

## Responses to consultation on East Sussex County Council's proposed Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2020-2021 and proposed removal of the Sussex Student Card rail subsidy

Comments were sought separately on the following:-

1. Post 16 Transport Policy Statement 2020/21
2. Proposed removal of the Sussex Student Card

There were 17 responses to the consultation. Not all respondents answered both questions. The results are as follows:

### **1. Comments were sought on any aspect of the Transport Policy Statement (15)**

- 1) I think the 50% discount is a good idea but I feel like it should be for 16-18 year olds so it covers both college years.
- 2) My son attends Brighton and Sussex Medical school and has a further 4 years to go. He is 21 . I believe the discount card he uses is the one you are trying to scrap. His course is full time and he travels from Polegate to Brighton everyday Monday to Friday. There are a number of students attending universities that live out of the town centres to try and save on the massive rental fees there. I would imagine the remaining 6% still using the original card are university students who will be greatly impacted by the huge rise in cost from the savings they currently make if they were then forced to buy the standard adult ticket. Perhaps there could be a standard card that represents all students in education rather than just the 16 and 17 year olds.
- 3) This is a good idea.  
Can I also point out that since Rye Studio was closed my daughter will have to travel a considerable distance to find a college that offers what she wants to study, the only one Offering these subjects being Bexhill College. There is only one bus there in the morning from Rye and one in the Late afternoon As the service was cut. but college Start and finish times are all at different Times Of the day, Meaning she has to use the train partially as there is no direct bus outside of these times.  
we can't take advantage of cheaper fare schemes if she has to switch between bus and train to travel to/from college. Changing buses will give her a 4 hour commute daily !!  
What would be really useful is a discounted Student Ticket that can be used on The bus and The train !!!! Not either / or as is at present. Thank you
- 4) As a mature student (42), losing my student discount rail card would be devastating as it would mean making further sacrifices to travel for my studies or having to possibly reconsider if I can continue with studies due to costs.  
  
Please don't cease the student discount rail card?! Kind regards
- 5) The policy statement is perfectly reasonable
- 6) This should not be stopped as a distant student with weekly contact time in London I rely heavily on this card for frequent trips there. There are several women just I know who do the same. It cant be that expensive to offer/produce the cards so leave it be
- 7) The Freedom Ticket will be going up by 50p which we understand the necessity but it is going increasingly difficult for students and parents/guardians to pay this if the price keeps going up, it is approximately £18 extra an academic year. We understand that students can apply for a bursary but there will be a number of students are not able to apply for this for various different reasons. At what point does the scheme become not viable in terms of affordable travel for Post 16 young people. Affordable Public transport and specified public transport will play a big role in the carbon footprint.

- 8) Doesn't cater for students as for my oldest who was wrongly advised for her subjects to take at Lewes so started again with different courses the following year. She is now 19 and effectively in her 2nd year, and is not eligible for 16-17 railcard, why should she be paying a full adult fare when she is still in full time education? You expect parents to pay this anyway but not all of us are earning stupid money to cover this easily. Further, my 2nd oldest started at Lewes last September, We applied for her student card in good time through new provider Totum, in order for her to then get the train 'unizone' travel card as for our eldest, but they were completely inept and 7 months later have still not received this despite getting Maria Caulfield MP on board. Therefore we were forced after a few weeks to make a further purchase of the 16-17 railcard for her in order to get discounted tickets.

I understand a fair few others are / were in same position so therefore misleading statistics on the take up of discounted tickets through this, and like us being forced down the route of the 16-17 railcard instead!!

- 9) As a mature student at University of Sussex I rely on my student railcard, currently a young persons railcard (which was issued and is accepted even though I am in middle age).

The consultation document does not mention mature students. I can assume that the changes will not adversely affect mature students but wanted to point that out in case my assumption is mistaken.

- 10) Given the well publicised fact that falling skills levels, are having a detrimental affect on the UK as a whole. My view is that young people with a desire to learn, should be given every form of support possible.

One day we may all need to call on them for help, as we are doing right now, with the ongoing 'Corona virus emergency'.

- 11) I am 17 and turn 18 in October. Since summer I have been using the trains much more t see family who lives in Hastings so I decided to purchase the 16-17 as it was becoming very expensive (particuallly as I am a student working a part-time job at the weekend.) It has been great, however, as I near 18 I am aware that I won't be able to use it and instead will purchase a 16-25 saver as I will still be making those journeys. I feel that it is still important to carry on with the 16-25 saver as even at the age of 18, students still can only work when they are not in school on top of balancing their studies so cannot afford to pay the full rate EVEN IF they have previously had the 50% 16-17 saver.

