

School Travel Assistance Policy Consultation Response Form

If you need help to complete this form please contact us on HaveYourSay@cumberland.gov.uk
Consultation on proposed changes to the School Travel Assistance Policy

Introduction

This consultation is open from **21 October 2024** and closes at **5pm on 9 December 2024**.

Please have your say using one of the options below:

- By completing the questionnaire and returning it to Freepost CUMBERLAND COUNCIL.
- By completing the questionnaire online at www.cumberland.gov.uk/haveyoursay

Cumberland Council is seeking residents' and stakeholders' views on proposed changes to the School Travel Assistance Policy.

The School Travel Assistance Policy sets out the legal responsibilities that the Council has in order to provide assistance with transport to school or another education setting for children and young people living in the local authority area.

This Response Form is divided into two different parts:

Part A: Questions about the proposed policy

Part B: About you

Please Note: References to "parent" in this Response Form include birth parents, adoptive parents, foster parents, carers or legal guardians with parental responsibility.

Your feedback will help to inform any decision by the council on the proposed changes to the School Travel Assistance Policy and how travel assistance is delivered.

If you have any queries about this consultation, or need this Response Form printed, please contact the Council by emailing HaveYourSay@cumberland.gov.uk with the subject "School Travel Assistance Policy consultation 2024".

Completing the Response Form

Please read the accompanying Information Pack before completing this Response Form, available at cumberland.gov.uk/HaveYourSay

This Response Form should take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

Alternatively, if you have access to the internet then you can complete this Response Form online at cumberland.gov.uk/HaveYourSay

Completing the Response Form online ensures your response is received instantly and securely, and the online form is simple to use on devices such as computers, tablets and smartphones.

Your data

Privacy notice

Cumberland Council is seeking your views, comments, and information about you in order to inform a decision on proposed changes to the Policy for school travel in Cumberland. This information is being collected for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest in the exercise of official authority vested in the Council.

Responses will be used to understand what people think about, and the perceived impact of the potential changes to the Policy for School Travel Assistance in Cumberland, and to look at the views of different groups within this area. All data will remain within the UK and will only be shared with third parties where they are undertaking data processing on behalf of Cumberland Council. Personal information will be held securely for one year, after which it will be deleted or destroyed.

You have some legal rights in respect of the personal information we collect from you. Please see our Data Protection page cumberland.gov.uk/privacy for further details.

You can contact the Council's Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@cumberland.gov.uk if you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to the Information Commissioner's Office at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Part A: Questions about the proposed policy

1. To what extent do you agree, or disagree that the proposed school travel assistance policy will help to promote independence for children and young people? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

2. To what extent do you agree, or disagree that the proposed school travel assistance policy is clear, easy to read and provides enough information? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

3. To what extent do you agree, or disagree that the proposed school travel assistance policy provides clear information on the transport appeal process if your transport application is refused? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

4. To what extent do you agree, or disagree that the eligibility criteria are easy to understand in the proposed school travel assistance policy? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

5. To what extent do you agree, or disagree that the application process is easy to understand in the proposed school travel assistance policy? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

6. To what extent do you agree, or disagree with the circumstances where the Council may charge for services as set out in the proposed school travel assistance policy?
(Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

7. To what extent do you agree, or disagree with having a single school travel assistance policy for 0-25 rather than different policies for different ages? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

8. To what extent do you agree, or disagree that it is clear in the proposed school travel assistance policy how the council will decide whether to offer school travel assistance?
(Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

9. Do you think it would be helpful if we created an easy read version of the school travel assistance policy for parents? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

10. Personal Travel Budgets (PTBs). To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with the proposal for Personal Transport Budgets (PTB) to be available to families where a child or young person's needs or circumstances mean that suitable transport is difficult to find, or not available at all, in the local operator market? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for PTB Option 1: Daily Rates? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for PTB Option 2: Mileage Rates?
(Please choose one option)

Strongly
disagree

Disagree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for PTB Option 3: Flat Rates?
(Please choose one option)

Strongly
disagree

Disagree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for PTB Option 4: Enhanced Rates for children with the most complex needs? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for PTB Option 5: A mixed model? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

16. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to offer a Public Transport Travel Pass? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

17. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for children to use public transport by providing a passenger assistant, befriending service or a travel buddy? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

18. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for children to take part in part in an escorted walking scheme? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

19. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for mileage reimbursement at the rate of £0.45 per mile based on four journeys a day? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

20. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for driving lessons?
(Please choose one option)

Strongly
disagree

Disagree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.
Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

21. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal that in certain circumstances and assessed need, travel assistance may be provided in transport vehicles?
(Please choose one option)

Strongly
disagree

Disagree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.
Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

22. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to use pick up and drop off points if a child is using a transport vehicle to travel to school? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

23. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal that vehicle transport provision will be provided in the ranked order of a seat on a minibus or coach, seat within a shared vehicle, and in exceptional circumstance - an individual vehicle? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

24. Independent Travel Training (ITT). To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with your child taking part in Independent Travel Training to enable them to develop lifelong skills and travel to school/college more independently, where this is assessed as a possible option? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Don't know

If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer, please do so in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

Please describe what, if any, impacts the Policy for School Transport provision in Cumberland may have on you, people you know, or your organisation, group or business.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

We would value any further feedback you may wish to share with us about the Cumberland school travel assistance services, what is working well and where improvements may need to be made.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

Please indicate below if the impacts you have mentioned above relate to any of the following characteristics or issues: (Please select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age | <input type="checkbox"/> Sex |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage and/or civil partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> Rurality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy and/or maternity | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Race | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these |

If you require any extra space for any of the questions on this page, please write on an additional page and include it with this Response Form.

