

Consultation on Home to School Transport

25th March 2019 to 16th June 2019

Introduction

North Yorkshire County Council has a statutory responsibility to provide travel assistance between home and school for eligible children. We transport around 20,000 pupils every day. The total cost of transport in 2017/18 was £22.6 million and our forecasts show that the total for 2018/19 is likely to be £24.7 million.

We are now consulting on the discretionary help we provide above and beyond the statutory requirements.

Last year we held a public consultation about making changes to our home to school transport policy for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We have started to implement the proposals agreed last year. The SEND Transport consultation highlighted areas in which the authority is delivering above the minimum requirements.

The changes we are consulting on will help the council to make long-term savings and bring our home to school transport service in line with Department for Education statutory guidelines, to ensure the local authority is allocated the correct funding from central government.

Who are we consulting?

We are consulting with the public on our proposals, including the following groups;

- Parents and young people who use the home to school transport service;

- School representatives and other Education providers

How are we consulting?

We are asking questions in a survey, about our proposals and for any other ideas and suggestions. Click here to [complete our online survey](#).

We can also provide paper copies of the survey and accessible formats of the survey on request.

If you would like the survey as a paper copy or accessible format, please call our customer service centre on [01609 780780](tel:01609780780) or email h2stransportconsult@northyorks.gov.uk – please title your email ‘Home to School transport consultation’.

You can also write to ‘Home to school transport consultation’, c/o SB205 Home to School Transport North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE.

We are holding events across the county, booking is not required.

Date	Area	Venue	Time
3 rd April 2019	Scarborough	Falsgrave Community Resource Centre, Seamer Rd, Scarborough YO12 4DH	12pm – 2pm
		Scalby School, Fieldstead Crescent, Scarborough YO12 6TH	5pm – 7pm
4 th April 2019	Skipton	The Rendezvous Hotel, Keighley Road, Skipton BD23 2TA	12pm-2pm 5pm – 7pm
30 th April 2019	Whitby	The Green Lane Centre, Green Lane, Whitby YO22 4EH	12pm – 2pm 5pm – 7pm
9 th May 2019	Harrogate	Pavilions of Harrogate, Railway Road, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate HG2 8NZ	12pm – 2pm 5pm – 7pm
14 th May 2019	Selby	Community House, Portholme Crescent, Selby YO8 4QQ	12pm – 2pm 5pm – 7pm
15 th May 2019	Pickering	Memorial Hall, Potter Hill, Pickering YO18 8AA	12pm -2pm 5pm - 7pm
17 th May 2019	Richmond	Richmond Town Council, Town Hall, Market Place, Richmond DL10 4QL	12pm – 2pm 5pm – 7pm
23 rd May 2019	Northallerton	Allerton Court Hotel, Darlington Rd, Northallerton DL6 2XF	12pm – 2pm 5pm – 7pm

What is the timescale?

The consultation will be live for 12 weeks, starting on 25th March 2019 and ending on 16th June 2019. Once the consultation has closed, we will review all of the responses and prepare a report for councillors on the results. They will consider any changes which may need to be made and make a decision on 16th July 2019. The policy will be published on 31st July 2019.

Information about our equalities impact assessment

We have drawn up an [Equalities Impact Assessment](#) which will be updated following comments received during the consultation and councillors will consider it again before they make a decision.

Completing the survey

Please give your feedback on the proposals outlined by [completing our online survey](#).

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Proposals for consultation:

Proposal 1: Mainstream transport will only be provided for eligible children and young people attending the catchment school or the nearest school to their permanent home address.

Currently, the council offers transport to catchment schools and any school closer to their home address. This will still be available to all pupils living further than two miles from their nearest school (for children under the age of eight) or three miles (for those aged eight to 16.) Under the suggested changes, parents would also be able to check online prior to applying for a school if they qualify for free transport, which currently does not happen. It would not apply to special schools, which do not have catchment areas.

An example of the current policy is:

Twenty children living in Spofforth Village postcode starting HG3 1 (this is a speculative postcode for example only). The catchment school for this address is Harrogate Grammar, 5.9 miles away from Spofforth Village.

