Post 16 Transport Policy Response Form

Isle of Wight Council

Consultation on proposed changes to the Post 16 Transport Policy

Introduction

This consultation is open from Monday 29 January 2024 and closes at 11:59pm on Wednesday 13 March 2024.

The Isle of Wight Council is seeking residents' and stakeholders' views on proposed changes to the Post 16 Transport Statement (the Policy). The Department for Education (DfE) guidance requires the Council to prepare and publish an annual Post 16 Transport Statement (the Policy) specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport person of sixth form age in education or training. The policy must be determined and published by 31 May each year.

The Isle of Wight Council and its Post 16 providers are committed to ensuring transport is available to enable students to access education and training as set out in the policy statement. The support is provided either by the Isle of Wight Council or further education and training providers. This Response Form is divided into six proposals:

Proposal One: Introduction of an annual parental contribution, with inflation-linked increases also being applied in future years.

Proposal Two: The rewording and updating of the Council's policy to ensure if reflects the latest Department for Education statutory guidance.

Proposal Three: Introduction of Personal Transport Budgets (PTB) to be available to families where a child or young person's needs or circumstances mean that suitable transport is difficult to find, or not available at all, in the local operator market.

Please Note: References to "parent" in this Response Form include birth parents, adoptive parents, foster parents, carers or legal guardians with parental responsibility.

Your feedback will help to inform any decision by the Council on the proposed changes to the Post 16 Transport Policy and how transport assistance is delivered.

If you have any queries about this consultation, or need this Response Form printed, please contact the Council by emailing transport.info@iow.gov.uk with the subject "Post 16 Transport Policy consultation 2024" or calling 01983 823780.

This box is for office use only. Please **do not** write in the box.

Completing the Response Form

Please read the accompanying Information Pack before completing this Response Form, available at **https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/school-transport-consultations/**

This Response Form should take about **15 minutes** to complete.

Please use a black or blue pen and mark your responses by putting a cross within the appropriate box. If you make a mistake, please fill in the entire box and put a cross in the correct box, as shown below.

Correct response	Incorrect response
X	■

Alternatively if you have access to the internet then you can complete this Response Form online at:

https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/school-transport-consultations/

Completing the Response Form online ensures that your response is received instantly and securely, and the online form is simple to use on devices such as computers, tablets and smartphones.

Your data

Privacy notice

The Isle of Wight Council is seeking your views, comments, and information about you in order to inform a decision on proposed changes to the Policy for Post 16 transport on the Isle of Wight. This information is being collected for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest in the exercise of official authority vested in the Council.

Responses will be used to understand what people think about, and the perceived impact of the potential changes to the Policy for Post 16 Transport on the Island, and to look at the views of different groups within this area. All data will remain within the UK/EEA and will only be shared with third parties where they are undertaking data processing on behalf of The Isle of Wight Council. Personal information will be held securely for one year, after which it will be deleted or destroyed.

You have some legal rights in respect of the personal information we collect from you. Please see our Data Protection page (https://iwc.iow.gov.uk/Council/OtherServices/Data-Protection/Introduction) for further details.

You can contact the Council's Data Protection Officer at dpo@iow.gov.uk. If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to the Information Commissioner's Office at https://ico.org.uk/concerns/.

Proposal One – Introduction of an annual parental contribution, with inflation-linked increases also being applied in future years.

The Council currently arranges transport for around 151 Post 16 students, whom all have an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP). The Council currently funds all Post 16 transport for these pupils whilst there is no statutory requirement to do so.

The Council wishes to consider two proposals which are based on a flat rate charge or a mileage distance parental contribution.

Option 1 - Flat rate annual parental contribution

The Council proposes to introduce a parental contribution of £570 per academic year (11% of the annual unit cost (£5,186) and future increases linked to inflation. The proposed contributions have been benchmarked with other local authorities and fall into the lower sector of charges.

Option 2 - Banded rate annual parental contribution

The Council proposes a parental contribution based on a mileage banding approach and annual increases linked to CPI. This proposal will see four mileage bands as detailed below:

Distance to travel	Annual proposed academic charge
Up to 5 miles	£640
5.01 to 7.5 miles	£887
7.51 miles to 10 miles	£1,242
Over 10 miles	£1,419

Part of the proposals is to waive parental contribution costs for both options for those families who are on low income, in receipt of certain benefits or if the student is in receipt of free school meals. Furthermore, those families with a low income but not in receipt of certain benefit and can evidence that the imposition of the charge would reduce their income to below the stated threshold, may apply for a discretionary waiver or reduction in charge.

