

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



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 school 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 School 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 – 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.

In the future, the Council would like to introduce further options to facilitate the provision of safe and suitable School Transport Assistance. 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, PTBs 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 7 to 8 of the Information Pack, which is available at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/school-transport-consultations/>.

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal One: 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.

Proposal Two: Development and delivery of an Independent Travel Training service for children and young people with SEND who may be capable of travelling independently to their place of education

It is proposed that the Council would offer training to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) on travelling from home to their school or other place of education where this is deemed beneficial to the child or young person.

The Council would explore approaches to Independent Travel Training provision and plan how best to provide it. Readiness to complete Independent Travel Training would be determined by a discussion between the Council, school, and parents.

Independent Travel Training may be offered, with parent's consent, to eligible children with SEND. Independent Travel Training would not be provided for all children with SEND as the Council recognises that some children will never be able to travel to school independently.

Independent Travel Training may not always result in the child being able to travel more independently, so once the training is completed, their needs would be assessed to consider what travel arrangement will be most suitable.

For further information about this proposal, please refer to pages 9 to 10 of the Information Pack, which is available at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/school-transport-consultations/>.

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal Two: Development and delivery of an Independent Travel Training service for children and young people with SEND who may be capable of travelling independently to their place of education? (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.

Proposal Three: The regular review of the provision of Passenger Assistants

Currently some children and young people are accompanied on their journey to their school or place of education by a Passenger Assistant (PA), who supports them on their journey to and from school or placement.

It is proposed that, in the future, the Council would start to review the provision of PAs. Examples of when a review may be conducted include:

- as part of the annual review of transport provision;
- as part of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) annual review;
- at a change of school phase;
- where there is a change in circumstances, and / or;
- when a contract with a travel operator is being put out to bid for other operators.

Parents, schools or PAs themselves would also be able to trigger a review by providing information that demonstrates that a child or young person currently without a PA needs support, or a child or young person currently with an allocated PA could travel without this support.

The Council understands that some children will always require the support of a PA on their journey to and from school. Where this is the case, there would be no intention to trigger a regular review of allocation of a PA.

For further information about this proposal, please refer to pages 11 to 12 of the Information Pack, which is available at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/school-transport-consultations/>.

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal Three: to regularly review the provision of Passenger Assistants? (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.

Proposal Four: Your views on the financial contribution made by parents for School Transport that is provided as a discretionary service

Proposal Four: Where parents are required to make a financial contribution towards discretionary school transport arrangements and exceptions:

- to increase the parental contribution for Spare Seats, with inflation-linked (Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases also being applied in future years and;
- introduce a parental contribution for exceptions to policy and to increase this contribution in line with inflation (Consumer Price Index (CPI) from September 2025, with inflation-linked increases also being applied in future years

Sometimes the Council offers school transport when it is not required to by law. These are known as 'discretionary school transport arrangements'. The following proposal relates to the financial contributions made by parents for School Transport that is provided as a discretionary service.

These financial contribution rates would only apply to discretionary transport arrangements and would not affect statutory transport arrangements for eligible children as per the School Transport Policy.

Discretionary (Spare Seats)

The School Transport Policy outlines the level of contribution that will be applied to discretionary arrangements, such as spare capacity seats (previously referred to as privilege seats) where a spare place on a contract vehicle may be offered to a child or young person who is not entitled to transport assistance. This contribution is a flat rate charge of £390 and has not increased for several years and there is currently no provision within the School Transport Policy for these rates of contribution to increase.

It is proposed that the current financial contributions for discretionary arrangements to be increased from £390 to £570 from September 2024. In addition, we propose that that the parental contributions would be uplifted by the CPI (Consumer Price Index) rate as at March of the previous academic year. Government guidance states that CPI is the most appropriate uplift to apply to charges.

CPI does change, so for the purposes of the example below a rate of 6.7% (based on the 12 months to August 2023), has been used to indicate the potential impact on the contributions:

Parental Contribution for Sept 2024	Example uplifted Sept 2025 annual contribution
£570	£608

Exceptions to Policy

The Council currently offers, on occasion, school transport assistance when there is no statutory duty to do so. There are currently 14 children who have been granted transport as an exception to policy. Based on this cohort of children, indicative expenditure for the 2023-24 academic year is £21.5K.

