

List of other proposed changes to the Transport Policy that have a substantive impact on entitlement.

1. Revising entitlement when children live in an area designated as catchment by more than one school.

In 2.4.3.the current policy states: “Which school?

Free transport will be provided to a school which is the designated catchment area school or to the nearest school to the home address where a school is nearer to the home address than the designated catchment area school, providing the distance criteria are met..”

It is proposed that the following phrase is added: “Please note: where more than one school treats the home address as falling within its catchment area transport will only be provided to the nearest catchment school or the nearest school to the home address if different, providing the distance criteria are met.”

The implications of the proposed change are for children living in a so called “shared catchment area”. Children living in certain addresses are in treated as ‘in catchment’ by two schools and, under the current policy, they may receive free transport to either school. Under the revised policy they would not receive free transport to the school that is furthest from the home address, in some cases this may mean that in future there is no entitlement to transport.

Savings will arise as some entitlement ends and fewer services are supplied.

2. Revising entitlement for Year 10 and 11 pupils so that the policy reflects practice.

In 2.4.8 the current policy states:

2.4.8 Change of address

2.4.8.1 Assistance will normally be offered to pupils in Years 10 and 11 where:

- The change of address takes place after the start of the first term of Year 10 and
- The distance criteria are met in respect of the new home and
- The pupil continues to attend the designated catchment area (or nearest) school for the previous home address.

2.4.8.2 Assistance will not normally be offered for pupils up to and including Year 9

It is proposed that the following phrase is added: unless the pupil has already commenced a KS4 programme of study which will be determined by the County Council.

2.4.8 is a discretionary feature of the policy and its inclusion in future policies is part of this consultation. (see Appendix A)

The implication of the proposed change is that it will regularise the current practice as all pupils that have not yet started in Year 10 but have begun the Key Stage 4 phase in secondary education are considered for entitlement as exceptions to policy.

If the discretionary entitlement is retained and the extra clause added there is no change in cost to the authority.

3. Introduce a charge for Post-16 students with learning difficulties or a disability.

The current policy allows for transport to be provided to post-16 students with learning difficulties or a disability without charge.

It is proposed that the authority introduces a charge of £500 per annum to be paid by parents of a student. If the student is entitled to free school meals or if their parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, the County Council will not enforce the payment.

The implications of the change are that the authority may save up to approximately £300k calculated using expenditure in 2010/11 where 468 students receiving free transport to an FE setting and a further 135 receiving transport to a school sixth form for whom a charge would become payable. It is not possible to gauge how many would be exempt from the charge.