

Appendix C - UPDATED

Summary of written responses to the consultation on home to school transport policy and proposed changes to policy and charging

General summary of comments

This summary includes comments made on the consultation response form, and in separate correspondence received in response to the consultation. It omits comments about matters which the County Council cannot influence, e.g. suggested changes to statutory guidance or relevant legislation.

Home to school transport: 16 plus comments:

- a) Numerous comments that students should remain entitled to free travel until they reach the new statutory age limits for remaining in education or training.
- b) Increased travel costs will make it more difficult for students to travel to their favoured course.
- c) General car traffic could increase, including increased congestion and road safety issues at the school gate.
- d) The proposals hit hardest at less well off families and those living in rural communities.
- e) The difference in the proposed charges for 16 plus travel to faith schools and to other schools is unfair.
- f) One or two comments that 16 plus transport should not be subsidised whilst education post 16 remains optional, or not subsidised just for SEN students.
- g) It would be better to keep the transport facility at higher cost than to discontinue the school bus service altogether.

Home to school transport: transport to denominational (faith) schools comments:

- a) Some comments that those attending faith schools through parental choice should not receive subsidy.
- b) Other comments putting forward the opposite view: attendance at a faith school is advantageous to children being brought up in that faith and should not be discouraged.
- c) Faith schools are often some distance from home, making it more difficult for parents to provide alternative transport.
- d) Parents could be forced to change their children's school, which would penalise the children.
- e) Families where more than one child travels to a faith school will be particularly affected.

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