

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CABINET MEMBER

POST 16 STUDENT TRANSPORT POLICY – MAINSTREAM EDUCATION

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet Member's approval regarding the council's post-16 mainstream student transport policy

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 There are 2 policies in place currently, one for students with special and additional needs who require extra support to get to their courses and one for mainstream Post-16 students, the policies are reviewed and published every year. This paper covers the Mainstream attended students.
- 2.2 During the academic year 2021/22 we are providing transport support for 833 students who live more than 3 miles from their institution to travel between home and college or 6th Form during term time.
- 2.3 The council has a statutory duty to facilitate the attendance of people of 6th form age to education or training, but not to fund it, parents can be expected to make a contribution or cover the full cost. Comparisons regionally confirm our policy is generous and we would wish to continue to financially support Post-16 Transport in line with our broader Council goals of maintaining Connectivity.
- 2.4 The new provision seeks to give choice and control to students and families, enabling flexible transport.
- 2.5 North Lincolnshire Council have produced a Grant Offer Letter for the Council and post-16 education providers to sign setting out the terms and conditions for the grant.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Policy Proposal:

- 3.1 To award a travel grant of £315 per student for those who are eligible; live more than 3 miles from their institution to travel between home and their college or sixth form during term time.
- 3.2 The £315 grant will be paid termly at a rate of £105 per term by North Lincolnshire Council to the Colleges and can be used for any transport option but with a preference for Public Transport. The colleges will also contribute £35 per student per term and the parent £30 per student per term towards their travel.
- 3.3 A 'Grant Offer Letter' to be signed by North Lincolnshire Council and the Colleges to agree the terms and conditions of the grant, which will include regular monitoring meetings between all parties.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Option 1: Approval of Policy

- 4.1.1 North Lincolnshire students will continue to receive transport support as a result from contributions from North Lincolnshire Council, respected colleges and parents.
- 4.1.2 This policy requires the council to subsidise post 16 transport. The proposal is to award a grant for the colleges to allocate to students of £105 per term per student. The proposal also includes the colleges to contribute £35 per term and students £30 per term.
- 4.1.3 A Grant Offer Letter to be signed by the council and post-16 education providers.

5. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc)**

- 5.1 **Finance** – Costings can be met from existing budgets. Agreement has been reached with post-16 education providers to contribute £35 per student per term.
- 5.2 **Staffing** – Nil

6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 There are no other relevant implications

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been undertaken for this policy. The two key features to note from the assessment provided below:
- 7.2 **Environmental** - The scheme encourages students to travel by bus rather than in their own cars. It also seeks to support the public transport network.
- 7.3 **Statutory** - The council has a duty to help post-16 students access further education, but not to provide free transport.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 8.1 Informal meetings have taken place with post-16 education providers who are supportive of the scheme.
- 8.2 There have been no conflicts of interest either identified or declared.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Cabinet Member resolves to award a £315 travel grant to all eligible students as per the above mainstream policy.
- 9.2 That a Grant Offer Letter is signed by the council and post-16 education providers.

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL AND HEAD OF SERVICE – ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –
Nil