



Norfolk County Council

Your views on Norfolk County Council's Post16 Transport Policy Statement

Opens 19 May 2023

Closes 9 June 2023

Overview

This is our Post16 Transport Policy Statement consultation which asks for feedback on proposed changes to the way we help with transport for students in post-16 education – in this case, to the Post16 Travel Scheme.

Norfolk County Council works with local bus and train operators to offer subsidised travel for eligible students aged between 16 and 18 years old, travelling to their sixth form, college, or other education provider. This is part of the Council's statutory duty.

We want to review our policy to make sure we offer the best value for money and meet the needs of our families and young people. Whenever we are looking to make changes to the Post16 Travel Scheme we consider and test the impact on young people and their families. We have considered both the challenging financial climate for Norfolk County Council, the increased cost of living for our families and the impact any changes will have on our children and young people.

Norfolk County Council continues to face higher costs and demand for services, which was the case even before the recent rise in inflation. Initial proposals [to save £13 million](#) as part of a £60 million target for next year were considered by councillors on 3 October 2022. One of those savings proposals was to save £100,000 by changing the way we deliver the Post16 Travel Scheme - following consideration of the potential impact on increased costs for families, this will not be implemented for the 2023/24 academic year.

We are proposing to increase the cost of parental contributions (how much families/young people pay for) the Post16 Travel Scheme by 3% for the academic year 2023/24. We usually increase the cost of the Scheme each year in-line with inflation. However, current cost of living pressures and after speaking to post-16 education providers, we are proposing not to match the rate of inflation this year and instead apply a 3% increase.

To make sure we continue to support families with varying circumstances, we will continue to fund transport in exceptional cases and on a case-by-case basis.

Any future changes that are considered for 23/24 will involve further consultation which will be completed at the earliest possible time.

Why your views matter

We are proposing to increase the cost of all payment options (daily, annual, termly, and half-termly) by 3%. This is less than the 5.5% expected inflationary increase. We would like to find out current and future users and their families' views about the proposal.

We are consulting through:

- This consultation, which is also available online via <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/environment-transport-and-development/post16travel> and as a paper copy
- Emails to current users, key partners and stakeholders

This consultation starts on Friday 19 May and will close on Friday 9 June at midnight. Please note that if we receive any consultation responses after Wednesday 7 June, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to take them into account.

If you need a copy of this consultation document in a different format, please email haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk, call 0344 800 8020 or Text Relay on 18001 0344 800 8020 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

The consultation should take between 5 – 10 minutes to complete.

A PDF version of this consultation along with the Easy Read and Large Print versions are available to download at the bottom of the page.

Personal information, confidentiality and data protection

We will use any personal information to understand how different groups of people feel about our proposals.

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Protection Act 2018 and Norfolk County Council's data protection policy and guidelines. This means that Norfolk County Council will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation. You can find a copy of our privacy statement at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/privacy>

We won't identify individuals when reporting back our findings and under our record management policy we will keep this information for five years. We will also, under

normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else. However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation. We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You can choose not to take part in the consultation, to stop responding at any time, or to ignore any personal questions that you do not want to answer.

1. Please tick to confirm that you have read the personal information, confidentiality and data protection statement above.

Yes - I have read the personal information, confidentiality and data protection statement

Introduction

We are considering making changes to the Post16 Travel Scheme. These changes involve increasing the overall cost of the scheme (parental contributions) by 3%.

In 2015 the Government increased the age at which [young people must continue in education or training to 18](#). Although young people must now remain in education or training until they are 18, the Government has not increased the age range of free transport available to eligible young people in line with this. Free transport is still only available to eligible children up to the age of 16.

For further information on raising the participation age please see the [Department for Education website](#).

We currently work with 15 bus and train operators across Norfolk to offer subsidised travel for eligible students, aged between 16 and 18, who are travelling to sixth forms, sixth form colleges, colleges and further education settings across the county. This is known as the Post16 Travel Scheme.

