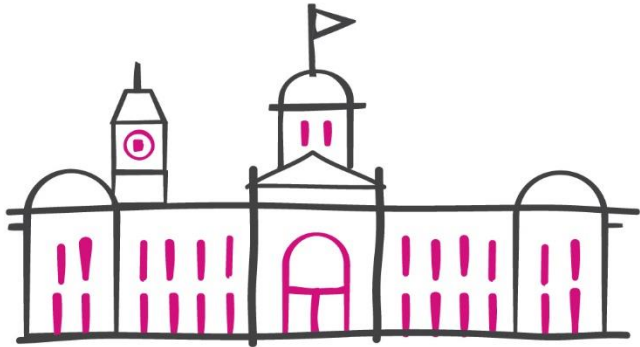


CYPTS – Travel Assistance Policy Review Consultation Presentation

Adrian Weissenbruch

Assistant Director – Home to School Transport



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Introduction

As a result of the Section 114 notice issued by Birmingham City Council, as a Local Authority we are required to deliver £300 million over the next two financial years.

The savings will need to be achieved through a combination of service redesign and reductions that impact on all services across the Council. This included a review of all non-mandatory statutory services provided by the Council.

The Children and Young People's Travel Service (CYPTS) is required to make substantial savings which will look to be achieved through re-procurement of contracts, redesign of services and changes to our discretionary and non-mandatory spend. The service is required to find savings of over £25 million in the 24/25 and 25/26 financial years.

This Presentation will look to explain the proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy which seeks feedback through a consultation process.

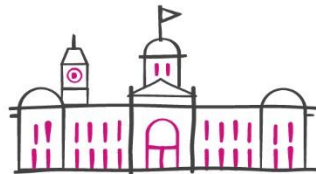


Background

Prior to the Section 114 Notice, the CYPTS was already seeking to address a substantial overspend of the Transport Budget and steps were taken from early 2023 to deliver substantial savings to the service, with a primary focus on re-procurement of contracts through a new “Procurement Framework”.

As the savings requirement increased, a review of discretionary and non-mandatory spend was undertaken and potential savings identified.

One area for consideration was the Birmingham City Council Post-16 Transport offer, which falls into non-mandatory statutory provision. This is a saving that has been made in a number of other Local Authorities through reduced provision and/or increased parental contribution and was tested by judicial review (2020 Drexler vs Leicestershire CC).



The Current Policy



Current Policy – Main Points

Pre-Schoolers aged 0-4 (pre-compulsory school age) – Non-Mandatory

The Council's Policy is not to provide travel assistance unless the child has an EHCP and the circumstances can be said to be exceptional. This is a subsidised offer of support.

Children aged 5-16 (compulsory school age) – Mandatory

The Education Act 1996 sets out the categories of children and young persons of compulsory school age who are eligible for free travel assistance. The Council's policy is to provide travel assistance to these eligible children in accordance with legal obligations. The Council will provide whatever is considered necessary and suitable to facilitate school attendance for a normal school day.

Young persons aged 16-18 (sixth form age) – Non-Mandatory

The Council's Policy is to provide subsidised travel assistance to facilitate full-time attendance to education or training at Schools, Colleges or other institutions funded by the Council. There is also support for Independent Travel Training.

Adults aged 19+ (not compulsory or sixth form age) – Discretionary

The law only requires the Council to provide free transport for adults in education it considers necessary. The law gives the Council discretion to pay travel expenses (in whole or part) in certain circumstances. Support would only be considered necessary if the adult has an EHCP or the circumstances are exceptional and are decided on an individual case basis.



The Proposed Policy



Proposed Policy Changes – Main Points

Pre-Schoolers aged 0-4 (pre-compulsory school age) – Non-Mandatory

The Council's offer under this Policy would be the provision of a Personal Transport Budget (PTB) only. There is an expectation of parental accompaniment under this provision.

Children aged 5-16 (compulsory school age) – Mandatory

No changes are proposed to the Policy. However, there will be a review of existing and ongoing discretionary spend under this Policy.

Young persons aged 16-18 (sixth form age) – Non-Mandatory

The Council's offer under this Policy will usually only be in the form of a Personal Transport Budget (PTB) or Bus Pass. The student must be in full-time education and will not support individual student college timetables. The parental contribution for non-low-income families will increase to absorb costs of first 3 miles of each single journey.

Adults aged 19+ (not compulsory or sixth form age) – Discretionary

No changes are proposed to the Policy. However, there will be a review of existing and ongoing discretionary spend under this Policy.



The Proposed Parental Contribution Changes and PTB's

For subsidised travel support



Proposed Parental Contribution changes and PTB's

Low Income Households (Families where one or both parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit)

This will continue at the £390 contribution per academic year.

Non-low-income Households

This will remain at £780 per academic year for families applying under the 0-4 age pre-schooler policy. This will increase to £1028 per academic year for families applying under the 16-18 sixth form age policy.

Personal Transport Budgets (PTB's)

This will be calculated at 45p per mile for 2 return journeys per day. Parental contribution (subsidy) will be deducted from the total PTB offer.



Further information



Further Information

When would the revised Policy come into effect?

The aim is to publish a revised Policy in March/April which will be referenced for all applications for Transport starting in the 24/25 Academic Year.

If my child is currently supported by a Taxi/Minibus through the existing Post-16 Policy, what will this mean going forward?

You would need to reapply for Post-16 Transport for the 24/25 Academic Year, if entitled, you will only be offered either a Bus Pass or Personal Transport Budget.

Post-16 Education/Training is required by law, but Post-16 Transport Policy is not the same as 5-16 Transport Policy?

That's correct, these Policies do not align. It is the general expectation that parents support and facilitate attendance at Post-16 education and training.

This is going to really impact on the students and the families, what are you doing to mitigate this impact?

We do understand and appreciate the impact that these changes will have for many families. A level of support will continue to be given to many students and families, albeit at a reduced level. Birmingham City Council are also committed to Independent Travel Training to help prepare our students



Further reading

A list of links to supporting legislation, guidance and information



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Supporting documentation

Home to School Statutory Guidance – Compulsory School age

[Travel to school for children of compulsory school age \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Home to School Statutory Guidance – Post-16 Transport

[Post-16 transport and travel support to education and training \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

2020 Drexler vs Leicestershire CC – Court Ruling

[Microsoft Word - Drexler judgment 7 April 2020 - Final.docx \(judiciary.uk\)](#)





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