



Haverling
LONDON BOROUGH

Home to School Transport

Public Consultation
8th November 2023

Home To School Transport



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Agenda

- Welcome & introductions
- Consultation responses
- Transport assistance options
- Policy changes
- Table discussions – consultation questions
- Summary and next steps
- Close

We have had 480 responses to the consultation so far;

Group	Number	Percentage
Parent/Carer	405	84%
Child aged under 16	17	4%
Young Person aged 16 - 25	8	2%
School or Education Setting	19	4%
Charity or Community Group	1	1%
Public	20	4%
Other	10	2%

Transport Assistance Type	Students	Percentage
Passenger Bus	424	61%
Personal Transport Budget	84	12%
Travel Training	9	1%
Taxi	66	10%
Shared Taxi	114	16%
Total	693*	100%

*Includes 99 Post-16 students

Taxi	Number	Routes
Travelling within the borough	81	57
Travelling outside the borough	99	64
Total	180	124
Passenger Bus	Number	Routes
Travelling within the borough	382	34
Travelling outside the borough	42	6
Total	424	40

Travel Training

The Council's travel training programme helps young people with special educational needs, disabilities or additional needs for those secondary school age students to develop road and personal safety skills to enable them to make the journey to their place of education independently.

The travel training programme can support with any mode of transport; including bus, train, tube, walking, cycling or a combination of different types of transport.

Travel Training

It is designed to create long-term sustainable positive effects which can support young people now, in the future and through their transition into adulthood when travelling, which can include improved:

- social interaction and communication skills
- life skills
- self-esteem
- management of fears and anxieties
- responsibility
- road safety awareness
- time management
- coping strategies

Travel Training

The feedback obtained from students who have undertaken this training and their families has really been encouraging.

“They explained everything I was going to do in a way I can understand.”- Havering student with special educational needs and disabilities who undertook travel training.

Travel Training

“This is a fantastic course that Havering should use more. Independence for our son has and always will be a big ask. This course allowed him to be confident, empowered him and assisted parents at a time when health is not good.” - Parent of a student with special educational needs and disabilities in Havering.

Passenger Transport Services - Bus

Where travel assistance is provided in the form of a seat on a vehicle to transport the child to and from school or college, the operational arrangements are made between the Council's Travel Commissioning Unit (TCU) and the Council's Passenger Transport Services (PTS).

Pickup and drop-off times are arranged so that journey times are minimised and cannot be varied to suit individual parents / guardians. Any changes to arrangements will be made as and when deemed necessary by PTS for the efficient running of the service.

Passenger Transport Services - Bus

A designated meeting point will be agreed with all parents / guardians to ensure the smooth running of any arrangements.

Part of that agreement will be to ensure that all parents / guardians:

- Provide up-to-date contact details to the Council so officers can advise of any delays or problems.
- Guarantee that the student is ready to be picked up at the arranged time and place.
- Will be available to collect the student at the arranged time and place at the end of the school day.
- Contacts PTS as soon as possible if the student is not attending school for any reason.

Personal Transport Budget (PTB)

Where a parent / guardian, or an identified person, has been approved for travel assistance, the council will offer a Personal Transport Budget. The Personal Transport Budget is not prescriptive, and is intended to open up a creative dialogue to find innovative solutions to support young people to get to and from school.

There are no predetermined values of a personal transport budget as it is unique to the child and family circumstances. Havering pays mileage in line with HMRC, and we look to foster a collaborative and dynamic approach to the current challenges both our families and the council are facing by working with our families.

Personal Transport Budget (PTB)

The Personal Transport Budget will be paid, on a monthly basis in advance based on a child attending the total number of school days even when the student has to leave school early for any reason, however will only be paid for the days the child is in school.

The Council will collect proof of the student's attendance at school / college before making the next month's payments as adjustments may be made based on previous months attendance.

Personal Transport Budget (PTB)

Personal Transport Budget can be used for any non-Council provided transport service. There are several ways that Personal Transport Budget could be used, including, but not limited to:

- Pay for fuel and / or the cost of running a family vehicle that is used to transport a student to and from school.
- Pay towards the cost of leasing a family vehicle to enable the parents to take their child to school themselves.
- Pay towards the cost of booking or sharing a taxi with other students.

Personal Transport Budget (PTB)

- Pay for another person to:
 - take or transport the student.
 - take a sibling to school to free a parent / guardian up to transport the student.
- Pay for childcare or towards the cost of breakfast or after school clubs for siblings, allowing the parent / guardian to transport the student.
- Pay towards the cost of travel passes for other children in the home so that they can travel to and from school, allowing the parent / guardian to transport the student.
- Pay for a travel pass for the student.
- Join up transport options with other parents (e.g. car share), thereby encouraging a sense of community.

Personal Transport Budget (PTB)

“As a result of my son’s sensory needs, he struggles with sharing transport with other children, and this is causing stress in his daily routine. However, I also have to take his younger brother to a different school, but I cannot be expected to be at two different places at the same time. I now use PTB to pay for his siblings breakfast club, by dropping him earlier at school. Since then, my son now enjoys his trips to school, and it increases the quality time we spend together as a family” - Parent of a student with special educational needs and disabilities in Havering.

Personal Transport Budget (PTB)

“I can now leave home for work on time. I do not need to wait for Havering passenger bus to turn up anymore, as PTB allows me to pay my next door neighbour to drop my daughter at school, since she will be driving her own children to the same school” - Parent of a student with special educational needs and disabilities in Havering.

Taxi Services

Taxi services are commissioned based upon the specific needs of young people. These are offered as a joint travel arrangement with young people travelling to the same destination along a common route.

This option will continue to be provided if it is the best fit for the pair of individuals or more that will be travelling within the taxi.

This will not be a default option as other preferences will be explored before this is agreed upon. No single occupant travel will be available unless it meets specific needs of the child.

- What is not changing?
 - The existing range of pre-16 transport options, including Travel Training, Bus and Taxis
- What is different?
 - Expanding use of Personal Transport Budgets beyond fuel reimbursement to give greater choice and control to parents and carers.
 - Implementing a different approach for post-16 transport assistance as it is non-statutory.
- Why have we offered this alternative?
 - Need to address a £3m deficit in the transport budget as part of wider Council budget pressures.
 - Reduce the use of single use taxis the most expensive form of transport, and least empowering.

Opportunity to discuss each of the consultation questions on your tables.

Please be respectful of each others views, and ensure everyone has the opportunity to contribute.

Facilitators will be at each table to ensure we accurately capture the key points of discussion and feedback.

Thank you for contributing to the session today and giving more context in answering the consultation questions.

Analysis of the responses will be undertaken following the close of the consultation, and will inform the Cabinet report.

Item is on the January/February Cabinet agenda to be discussed and a decision to be made.

Outcome from that decision will be implemented from April 2024, and will impact travel applications for the academic year starting in September 2025 for children starting primary or secondary school, and for in-year applications from September 2024.

Thank you for your time today
We welcome and value your opinions

Have a safe journey home