We receive payments from students/their families through this scheme and provide young people with a ticket to use on a bus or train service. This service is operated by the bus or train provider, and therefore students need to use the routes/timetable available.

Who is eligible for the Post16 Travel Scheme?

The Post16 Travel Scheme offers support to students who study at school sixth forms, sixth form colleges and further education colleges.

To qualify for the Post16 Travel Scheme, students must:

- Live in Norfolk, at least three miles from the sixth form or college (this is measured by the nearest walking route).
- Transport will also be provided for Easton College students living outside Norfolk if a student travels on the direct routes funded by the College.
- Be studying full-time (at least 540 hours per year supervised study – approximately 14 hours per week).
- Be under 19 years of age on 1 September, or under 25 years of age for [students with special educational needs \(SEN\)](#) (transport will be provided up to the end of the course year in which the student reaches 19 or 25).
- Be studying a course of further education, not a Higher National Diploma (HND), Higher National Certificate (HNC) or degree course.
- Travel on a route determined by us.
- If your child has an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) there is no need to apply for travel assistance as the Travel Independence Training Team (TITAN) are already assessing who is entitled to travel assistance. If independent travel training might be appropriate for your child, you will hear directly from one of the TITAN team.
- Students who meet the above criteria can live anywhere in the county and still receive support, as long as they can get to a pick-up point on a core route that serves their sixth form or college.

What is a local authority's duty in relation to post-16 travel assistance?

Local authorities do not have to provide free or subsidised post-16 travel assistance. They do have a duty to prepare and publish a transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport, or other assistance that the authority considers it necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.

All young people carrying on their education post-16 must re-apply for travel assistance. 'Sixth form age' refers to those young people who are over 16 years of age but under 19 (school years 12, 13 and 14). Local authorities also have a duty to encourage, enable and assist young people with learning difficulties/disabilities to participate in education and training up to the age of 25.

The term 'post-16' (in relation to our policy) includes both learners of sixth form age and those with learning difficulties/disabilities up to the age of 25. This policy document specifies the assistance that Norfolk County Council considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of post-16 learners receiving education or training.

Education or training refers to learning or training at a school, further education institution, a council maintained or assisted institution providing higher or further education, an establishment funded directly by the Education Skills Funding Agency or other learning providers as determined by Norfolk County Council. Summary of Policy Statement and Main Objectives Norfolk County Council offers the Post16 Travel Scheme which provides a level of support for students to access post-16 education at a school sixth form, sixth form college or further education learning establishment.

Our current approach

Through the Post16 Travel Scheme, the subsidised amount can currently be paid in the following ways:

- One annual payment for the full amount - £576. If you're receiving a qualifying benefit, you will pay a reduced amount of £432.
- Pay in three instalments, one for each term - £192 each term. If you're receiving a qualifying benefit, you'll pay a reduced amount of £144 per term.
- Pay in six instalments, one for each half term - £96 each term. If you're receiving a qualifying benefit, you'll pay a reduced amount of £72 per half term.
- Pay daily – the Daily Payer Pass is a subsidised fare pass on some routes (depending on ticket machines) which is paid on the bus every day - standard charge per day is £3.30. If you're receiving a qualifying benefit, you'll pay £2.80 per day.

Discounted rates are also offered by some education providers. Most local operators offer discounted fares for students, and they are often cheaper than Norfolk County Council's [Post16 Travel Scheme](#).

Proposed changes to our approach

We are proposing to increase the cost of all payment options by 3% as part of our annual increase. If approved, this would come into place for the 2023/24 academic year.

Impact of 3% increase on the cost of travel

Payment option	Current cost	Proposed costs for 2023/24 (with 3% increase)	Difference in cost
Annual payment	£576	£594	+£18 per year
Three termly instalments	£192	£198	+£6 per term

Six half-termly instalments	£96	£99	+£3 per half-term
Daily (using Daily payer pass)	£3.30	£3.40	+£0.10 per day

Discounted rate for those on a [qualifying benefit](#).