The Council would offer the facility to pay parental contribution in instalments on a termly or half termly basis.

For further information about this proposal, please refer to pages **6 to 7** of the Information Pack, which is available at **www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/**.

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Option 1: to introduce a flat rate annual parental contribution, with inflation-linked increases also being applied in future years?
(Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Option 2: to introduce a banded rate annual parental contribution, with inflation-linked increases also being applied in future years?
(Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Which option for Proposal One do you find more favourable?
(Please choose one option)

Option 1 – flat rate contributions	Option 2 – banded rate contributions	Don’t know
☐	☐	☐

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer please do so in the box below.
Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

If you require any extra space for any of the questions on this page, please write on an additional page and include it with this Response Form.

Proposal Two: The rewording and updating of the Council's policy to ensure if reflects the latest Department for Education statutory guidance

The proposed changes would bring the Post 16 Transport Statement in line with the latest DfE statutory guidance. In addition, the updates to wording and language are proposed to ensure that the Policy remains clear and easy to understand.

For further information about this proposal please refer to pages **8 to 9** of the Information Pack. For a comprehensive list of all the changes being proposed, please refer to the appendix (pages 14 to 26) of the Information Pack, which is available at **www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/**.

If you have any feedback on the changes to the Policy, please explain these here. *Please do not provide any personal details in your response.*

If you require any extra space for any of the questions on this page, please write on an additional page and include it with this Response Form.

Proposal Three: For Personal Transport Budgets (PTB) to be available to families where a child or young person's needs or circumstances mean that suitable transport is difficult to find, or not available at all, in the local operator market

Currently he Council assists eligible families currently using a range of transport solutions for Post 16 students. The majority of children and young people are able to make use of parental mileage allowance, buses, minibuses or taxis to travel to and from school. Some children and young people require an adapted vehicle or other special arrangements to accommodate their specific needs.

It is proposed that a Personal Transport Budget (PTB) would be available for parents to allow them to make suitable travel arrangements for transport for their child, where this would be more suitable than the Council arranging this transport.

If this proposal is agreed, Personal Transport Budgets would be offered to families where it is the most appropriate option from that point onwards.

In situations where the Council felt that a PTB would be a more suitable means of arranging transport to school, the School Transport Service would discuss this possibility with parents.

Parents would not be obliged to accept the offer of a PTB.

For further information about this proposal, please refer to pages **10 to 11** of the Information Pack which is available at **www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/**.

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with <u>Proposal Three:</u> For Personal Transport Budgets (PTB) to be available to families where a child or young person's needs or circumstances mean that suitable transport is difficult to find, or not available at all, in the local operator market?
(Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer please do so in the box below.
Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

If you require any extra space for any of the questions on this page, please write on an additional page and include it with this Response Form.

Your views: Impacts, further comments and suggestions

Please describe what, if any, impacts the Policy for Post 16 Transport provision on the Island may have on you, people you know, or your organisation, group or business.
Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

Please indicate below if the impacts you have mentioned above relate to any of the following characteristics or issues: *(Please select all that apply)*

- ☐ Age
- ☐ Disability
- ☐ Gender reassignment
- ☐ Marriage and/or civil partnership
- ☐ Pregnancy and/or maternity
- ☐ Race
- ☐ Religion or belief
- ☐ Sex
- ☐ Sexual orientation
- ☐ Poverty
- ☐ Rurality
- ☐ Environmental impact
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None of these

If you require any extra space for any of the questions on this page, please write on an additional page and include it with this Response Form.

About you

The Isle of Wight Council is committed to improving its services, eliminating unlawful discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all people. **The following questions are optional** but we would be grateful if you could answer to help us understand the views of, and potential impacts on, different types of people on the Island.

Is this a personal response, or are you responding on behalf of an organisation, group or business or as a democratically Elected Representative? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ I am **responding as an individual**
- ☐ I am providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**
- ☐ I am responding as a **democratically Elected Representative** of a constituency (e.g. as a local authority, parish or town council Member or MP)

If you are **responding as an individual**, please go to **page 10**.

If you are providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**, please ignore the question below and go to the next page.

If you are responding as a **democratically Elected Representative** of a constituency, please answer the questions on this page and then go to **page 13**.

