

To: Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning
20 March 2023

**Education Transport Policy for Bracknell Forest Students aged 16+
Executive Director of People**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report seeks formal approval of the Education Travel policy, for students aged 16 and over, for the period 2023 -2024.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Executive Member agrees the Education Transport Policy Statement 2023/24, for Bracknell Forest Students aged 16 and over.**

3 Reasons for Recommendation(S)

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with statutory requirements to publish a compliant education travel policy for students aged 16 and over.
- 3.2 The DfE issued Post 16 education transport guidance in January 2019 which Local Authorities must have regard to when issuing their transport policies. This guidance has been followed in the development of the policy. The policy will be subject to graphic design whilst awaiting content approval.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 No alternative option was considered. This policy is not significantly changed from the policy adopted for 2022-2023.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 Local Authorities are required to publish a transport statement each year, setting out the travel arrangements they will make to support young people of sixth form age and adults aged 19 and over (including those with an Education, Health and Care plan) in education and training.
- 5.2 In January 2019 the DfE updated statutory guidance on Post 16 education transport. It requires that Local Authorities assist Post 16 learners with an opportunity to take advantage of Post 16 education by facilitating their travel arrangements, particularly those on low incomes and those with disabilities.
- 5.3 The Home to School Travel Policy for Bracknell Forest children aged 5-16 is published separately.

Changes to the policy statement

- 5.4 The main change to the policy statement is an increase to the financial contribution required from parents / students. In the 2022-2023 academic year the contribution

required was £750 per annum, or £375 for low-income households. It is proposed to increase this for the 2023-2024 academic year to £780 and £390 respectively.

- 5.6 Joint area SEND inspection (OFSTED and CQC) WSOA 8.3.1 requires that we review post school provision to inform and improve the increase of transport options and travel training. Significant and meaningful implementations are not possible before the start of the 2023/24 academic year; however, our full project plan has been written and activity to deliver this action is underway and Green on target for 2024/25.
- 5.4 It is not possible, at this time, to give an accurate forecast of numbers of young people who may require transport assistance under this policy. However, given the current financial situation, the cost of Post 16 transport assistance is likely to rise in line with CPI inflation increases. This policy itself does not produce any additional financial risks.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

Legal Advice

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are addressed within the main body of the report. The provision of post 16 transport is discretionary. The law requires LAs to provide transport to this cohort that they consider is reasonably necessary. To determine what is reasonably necessary they must have a policy. The policy has to be clear lawful and published and revised each year. This is the policy for 2023 / 2024.

Financial Advice

- 6.2 Whilst there are no additional financial risks directly associated with the policy itself, the number of young people requiring transport assistance under this policy is not yet known for 2023/24 and so any potential financial implication based on eligibility is also unquantified.

Other Consultation Responses

- 6.3 As there are no substantive changes there is no requirement to consult on the policy. The draft policy has been sent to the Parent Carer Forum for noting only as it has been agreed, with the Co-Production Lead, that co-production is not required for this year's policy.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 Equality Impact Assessment attached at Appendix 2 of this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5 There are no known strategic risk management issues related to this policy.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.6 The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to:

Have no impact on emissions of CO₂.

The reason the Council believes that this will have no impact on emissions is that there is no anticipated increase or decrease in the level of transport provided.

Background Papers

DfE statutory guidance:

[Transport to education and training for people aged 16 and over - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/362222/Transport_to_education_and_training_for_people_aged_16_and_over_-_GOV.UK.pdf)

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