Payment option	Current cost	Proposed costs for 2023/34 (with 3% increase)	Difference in cost
Annual payment	£432	£445	+£13 per year
Three termly instalments	£144	£148	+£4 per term
Six half-termly instalments	£72	£74	+£2 per half-term
Daily (using Daily payer pass)	£2.80	£2.90	+£0.10 per day

We will continue to consider the use of discretionary powers to fund transport in exceptional cases and on a case-by-case basis.

Students will continue to be able to use bus and train providers' own subsidised schemes, which are often cheaper than Norfolk County Council's Post16 Travel Scheme. Students will also be able to continue to access discounted offers from colleges, sixth forms and education providers directly.

Information about travel for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

We are proposing to increase the cost of all payment options by 3% as part of our annual increase. Those aged over 19, up to the age of 25, with an EHCP will not be impacted as they receive free travel.

More information about Post16 Transport and our Money Support Service

- Travelling to school or college: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-college-transport>
- Money Support Service: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/money-and-benefits/money-support-service>

How you use the Post16 Travel Scheme

Please answer the following questions.

2. Are you a...?

Please choose all that apply from the list below:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Student aged 16-19 currently in further education using the Post16 Transport Scheme | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student aged 16-25 currently in further education with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and using the Post16 Transport Scheme | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Year 11 student starting further education in September 2023 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent/guardian of a child that uses the Post16 Travel Scheme | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent/guardian of a child that may use the Post16 Travel Scheme in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| School governor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Education establishment staff member | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bus/taxi/transport driver | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Passenger assistance/chaperone | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None of the above | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. What type of education provider do you, or your child, currently attend?

Please choose one option only from the list below:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Mainstream setting | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sixth form/college | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Independent school | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Independent training provider | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Special Education Needs (SEN) school (including post-16) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Special Education Needs (SEN) independent school (including post-16) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Education other than at school (EOTAS) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Free school | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Short stay school for Norfolk | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Specialist resource base (SRB) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Post-16 education outside Norfolk | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Prefer not to say

None of the above

4. Do you agree with the proposed change to raise the cost of travel by 3%?

Please choose one option only from the list below:

Yes

No

Unsure

Prefer not to say

5. Why do you say this?

Please share your feedback in the box below:

6. If we increased the cost of the scheme by 3%, how likely would you be to continue using the Post16 Travel Scheme?

Please choose one option only from the list below:

Very likely

Somewhat likely

Somewhat unlikely

Very unlikely

Not sure

7. If you answered, 'somewhat unlikely' or 'very unlikely', what alternative mode of transport would you use?

Please choose all that apply from the list below:

- Bus operator's own subsidised scheme/full price
- Train operator's own subsidised scheme/full price
- Bike
- Car
- Taxi
- Walk
- Unsure
- I wouldn't be able to afford to travel to my education provider
- Other

If you selected 'other', please share in the box below:

8. How would the proposed change to raise the cost of travel by 3% impact you or your family?

Please share your feedback in the box below:

9. Prior to this consultation, did you know about the other subsidised travel options provided by bus and train operators?

Please choose one option only from the list below:

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Prefer not to say

10. Would you consider using other subsidised travel options provided by bus and train operators?

Please select one option only from the list below:

- Yes
- No
- Maybe/Unsure
- Prefer not to say

11. There are a number of alternative transport and financial advice and support services available from Norfolk County Council and post-16 travel establishments.

Please tick all that you are aware of from the list below:

- Norfolk County Council's Home to School Transport (HTST) Cycle Allowance
- Kickstart Moped Loan Scheme
- Norfolk County Council's Home to School Transport (HTST) Fuel Allowance scheme
- Further Education Establishments' 16-19 Bursary Funds
- Norfolk County Council's Money Support Service
- Norfolk County Council's Travel Independence Training across Norfolk (TITAN)
- Discounts offered by public transport services including First Eastern Counties Buses, Konect Bus, Anglian Bus, Lynx Bus, Sanders Coaches, Simonds Country Link, West Norfolk Community Transport, Abellio Greater Anglia Trains and railcards

Public transport discounted tickets arranged directly with Post16 establishments

Young Parents Care to Learn for parents under the age of 20 years

About you

To make sure we are learning from a wide range of people – we'd like to ask some questions about you. These are optional questions (so you may choose not to give this information), but this information is helpful to understand who is responding to our consultations.