Part B: About You

Cumberland Council is committed to improving its services, eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all people.

The following questions are optional but we would be grateful if you could answer to help us understand the views of, and potential impacts on, different types of people in Cumberland.

- I am **responding as an individual**
- I am providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**
- I am responding as a **democratically Elected Representative** of a constituency (e.g. as a local authority, parish or town council Member or MP)

If you are **responding as an individual**, please go to page 18.

If you are responding officially or as a democratically Elected Representative, the name of the constituency you represent may appear in the final report, and the information you provide may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure regimes such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

What is your name? (Please write in the box below.)

NB: This will only be used if we need to contact you to validate your response)

If you are providing the official response of an organisation, group or business, its name may appear in the final report, and the information you provide may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure regimes such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide details about the organisation, group or business that you represent:

The name of the organisation, group or business:

The postcode of the organisation, group or business:

Your name:

Your position in the organisation, group or business:

Which of these best describes the function of your organisation, group or business?

(Please choose one option)

- Charity, voluntary or local community group
- Local business or business representative (e.g. BID)
- Local authority (e.g. parish or town council)
- Nursery, school, college or place of education
- Other public sector organisation (e.g. Police, Fire, Health Authority)
- Other

For 'other' please specify in the box below:

Does your organisation group or business provide any of the following services?

(Please select all that apply)

- School Transport services
- Other services for children or young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- None of these

About You (continued)

Please answer this section if you are **responding to this consultation as an individual**.

If you are providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**, or **responding as a democratically Elected Representative of a constituency**, please go to the last page of this document without answering this section.

Please provide your postcode:

Providing your postcode is optional. It would help us to understand the impact of proposed changes if you could provide at least the first five digits of your postcode. If you do provide your full postcode it is possible that in rural areas this might identify your property. If you provide your postcode, the Council will use this information to analyse the responses from different areas, to understand how views differ by area and to help model data for different types of respondent.

What was your age on your last birthday? (Please choose one option)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 or over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 to 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 to 74 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 to 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 to 84 | |

Which of the following best describes your gender? (Please choose one option)

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to self-describe | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|

If you prefer to self-describe, please specify in the box below:

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? (Please choose one option)

- No**
- Yes, but they **do not reduce** my day-to-day activities
- Yes, and they reduce my day-to-day activities **a little**
- Yes, and they reduce my day-to-day activities **a lot**
- Prefer not to say

About You (continued)

What is your ethnic group? (Please choose one option)

Asian or Asian British ethnic groups

- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Indian
- Nepalese
- Pakistani
- Any other Asian background
(please specify below)

Black, African, Caribbean or Black British ethnic groups

- African
- British
- Caribbean
- Any other Black background
(please specify below)

Other ethnic group

- Arab
- Any other ethnic background
(please specify below)

Mixed or multiple ethnic groups ethnic groups

- White and Asian
- White and Black African
- White and Black Caribbean
- Any other Mixed background
(please specify below)

White ethnic groups

- English, Welsh, Scottish,
Northern Irish, British
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Irish
- Any other White background
(please specify below)

For 'other', please specify below:

What is your total annual household income, from all sources, before tax and other deductions? (Please choose one option)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Up to £10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £50,001 to £60,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £100,001 or over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £10,001 to £20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £60,001 to £70,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £20,001 to £30,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £70,001 to £80,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £30,001 to £40,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £80,001 to £90,000 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £40,001 to £50,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £90,001 to £100,000 | |

We recognise that questions about income may feel very sensitive, but it is important that the council can understand how views and impacts may vary amongst groups of people with differing financial circumstances.

Do any of the children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)? (Please choose one option)

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Does the School Transport support you currently receive from Cumberland Council include any of the following? (Please select all that apply)

- A mileage allowance for you to take the child or young person to school A Passenger Assistant/ School Escort on the transport Neither of these

And finally...

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation. The findings from this consultation will help to inform a decision on the proposed changes to the Home to School Travel Assistance Policy.

Please forward the link to the webpage for this consultation cumberland.gov.uk/HaveYourSay to anyone else you know who would be interested in participating.

Please return your Response Form by the close of the consultation - 5pm on 9 December 2024.

How can I keep track?

You can find the latest consultation and engagement surveys online at <https://consult.cumberland.gov.uk/>

You can also sign up to receive automated email notifications about consultations and engagements.

You can find forthcoming meetings and their agendas at <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-and-committees>.

Any decisions made by Full Council and Cabinet will also be shared here.