It is proposed that the Council introduces a banded parental contribution to any exceptions to policy based on mileage from their home address to the school. In addition, we propose that the

parental contributions would be uplifted by the CPI (Consumer Price Index) rate as at March of the previous academic year. Below are the proposed charges and banding:

Distance to travel	Example annual charge
Up to 5 miles	£640
5.01 miles to 7.5 miles	£887
7.51 miles to 10 miles	£1,242
Over 10 miles	£1,419

Transport arrangements offered as an exception to policy would be pro-rated for the period of the transport (so if, for example, transport was arranged for one term the total charge would be one third of the annual charge).

The proposed increase in discretionary charges would bring them in line with the overall rise in transport costs and would not deliver any additional income to the School Transport Service beyond this.

For further information about this proposal, please refer to pages 13 to 15 of the Information Pack, which is available at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/school-transport-consultations/>.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase the parental contribution for Spare Seats, with inflation-linked (Consumer Price Index (CPI) 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 the proposal to introduce a parental contribution for exceptions to policy and to increase this contribution in line with inflation (Consumer Price Index (CPI) from September 2025, 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

If you would like to explain your reasons for any of the answers on this page, please do so 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 Five: Updating the Council's School Transport Policy to reflect current government policy and to be easier to understand.

The following proposal relates to the proposed changes to the Policy document for the Policy for School Transport provision:

In line with the most recent Department for Education (DfE) guidance, the following sections are proposed to be included in the Policy:

- Parental preference for children with Education, Health and Care Plans
- Children with medical needs
- Accompaniment

It is proposed that a number of updates are made throughout the Policy document to provide clarity in wording and language, ensure the Policy is relevant to the current School Transport Service, and to reflect the most recent DfE guidance.

For further information about this proposal please refer to pages 16 to 17 of the Information Pack. For a comprehensive list of all the changes being proposed, please refer to the appendix (pages 21 to 36) of the Information Pack, which is available at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/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 Six: Removal of entitlement for Year 10 and 11 students who move out of area and wish to remain at their current school.

Families who elect to move out of their nearest school area and relocate to another area which exceeds the statutory walking distances for their age, would qualify free transport if they remain at their current school. For example, a child may live 1.5 miles from the nearest suitable school which they attend, the family moves home which is 6 miles from the school they attend. There is a closer school to their new address, but they remain at their previous school to mitigate disruption of their GCSE progress. The student would currently qualify for school transport assistance but there is no legal requirement to do so.

It is proposed that, in the future, the Council would remove this entitlement from the School Transport Policy, in line with the most recent Department for Education (DfE) guidance.

The DfE has updated the statutory guidance for Travel to School for children and young people of compulsory school age and the current Isle of Wight Council School Transport Policy requires an update to bring it in line with this latest guidance.

For further information about this proposal, please refer to pages 18 of the Information Pack, which is available at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-to-school-transport/school-transport-consultations/school-transport-consultations/>.

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, to remove the entitlement for Year 10 and 11 student who move out of area and wish to remain at their current school?

(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 School 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)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age | <input type="checkbox"/> Sex |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage and/or civil partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> Rurality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy and/or maternity | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Race | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 13**.

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 16**.

 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:

i *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)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 or over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 to 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 to 74 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 to 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 to 84 | |

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

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to self-describe | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 total annual household income, from all sources, before tax and other deductions? (Please choose one option)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Up to £10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £50,001 to £60,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £100,001 or over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £10,001 to £20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £60,001 to £70,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £20,001 to £30,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £70,001 to £80,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £30,001 to £40,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £80,001 to £90,000 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £40,001 to £50,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £90,001 to £100,000 | |

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)*

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - aged 0-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - aged 12-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> No - none under the age of 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - aged 5-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - aged 16-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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)*

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 School 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/school-transport-consultations/>) to anyone else you know who would be interested in participating.

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

Please return your Response Form **to arrive no later than 11:59 on Wednesday 13th March 2024.**