12. Are you responding as...?

Please tick one answer only:

An individual/member of the public

On behalf of a voluntary or community group

On behalf of a statutory organisation

On behalf of a business

A Norfolk County Councillor

A district or borough Councillor

A town or parish Councillor

A Norfolk County Council employee

13. If you are responding on behalf of another organisation, what is the name of the organisation, group, or business?

Please write your answer in the box below:

14. How did you hear about this consultation?

Please choose one answer only, from the list below:

Local media (e.g newspaper, radio)

From a social media post (e.g Facebook)

- From a friend
- From a group I belong to
- From my place of work or education
- The Norfolk Residents' Panel
- District Council web page
- Norfolk County Council web page
- My Parish Council
- From an email I received

15. Are you...?

Please tick one answer only:

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe (please specify below):

16. How old are you?

Please choose one answer only, from the list below:

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75-84
-

85 or older

Prefer not to say

17. Do you have any long-term illness, disability or health problem that limits your daily activities or the work you can do?

Please choose one answer only, from the list below:

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

18. If yes which of the following best describes your condition or disability

Please select all answers that apply:

Blind or partially sighted

D/deaf or hard of hearing

Limiting health condition e.g. heart disease, asthma, strokes, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia and myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) etc.

Learning Disabilities

Neurodiversity e.g. autistic spectrum disorders, dyslexia, dyspraxia

Mental health conditions – e.g. depression, schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorders, eating disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder

Physical disability e.g. limb disorder, amputee, wheelchair user, cerebral palsy, motor neurone disease, muscular dystrophy

Other

Other, please write in the box below:

19. How would you describe your ethnic background?

Please choose one answer only, from the list below:

Asian or Asian British

Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Any other Asian background, please describe in the box below:

Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African

Black British

Caribbean

African

Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background, please describe in the box below:

Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other mixed or multiple ground, please describe in the box below:

White

English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Roma

Other White background, please describe in the box below:

Another ethnic group

Arab

Any other ethnic group please describe in the box below:

Prefer not to say

20. Which area do you live in?

Please choose one answer only, from the list below:

Breckland

Broadland

Great Yarmouth

King's Lynn and West Norfolk

North Norfolk

Norwich

South Norfolk

21. Do you have caring responsibilities?

Please choose one answer only, from the list below:

No

Yes – for children with additional needs

Yes – for older family members

Yes, other. Please write here:

22. Which of the following best describes you?

Please choose one answer only, from the list below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Employed (full time) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Employed (part time) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Self employed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unemployed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Looking after the family home | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Long term sick | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Retired | <input type="checkbox"/> |

23. What is your first language?

Please choose one answer only:

English

Other, please write in the box below:

What happens next

How we will make our decision and report back to you

We will publish a report about the findings of this consultation on our website.

We will consider the consultation responses we receive very carefully. In particular, we will consider:

- The impact of any proposal on individuals, groups of communities and on people identified as having 'protected characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010. The protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. As well as this equality impact assessment, councillors will consider the impact of proposals on rural areas.

- The views of people, partners and other stakeholders consulted.
- The evidence of need and what is proven to work effectively and well.
- The financial and legal positions and any constraints at the time.
- Any potential alternative options, models, or ideas for making savings.

You can send back a paper feedback form to:

Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor – south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH.

However, if you want to help the council save money, please use a stamp, and send to this address: Stakeholder and Consultation Team, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor – south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, NR1 2DH.

You may wish to keep a copy of your response to our consultation for your own records.

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please email us at haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk or contact Customer Services on 0344 800 8020 or Text Relay on 18001 0344 800 8020 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

If you would like to access the consultation online, you can visit <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/environment-transport-and-development/post16travel> or scan the code below using your mobile phone camera.

