

Responses to consultation on East Sussex County Council's proposed Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2024-2025

Comments were sought on any aspect of the Post 16 Transport Policy Statement 2024/25

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

- 1) I do not agree that children who have to stay in education till 18/19 should have to pay to travel to their place of learning, it is a shock to me as a parent of a child who is currently 15, we will have to pay hundreds of pounds for their travel from Sept.
- 2) Not all villages are connected to the main schools. No transport from High Hurstwood to Crowborough for school-age kids except the Flexibus. Providing travel passes is no use without a service to use them on! have the trains working as much as possible.
- 3) Please keep costs down. £4 or £5 a day on public transport is a lot! I pay near £50 a month with a bus pass, but a lot if the savings can be wasted due to half term etc. Would term time only tickets be possible?? Also B&H buses ticket options are impossible to navigate for the best price. I have only just found this cheaper 30day ticket as previously I had been told the £2 each way was the cheapest.
- 4) As a parent I think that free school transport should be provided for years 12 and 13 as well as younger years to encourage children to stay in education.
- 5) 6th form students, who cannot yet drive, should not have to pay bus fares to school.
- 6) As a rural community with no public transportation to post 16 compulsory education it is vital that students are given a seat to travel on the school bus. My child had to move out from her family home to stay elsewhere during the working week, for 2 years to enable her to get to school, as no provision of a school bus space was made. This was extremely detrimental to her family life and her experience as a young person, without a family home and the support that comes with it throughout her 6th form education. I hope no other child is forced to leave home, just to get to school. Please provide transport to school for post 16 students in rural Sussex which do not have public transportation services.
- 7) My biggest concern for the next academic year is transport between Wadhurst and Beacon academy, Crowborough now that Uplands sixth form is closing. Will you provide transport (mini bus or public bus) to allow Wadhurst students to attend sixth form in Crowborough.
- 8) The Travel over 16 years is subsidised on public transport except for travel on booked coaches. Free travel til 16 then £1130 per year for a vacant seat. Other children can for £2-3 per day when needed. By definition the vacant seat is vacant and is not costing council any more money - if not used it will just be empty and cost the same amount. Having spent the 1130 for first year We have chosen for our child to now drive- more cars, more emissions but significantly cheaper for us. Sad and a little short sighted.
- 9) Reduce price of the £15 freedom Bus ticket.
- 10) Public transport needs to be more reliable to expect those with disabilities to feel happier to use it.
- 11) It would be helpful if students travelling by train could have a railcard that covered them for their time in education, rather than ending when they are 18. I recognise that the railcards are managed by train companies, not the Council. I also recognise that Council budgets have been ravaged in recent years and that there are more weighty needs to be met before those of young people without additional needs who

have elected to attend a particular college. However, I just wanted to make the point that Government has made education (or training) up to the age of 18 compulsory and it is 'free' (in theory); but the costs of transport to sixth form college are not insignificant from a family point of view.

- 12) Please would you advise if there is transport available for sixth form pupil from Argos Hill to Beacon Academy. Now that Uplands sixth form is closing we have applied to Beacon. However despite being our closest school I do not know of any cross country public bus. Please advise if there is currently a private service running. Thank you.
- 13) It should be discounted to 25% for students and available during transport strike days.