

Learner travel consultation

14 October 2019 to 5 January 2020

Emerging themes

Proposal 1

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils

Aspect	Issues raised
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too long to walk, especially in bad weather
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too far to walk, especially for younger children • Young people should walk/cycle • Public transport options need to improve
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents responsibility, not the councils • BCBC will be in line with other local authorities • The current policy supports families going to work
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be unsafe • Walking routes should be safe • Limit the traffic outside schools • Roads are unsafe • Walking in cold/wet weather could cause health issues
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith education should be supported • There should not be preferential treatment
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh-medium education should be supported • There will be a negative impact on Welsh-medium schools
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport is expensive and there will be additional costs for pupils/families • Council should make other internal savings • Some parents would be prepared to contribute towards travel costs
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a negative impact on the environment
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils with ALN should be supported
Attendance/attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance/attainment will be negatively impacted

Proposal 2

Remove escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

Aspect	Issues raised
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers should have DBS checks • Drivers will need training • Safeguarding concerns for children and driver • Will compromise child safety • A driver should focus on driving • As long as children behave themselves • CCTV should be provided in vehicles • We should be able to trust our children, especially those in secondary school • Children need support and supervision • This proposal will encourage poor behaviour • Children could distract the driver • Concern if the driver falls ill/has an accident
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils with ALN should be supported
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This shouldn't apply to infant age pupils • Primary age pupils shouldn't travel without an escort
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escorts should be on all buses • The driver is not responsible for children • Each pupil should be assessed on a case-by-case basis
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such a proposal might increase costs to parents • Council should make other internal savings
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh-medium education should be supported • There will be a negative impact on Welsh-medium schools

Proposal 3

Removal from the local authority's Home-to-School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport

Aspect	Issues raised
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May compromise child safety
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils with ALN should be supported
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each pupil should be assessed on a case-by-case basis • Should keep all school transport • The service is needed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have a right to attend school • The service supports families to go to work
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such a proposal might increase costs to parents especially in deprived areas • Council should make other internal savings
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh-medium education should be supported • May allow the council to better exercise its discretion to support Welsh-medium education • There will be a negative impact on Welsh-medium schools
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative environmental impact

Proposal 4

To stop providing free transport for learners age 16 or over, who go to school or college

Aspect	Issues raised
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking will be unsafe
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too far to walk
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age discrimination
Ongoing education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will discourage young people from attending sixth form • Will limit the opportunities for progression of young people • Young people attending the Bridge provision only have the option of continuing at college
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with ALN should be supported • Vulnerable pupils should be supported
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should encourage young people to attend sixth form • All pupils should have transport • Concern over how else pupils will get to school • Not all post-16 pupils will need the bus • If they are working they can pay for transport
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be costly to pay for transport • There should be free transport for school students but not college students • Students could contribute to the cost of transport • Could offer a reduced pass/season ticket • Educational Maintenance Allowance should be used specifically for transport (EMA) • Should be means tested • Not everyone will be able to afford transport

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should make other internal savings
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh-medium education should be protected • By ensuring free transport for Welsh-medium pupils is retained this will help support decision by parents/carers to choose Welsh-medium education for their children • Welsh-medium education should not be protected • The location of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd (YGGL) makes it difficult/impossible to attend without transport • Children may no longer attend YGGL • School transport helps get children to school
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental impact from increased traffic
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith-based education should be protected • Faith-based education should not be protected

Proposal 5

To remove all transport for nursery pupils

Aspect	Issues raised
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be unsafe to walk • Will impact on child safety • Nursery pupils are too young to go on a bus on their own
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too far to walk
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be difficult for working parents • May have siblings in primary school already • Contradicts free nursery/childcare grant • It is the personal choice of parents to send their children to nursery
Ongoing education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery education is important • Limits the opportunities for children • Children have a right to education and therefore transport
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with ALN should be supported
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a nursery place is provided then transport is provided • Continue to provide transport for all pupils • Build more schools
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be additional cost to families • Will negatively impact deprived areas • Council should make other internal savings

Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be an environmental impact
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith education should be protected
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will negatively impact Welsh-medium education • Welsh-medium education should be protected • This decision would be catastrophic to the growth of Welsh-medium education • The geographic location of Welsh-medium schools in the county borough poses an issue and a significant number of pupils live over three miles from home to school. Transport provides equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils • School transport helps get children to school • Very difficult for Welsh-medium schools to attract pupils without transport • Falling numbers of pupils is a real threat to Welsh-medium schools