🔓 If you are responding officially or as a democratically Elected Representative, the name of the constituency you represent may appear in the final report, and the information you provide may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure regimes such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

What is your name? *(Please write in the box below. NB: This will only be used if we need to contact you to validate your response)*

🔓 If you are providing the official response of an organisation, group or business, its name may appear in the final report, and the information you provide may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure regimes such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide details about the organisation, group or business that you represent:

The name of the organisation, group or business:	
The postcode of the organisation, group or business:	
Your name:	
Your position in the organisation, group or business:	

Which of these best describes the function of your organisation, group or business? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ Charity, voluntary or local community group
- ☐ Local business or business representative (e.g. BID)
- ☐ Local authority (e.g. parish or town council)
- ☐ Nursery, school, college or place of education
- ☐ Other public sector organisation (e.g. Police, Fire, Health Authority)
- ☐ Other

For 'other' please specify in the box below:

Does your organisation group or business provide any of the following services? *(Please select all that apply)*

- ☐ School Transport services
- ☐ Other services for children or young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- ☐ None of these

About you (continued)

Please answer this section if you are **responding to this consultation as an individual**.

If you are providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**, or **responding as a democratically Elected Representative of a constituency**, please go to the last page of this document without answering this section.

Please provide your postcode:

Providing your postcode is optional. It would help us to understand the impact of proposed changes if you could provide at least the first five digits of your postcode. If you do provide your full postcode it is possible that in rural areas this might identify your property. If you provide your postcode, the Council will use this information to analyse the responses from different areas, to understand how views differ by area and to help model data for different types of respondent.

What was your age on your last birthday? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ Under 16
- ☐ 16 to 18
- ☐ 19 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 to 74
- ☐ 75 to 84
- ☐ 85 or over
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your gender? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you prefer to self-describe, please specify in the box below:

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? ***(Please choose one option)***

- ☐ **No**
- ☐ Yes, but they **do not reduce** my day-to-day activities
- ☐ Yes, and they reduce my day-to-day activities **a little**
- ☐ Yes, and they reduce my day-to-day activities **a lot**
- ☐ Prefer not to say

About you (continued)

What is your ethnic group? *(Please choose one option)*

Asian or Asian British ethnic groups

- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Nepalese
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Any other Asian background (please specify below)

Black, African, Caribbean or Black British ethnic groups

- ☐ African
- ☐ British
- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ Any other Black background (please specify below)

Mixed or multiple ethnic groups ethnic groups

- ☐ White and Asian
- ☐ White and Black African
- ☐ White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ Any other Mixed background (please specify below)

White ethnic groups

- ☐ English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Any other White background (please specify below)

Other ethnic group

- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Any other ethnic background (please specify below)

For 'other', please specify below:

What is your <u>total annual household income</u>, from all sources, before tax and other deductions? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ Up to £10,000
- ☐ £10,001 to £20,000
- ☐ £20,001 to £30,000
- ☐ £30,001 to £40,000
- ☐ £40,001 to £50,000
- ☐ £50,001 to £60,000
- ☐ £60,001 to £70,000
- ☐ £70,001 to £80,000
- ☐ £80,001 to £90,000
- ☐ £90,001 to £100,000
- ☐ £100,001 or over
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to say

We recognise that questions about income may feel very sensitive, but it is important that the Council can understand how views and impacts may vary amongst groups of people with differing financial circumstances.

About you (continued)

Are there any children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household (including yourself)? *(Please select all that apply)*

- ☐ Yes - aged 0-4
- ☐ Yes - aged 5-11
- ☐ Yes - aged 12-15
- ☐ Yes - aged 16-18
- ☐ No - none under the age of 19
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you have answered **'Yes'** to the question above please answer the rest of the questions on this page.

If you have answered **'No'**, please go to the next page.

Do any of the children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)? ***(Please choose one option)***

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Does the School Transport support you currently receive from The Isle of Wight Council include any of the following? *(Please select all that apply)*

- ☐ A mileage allowance for you to take the child or young person to school
- ☐ A Passenger Assistant / School Escort on the transport
- ☐ Neither of these
- ☐ Not sure

And finally...

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation. The findings from this consultation will help to inform a decision on the proposed changes to the Post 16 Transport Policy.

Please forward the link to the webpage for this consultation (https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/) to anyone else you know who would be interested in participating.

This consultation will close at 11:59pm on Wednesday 13th March 2024.

Please return your Response Form **to arrive no later than 13 March 2024**.