 6) All students in full time education should have free travel whilst in education !
- 7) 16-19 year olds should get significantly reduced fares (at least 50%) on all public transport, which should all be at an off-peak rate even if they are travelling at peak times. Or should be able to travel at a minimal flat rate, no matter how many stops they are travelling (similar to an accompanied child £2 fare on the train). They should also be able to apply for a free travel card to prove age.
- 8) Currently use the train which I get no help with financially. The bus would take too long and there is no other available transport.
- 9) The fares should be in line with increases. The cost of living is impacting all families negatively.
- 10) To ensure that travel for students from Uckfield and surrounding villages have sufficient transport and subsidised travel to Lewes for college. Not all students are able to attend UC 6th form and so should be able to travel to Lewes.
- 11) First. I would welcome free transport for any college/school/post16education children. That would make things a lot more affordable and will bring more children into post 16 education. If it is the government's intention to get as many children as possible provided with a good base to succeed in life, they would need to provide easier access.

Second. It would make an amazing difference if it would be straightforward and clear how/when/with which company, etc. you need to get what sort of pass to show you're U18 and/or a post16 student. I find it absolutely ridiculous the way you need to register and wind your way through pages and pages on various

websites of different websites. There should be 1 UK-wide pass, crystal clear, easy to arrange and not on which bus company you travel.

Third it would help if public transport in general would be more frequent. For a household with 2 working parents, it is quite often difficult to get our Sixth form child back as the bus is simply not there. I do not think children (under 18yrs) should have to pay for transport to school. There is a school bus to and from our village which up to 6th form they can take for free. There are lots of spare seats on the school but hence any child should be eligible.