



4 July 2023

To Parents/ Carers,

Thank you for your unwavering support following my initial letter (copy attached for reference) regarding the School Transport Consultation and our obvious opposition to the proposed changes, following an initial consultation, I wanted to provide a brief update and outline next steps.

The cabinet is now to consider feedback following consultation on proposed changes to the Home to School transport service. Proposed changes to the Council's Home to School transport service will be considered by Councillors next week following the feedback from residents.

At their meeting next Tuesday (11 July), West Northamptonshire Council's Cabinet will discuss proposals to revise the service for children up to the age of 16 following the eight-week public consultation, which welcomed comments from over 1,450 parents, children, young people and other stakeholders.

Key proposals to change the policy include:

- Reviewing the non-entitled transport scheme, which currently enables parents to pay for seats on Council-run school bus services for children not eligible for free places.
- Increasing the cost of a bus seat from £600 to £1000 to ensure it better reflects the actual cost of providing the service which has increased substantially over the last few years.
- Only offering seats if spare capacity is available on existing contracted services.
- Removal of Travel Assistance for some Year 11 Pupils who move home during the academic year.
- Revised suitable walking route criteria which hasn't been reviewed in over 10 years.

Following feedback from residents:

- The Council will retain entitlement to free transport to a child's linked school and is no longer proposing to remove discretionary travel assistance for mainstream pupils in Reception Year who have not yet turned 5 years
- All proposals being put forward would apply from September 2024 and only affect those applying for a bus place from this period and beyond
- The proposed changes do not cover Home to School Transport policies for students aged 16 and over, which will be reviewed later this year, following a fuller review of all bus services

We have reached out directly to West Northamptonshire Council for clarification that the linked schools will remain as they are now.

The full Cabinet report can be viewed [on the WNC website](#). For more information on Home to School Transport please visit [the School travel assistance webpage](#).

We will update you all as soon as we know more.

Once again, we thank you for your support with this.

Yours faithfully



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