When at uni, students use trains commonly to travel back home and many of those students are on a tight budget and struggle to pay the full rate. THE CONTINUITY OF THE 16-25 34% SAVER IS IMPERATIVE as many over the age of 18 who do not qualify for the 16-17 saver struggle.

- 12) The 3i-D card for Students and Schoolchildren to obtain Discount Bus Travel could be extended to include Sussex Rail journeys too. The card should be in ITSO form so that tickets by BUS or TRAIN can be loaded directly on to it.

It should be made automatically available to ALL children from the age of 11( Year 7 starters) up to their 16th birthday, with an option to extend it until 31st August after their 19th birthday.

- 13) To carry on with subsidy to enable all children to an education despite their background and deprivation many families in Hastings face.

- 14) I value the transport offered and would appreciate it be continued, post 16

- 15) Seems lengthy but has all the information for students to work out their journey and if there's any support available

## 2. What is the impact of the proposed removal of the Sussex Student Card (15)

- 1) A lot of people won't be able to get to college. Drop out rate would increase
- 2) The student card is vital as students learning don't have time to get a full time job so money for some people is an issue anywhere that can reduce children's travel cost is a good thing.
- 3) A massive increase in cost to all university students.
- 4) None in fact it's better
- 5) I may have to reconsider if I can continue my studies as a mature student
- 6) With ESCC scheme ending, this would be an ideal opportunity to extend the `Unizone` ticket scheme to Hastings in the East and up to Haywards Heath in the North , giving transport opportunities for young people
- 7) I would likely have to give up my course as it would bulk my weekly travel so much
- 8) Student's benefit greatly from the 16-17 Railcard that was introduced but the Government and the students are using it. The number students have not increased in getting the card as a good amount of students continue to use the bus.

The Sussex Student Card was retained for this academic year which was a good idea, even though there has been a decrease in applications it is worth noting that students 18 and over do still use and it is their lifeline in getting to college. it was inevitable that there was going to be a decrease in applications for the card because a large cohort of students are 16-17 years old and generally student leave at 18 years old but depending in the students birthday will depend if the four month extension will be sufficient. This also depends on the level 2 cohort of students that progress on to a level 3 as this changes on a yearly basis so the percentage of students that do a third year will be different. A possibility is that the 16-17 Railcard extension is extended to the end of the academic year of the year they turn 18 years old.

- 9) see response in previous question ! [{see comment #8 above}](#) doesn't cater for 18 / 19 year olds, or even mature students trying to change career.
- 10) Removal of the student card will add to the overall cost of gaining an education. Education is very important for the future of the individuals and this nation as a whole.
- 11) I am 17 and turn 18 in October. Since summer I have been using the trains much more to see family who lives in Hastings so I decided to purchase the 16-17 as it was becoming very expensive (particually as I am a student working a part-time job at the weekend.) It has been great, however, as I near 18 I am aware that I won't be able to use it and instead will purchase a 16-25 saver as I will still be making those journeys. I feel that it is still important to carry on with the 16-25 saver as even at the age of 18, students still can only work when they are not in school on top of balancing their studies so cannot afford to pay the full rate EVEN IF they have previously had the 50% 16-17 saver.  
  
When at uni, students use trains commonly to travel back home and many of those students are on a tight budget and struggle to pay the full rate. THE CONTINUITY OF THE 16-25 34% SAVER IS IMPERATIVE as many over the age of 18 who do not qualify for the 16-17 saver struggle.
- 12) More Students learning to drive, purchasing cars, and increasing traffic congestion.
- 13) Lack of education
- 14) There's too many schemes already and this one seems to have been replaced by the national scheme. It's a shame (and illogical) the DfT didn't extend the national rail card until the end of Year 13 but I'm sure they had their reasons.

15) The main concern from our college is there would be a gap in support for 18 year olds that are not eligible for bursary funding at college level who travel by train some distance, as unfortunately the 16-17 railcard does not cover.

we feel that if the Sussex student card was withdrawn entirely it would penalise some students who travel from further afield to education.

could there not be a scheme purely aimed at 18 year olds?