Under the current policy, these children would be eligible for transport to the following schools:

1. Wetherby High (3.8 miles away)
2. St John Fisher (5 miles away)
3. King James (5.2 miles away)
4. St Aiden's (5.3 miles away)
5. Rossett (5.4 miles away)
6. Harrogate High (5.6 miles away)
7. Harrogate Grammar (5.9 miles away)

These children could attend any of the seven schools, and we would provide transport for all of them. This could potentially require one or two taxis for each school.

In this example, if this proposal is approved, we would transport to Harrogate Grammar and Wetherby High. This would require two or three larger vehicles.

Proposal 2: Remove free arrangement for second home address or introduce full cost recovery of a second transport assistance

Provide free school transport to and from the pupils' main home address. Transport to an additional address would involve a charge covering the cost of transport. This is in line with Government guidance. This would reduce the number of empty bus seats that arise where students receive two transport passes for two different addresses and allow more students to obtain a place on a bus.

An example of the current policy is:

Child A lives with their parent in Northallerton on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays. Child A then lives with their other parent in Bridlington on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Child B lives on the same road in Northallerton for the whole week. Child A and Child B both attend the same school, and travel in the same taxi.

On Wednesday evening, Thursday and Friday, the taxi goes from school to Northallerton to drop off Child B, and keeps going to Bridlington to drop off Child A.

Under the proposed policy, in this example, the transport provided would be to the Northallerton address, because this is the address that was used in the application and allocation of the Child A at this school.

If the family want transport to both addresses, they must either pay the difference in cost between Northallerton and Bridlington, or organise their own transport.

Proposal 3: Collection from pick-up points, unless medical, mobility or special educational needs require door-to-door collection.

Currently the authority uses a combination of pick-up points and door-to-door provision.

The collection points would be safe areas pupils could walk to, such as existing bus stops. In areas where buses follow convoluted routes through housing estates, journeys to school can sometimes approach the maximum amount of permitted time. Under the proposals, pick-up points would keep to the main roads on such estates.

Similarly, in cases where children living on farms are dropped off at their front door in individual cars or taxis commissioned by North Yorkshire County Council, they would be collected at the nearest road. This would mean the council could commission larger vehicles to pick up a number of children at the same time and, again, cut journey times, providing a more sustainable and environmental transport solution. These changes would be phased in gradually over the next four years

Proposal 4: Providing free transport for all eligible children in the county when they start school in the reception year.

Children in North Yorkshire presently only qualify for free transport when they turn five years old. It is hoped the proposal will help parents who plan to return to work when their child starts school and bring the authority in line with neighbouring councils.

Proposal 5: To adopt a single charge for all Discretionary Transport

Discretionary transport is provided by the council to help students not eligible under the home to school transport policy. The local authority is looking to eradicate differences in charges for transport between pre-16 and post-16 education.

An example of the current policy is:

A young person is travelling to school on a spare seat and paying £390 per annum. In September the young person will be attending the sixth form. The journey will be the same, as it was in year 11, with the same bus and pick up point. But the young person will now pay the post 16 rate.

Under the proposed policy, in this example, the transport provided would cost the same for spare seat and post 16.

Proposal 6: Introduce a fee for replacement school bus passes.

In 2018, NYCC replaced over 500 bus passes free of charge. The administrative and postage costs involved in replacing passes is currently absorbed by the local authority.

We need to recover this cost so propose to introduce a fee for replacing passes.

Proposal 7: Introduction of an application process for Home to School Transport

The current system assumes all eligible children will be requiring transport and services are commissioned accordingly. The application would take into account other formal arrangements which have been made for children, such as after-school clubs or child minders.

If families have to apply for their child's seat, this would enable the Authority to commission transport for those who actually use it.

This application process is already in place for SEND transport. This is to make sure that the transport being commissioned will meet the medical, mobility and special educational needs of the child.

Completing the survey

Please give your feedback on the proposals outlined by [completing our online survey](#).

If you would like a paper copy or accessible format of the survey, please call our customer service centre on **01609 780780** or email h2stransportconsult@northyorks.gov.uk

Contact us

North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

Our Customer Service Centre is open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm
(closed weekends and bank holidays). Tel: **01609 780 780**

email: **customer.services@northyorks.gov.uk** web: **www.northyorks.gov.uk**

If you would like this information in another language or format please ask us.

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