

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

**Proposal 2**

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

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

**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

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

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

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council should make other internal savings</li> </ul>
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh-medium education should be protected</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Welsh-medium education should not be protected</li> <li>• The location of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd (YGGL) makes it difficult/impossible to attend without transport</li> <li>• Children may no longer attend YGGL</li> <li>• School transport helps get children to school</li> </ul>
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental impact from increased traffic</li> </ul>
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith-based education should be protected</li> <li>• Faith-based education should not be protected</li> </ul>

### Proposal 5

To remove all transport for nursery pupils

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

Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be an environmental impact</li> </ul>
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith education should be protected</li> </ul>
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will negatively impact Welsh-medium education</li> <li>• Welsh-medium education should be protected</li> <li>• This decision would be catastrophic to the growth of Welsh-medium education</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• School transport helps get children to school</li> <li>• Very difficult for Welsh-medium schools to attract pupils without transport</li> <li>• Falling numbers of pupils is a real threat to Welsh-medium schools</li> </ul>