

Letter from Suffolk County Council

Dear Parent

Have your say on the home to school and post-16 travel consultation

On 12 December 2017 Suffolk County Council launched a consultation on proposals to change school and post-16 travel policies. The consultation will run until Wednesday 28 February 2017.

This an extremely important consultation as we currently spend £21 million per year getting children to and from school. For some time, we have been concerned that if action isn't taken costs will continue to rise and this isn't something we can afford to happen. We are therefore consulting on changing our school and post-16 travel policies.

The council's current school and post-16 travel policies go above what we are legally required to provide but the consultation centres around bringing Suffolk in line with legal requirements. The consultation seeks views on options to change the school and post-16 travel policies and includes three alternative options, pre and post-16:

Option 1: In September 2019, change the school travel policy so that it is in line with the legal requirements. This would mean implementing all the changes in one go, including ceasing free travel to the transport priority area schools where it is not the pupils' nearest.

Option 2: From September 2019, introduce the changes year by year as a child joins or moves school so that it is in line with legal requirements. This means that we would introduce all the changes on a phased basis.

Option 3: Make no changes to the school travel policy but make savings from other services provided by Suffolk County Council.

Suffolk County Council are also asking for feedback on several other matters, including using Rights of Way in terms of distance measurement for school transport assessment and eligibility.

Views are also sought on a menu of local solutions, which the county council has developed with a range of schools during the pre-consultation phase: Local solutions could help reduce the cost of transport and some of the impact of any policy changes. Helpful information on the local solutions can be found www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel

More information on the consultation including these options and post-16 proposals can be found in the consultation document, this can be viewed on Suffolk County Council's website: www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel

How to respond to the consultation:

The consultation questionnaire can be completed online at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel

Alternatively, PDF version can be downloaded from the website, completed and returned to:

Suffolk County Council – school and post-16 travel consultation
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich

Suffolk
IP1 2BX

You can also attend a consultation workshop in the following locations to find out more and ask questions. To book your attendance at a workshop go to:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/schooltravel

Venue	Room	Date	Time
Kesgrave Conference Centre <i>Twelve Acre Approach, Ipswich IP5 1JF</i>	Orwell Room	16 January 2018	19:00 - 20:30
Eye Community Centre <i>Magdalen Street, Eye, IP23 2DH</i>	Main Hall	17 January 2018	19:00 - 20:30
River Stour Trust - the Visitor Education Centre <i>Dove House, Great Cornard, CO10 0GF</i>	VEC	18 January 2018	19:00 - 20:30
Beccles Public Hall <i>Smallgate, Beccles NR34 9AD</i>	Main Hall	22 January 2018	19:00 - 20:30
Lakenheath Pavilion <i>Eriswell Road, Lakenheath IP27 9AF</i>	Main Hall	23 January 2018	19:00 - 20:30
West Suffolk House <i>Western Way, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3YU</i>	WSH - GFR12 - Meeting Room	26 January 2018	5 sessions between 14:00 - 19:30

In addition you can attend our *Have Your Say* event. This is an opportunity for you or a group to present alternative options to a panel.

Venue	Date	Time
West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3SP	30 January 2018	19:00 - 22:00

Alternatively, you can contact us via;

Telephone: 0345 603 1842 (open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 6pm)

Email: schooltravel@suffolk.gov.uk