

## **Consultation on Post-16 Travel Policy for the 2020/2021 School Year**

**13 January – 26 February 2020**

### **Summary of the proposed changes to the Post-16 Travel Policy for the 2020/2021 school year**

Between 13 January and 26 February 2020, we are seeking your views about amendments to our proposed Post-16 Travel Policy for the 2020/2021 school year. The amendments are designed to ensure that the policy is clearer for parents/carers to understand what travel options there are for their child.

We are proposing to:

1. Make the annual increase to the charge of Post-16 travel and the cost of a spare seat as previously agreed by Suffolk County Council's (SCC) Cabinet on 19 June 2018.
2. Indicate what alternative travel options are available for Post-16s.
3. Describe in greater detail the Independent Travel Training service and the expectation that students will be assessed for suitability.
4. Make a point of clarification that distance measuring beyond the Suffolk boundary will be measured by road.

Further information on the proposed changes is below.

#### **Annual increase to the charge of Post-16 travel and cost of a spare seat**

In line with previous years, there is an annual increase to the charge we make for Post-16 students who use SCC travel. The increase is designed to close the gap between the actual cost to the local authority of providing this transport and what is paid by travellers. We are proposing an increase of £30 per term for mainstream students and £10 per term for SEND students meaning the cost of travel for 2020/2021 will be £840 for a mainstream student and £720 for a student with special educational needs or a disability (SEND).

#### **Indicate what alternative travel options are available for Post-16 students**

The policy outlines in greater detail a variety of options that students can consider when thinking about how to get to their Post-16 provision. This includes discounted fare options on buses and trains.

#### **Describe in greater detail the Independent Travel Training service**

The policy provides an expanded section on the Independent Travel Training service offered by Suffolk County Council for Post-16s. If students are assessed and provided with travel training, it will help those with SEND to become independent travellers. Refusal to participate in travel training may lead to the withdrawal of Post-16 travel and may affect any future requests for SCC travel.

## **Outline the distance measuring beyond the Suffolk boundary**

The distance within Suffolk will be measured as a walking distance, including Public Rights of Way, but over the boundary distances will be measured by road only.

## **How to respond to the consultation**

You can give your views by:

- completing the online survey at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations)
- emailing [Post-16TravelConsultation@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Post-16TravelConsultation@suffolk.gov.uk) or by
- writing to Post-16 Travel Consultation Team, Floor 3 Gold, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

**Responses must be received no later than Wednesday, 26 February 2020.**