

Consultation on Proposed Changes to Transport

Budget pressures

Leicestershire County Council is continuing to face a number of challenges. The funding we receive from national Government is reducing. At the same time demand for services, such as care for older people and waste disposal, is expected to go up.

We also have to deal with the impact of a large number of schools locally moving to academy status and coming out of council control. Because the Government has transferred funding from the council's budget to support the new academies, we have to deal with this additional implication of losing further significant funding. All of this means we have to save more. The County Council faces a 30% cut in grant income over the next three years and needs to make about £100 million savings over the next four years.

We are now looking at how we can achieve additional savings. In making decisions, we must target our resources at those with the greatest need. We will be undertaking an Equalities Impact Assessment on these proposals.

Your views

Last year we carried out a similar consultation on proposed home to school transport changes but the policy was not changed. We are now asking for your views again about the detail of the council's new proposals to make changes to the provision of transport. We hope to save around £1m through changes to school transport in the next four years. If you have any questions about this consultation please contact: 0116 305 0002 or email: passengertransport@leics.gov.uk

Age 16+ transport to colleges and sixth forms

What currently happens

Around 3,500 students currently contribute £240 per year (this will rise to £252 for the 2013/14 academic year) towards their travel. The full cost of providing each seat is about £425 per year. Leicestershire County Council therefore pays a subsidy of £173 per student, per year. This costs us about £605,000 per year.

What we propose

The council is considering withdrawing the subsidy for students aged 16+ and no longer providing transport. This change would not apply to students aged 16 or over with special educational needs who attend a college or other further education establishment more than 3 miles away from their home for about 16 hours a week or more. Such students would continue to be entitled to subsidised travel.

Q1 Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposal to remove the subsidy from post 16 transport to colleges and sixth forms?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2 Do you agree or disagree that if the subsidy is removed the transport service should remain available for those who wish to cover the full cost of the transport (approximately £425 per student per year)?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The County Council could continue to provide subsidised transport to those who are currently in the first year of post 16 education, to enable them to continue to receive subsidised transport in the 2014/15 academic year.

Q3 Do you agree or disagree that, if the subsidy is withdrawn, we should continue to provide subsidised transport to those who are already receiving it to allow them to complete their second year of 16+ in the 2014/15 academic year?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 Please use the space below to let us know any other comments on our proposals for 16+ transport to colleges and sixth forms:

Transport to voluntary aided (denominational) schools

What currently happens

For many years we have given help when children attend their nearest faith school on denominational grounds. Currently, transport for some pupils is subsidised and for others it is free.

Students currently contribute £240 per year (this will rise to £252 for the 2013/14 academic year) towards their travel. The full cost of providing transport for each student is about £640 per year. Leicestershire County Council currently pays a subsidy of £388 per student, per year for around 900 students. This costs us about £350,000 per year

What we propose

Leicestershire County Council has a duty to take into account the wishes of parents on the grounds of religion or belief, but there is no duty to provide free or subsidised transport. The council is considering withdrawing the subsidy for transport to faith and voluntary aided schools and no longer providing transport (except for children from qualifying low income families).

Q5 Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposal to remove the subsidy from denominational transport?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q6 Do you agree or disagree that if the subsidy is removed the transport service should remain available for those who wish to cover the full cost of the transport (approximately £640 per pupil per year)?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q7 Please use the space below to let us know any other comments on our proposals for transport to voluntary aided schools:

Change of address and eligibility

Currently, if a pupil changes address Leicestershire County Council will continue to provide free transport from their new address to their existing school to minimise disruption for the pupil. The Council provides this for primary aged and high school aged children in their final year at school. For upper school and 16+ students who have moved after their first half-term we continue to provide transport assistance from their new address at any point during their final year(s).

The Council is considering withdrawing this facility. This would mean that, unless the move is beyond the parents' control, they would be responsible for travel arrangements from their new address.

Q8 Do you agree or disagree with the proposal that we remove free or subsidised transport from the new address if a student changes address?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

About You

Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all sections of the community.

We would be grateful if you would answer the questions below. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did. Information will be used to inform service development to ensure that what we are providing is fair and effective.

Q9 Are you male or female?

Male

Female

Q10 What was your age on your last birthday?

Q11 Are you a parent/carer of a child or young person?

Yes

No

If yes, what are the ages of the children in your care? Please tick all applicable

0-4

5-10

11-15

16-18

Q12 Are you employed by a school in Leicestershire?

Yes

No

Q13 Are you a school governor?

Yes

No

Q14 Do you or your child(ren) make use of the home to school transport provided by Leicestershire County Council?

Yes

No

Q15 Are there any post 16 students in your household who currently use our transport to education?

Yes

No

Q16 Are there any children in your household who currently use our transport to voluntary aided (denominational) schools?

Yes

No

Q17 Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?

Yes

No

Q18 What is your ethnic group? Please tick one box only

White

Black or Black

British

Mixed

Other ethnic

group

Asian or Asian

British

Q19 What is your religion or belief?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| No religion | <input type="checkbox"/> | Buddhist | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Christian (no denomination) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hindu | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Roman Catholic | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jewish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Church of England/Anglican | <input type="checkbox"/> | Muslim | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Christian (other denomination) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sikh | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Any other religion or belief | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q20 Sexual Orientation. Many people face discrimination because of their sexual orientation and for this reason we have decided to ask this monitoring question. You do not have to answer it but we would be grateful if you could tick the box next to the category which describes your sexual orientation:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Bisexual | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lesbian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gay | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Heterosexual / Straight | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Q21 In total, how many cars or vans are owned or available for use by members of your household?

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> | Three | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| One | <input type="checkbox"/> | Four or more | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Two | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q22 What is your postcode?

Q23 Are you an employee of Leicestershire County Council?

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|

Thank you.

Please send your completed survey to:

Transport Consultation, Business Development & Support Team, Sustainable Travel Group, Environment & Transport Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester. LE3 8RJ.

Data Protection: Personal data supplied on this form will be held on computer and will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the County Council and its partners. Leicestershire County Council will not share any personal information collected as part of this survey with its partners. The information will be held in accordance with the Council's records management and retention policy.

If you require the information contained in this questionnaire in an alternative version such as large print, Braille or help in understanding it in your language, please contact: 0116 305 0002 or email: passengertransport@leics.gov.uk

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