

Consultation on home-to-school transport for all children

Full list of all anonymised open responses received, in questionnaire order.

We are proposing to usually provide free home-to-school travel arrangements only where the law says we must. What would be the impact on you and your family if we were to make this change? Please explain the reasons for your choice:

- "I am not low income and my child lives just under the required distance. I am a working parent who struggles to manage the school runs and workm I think working parents should reap more benefits as we are the tax payers and the ones making the most sacrifices."
- "I don't have school aged children"
- "Though all the children at Hade Edge catch the bus from the same bus stop, only houses up from the stop have entitlement to free transport, which is unfair."
- "My son was severely bullied due to his arts gifted and talented status he now attends capa wakefield and has moved away from poor mental health and fear of self harm to happy schooling My disability and single parent status would impact ability to maintain costs and he may have to return to u satisfactory local schooling"
- "we currently receive no free transport and are unlikely to receive it in the future"
- "Have a child with sen needs. If the criteria for shool transport is changed i would be unable to get him to school as he is not able to use the regular school bus"
- "Sen school, resource provision attended so would still qualify"
- "We rely on this service to ensure my sons safety"
- "Currently in compulsory education with special needs."
- "Currently gets taken by parent as considered to young to go on own way"
- "I work with HI students, they would not be affected by the changes."
- "Our child is older than 8 with SEN and is vulnerable but we live far more than 3 miles from the deemed suitable school he attends so we will still be entitled"
- "Of course there is a need to have rules and guidelines around this, but there will always be exceptional cases where some flexibility is needed. There needs to be a system for these cases to be considered on an individual basis and there needs to be a way for families to appeal against decisions regarding home-school transport."
- "Children whose parents cannot afford transport costs, could be sent to schools which the council considers suitable, even though they may not be suitable due to regular disruption of lessons, violence, drugs, etc. Rather than achieving their full potential and making a positive contribution to society, those children could be badly influenced and drawn into criminality. law-abiding disabled and able people could be victims of criminals who may not have become criminals had the council paid for them to attend better schools further from their homes. If children do not achieve their full potential, due to their parents not being able to fund the cost of transporting them to decent schools further away, they may be more dependent on public services for financial support in adulthood."
- "My child is in a wheelchair and will always be in a wheelchair, school transport is a lifeline for us and allows us to get another child safely to school too."

- "I currently support families with additional needs who use free school transport. if this was not available to them it would impact further on their complex circumstances and mean that the children would not access important education."
- "This seems fair. However, I believe transport should also be available for very young children (pre-8) with an EHCP for significant SEN from low income families whenever it is not possible for them to get to the most appropriate school, even if less than 2 miles (this should be assessed on a case by case basis)."
- "Would not impact me personally."
- "Public money being spent where it is needed more."
- "The i rule that only children eligible for free school meals are entitled to the help, means that parents who just miss out by a matter of pounds not only have the difficulty of paying for lunches but are also excluded from any option of having travel help. This will mean poorer attendance, affecting attainment and engagement, thus perpetuate the cycle of low income"
- "Because the child gets used to the route and what to expect, it keeps people in work and provides a valued service"
- "CHILDREN OF 8 YEARS OF AGE CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO A SCHOOL INDEPENDANTLY AS THIS PUTS THEM IN IMMEIDIATE RISK OF HARM AND ALSO GOES AGAINST CURRENTS SOCIAL SERVICES GUIDELINES FOR LEAVING YOUNG PEOPLE ALONE, WITHOUT CHILDCARE. THIS WOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT AS PARENTS WOULD HAVE TO FIND JOBS THAT CAN ENABLE THEM TO TRANSPORT THEIR CHILD TO AND FROM SCHOOL. VERY BAD IDEA AND FORCING PARENTS TO LEAVE EMPLOYMENT."
- "I have in the past taken care of local authority children within my own home, this would not have been possible if had I been required to transport to school."
- "My child recieves transport due to physical disabilities ivory so would still be entitled"
- "My son is more than 3 miles from his school and he has special needs."
- "Our son attends a specialist school in calderdale and it would make it impossible for him to attend"
- "My child is disabled and so I think he will be entitled to free transport to his special school over 2 miles away"
- "pressures on council budget means that other services would need to be reduced in order to continue to provide free home school transport to families who could otherwise use their own transport or fund transport themselves."
- "As we have another child and can't be at both schools at the same time"
- "I don't live in Kirklees but I do work there"
- "Has he is in specials school out of area as there are not schools in kirklees that can meet his needs. Identify on his EHCP highest level."
- "We have another child and if the school transport was to be taken away we would not be able to get children to school on time. One has special needs the other hasnt."
- "Parents who work, dont have their own transportation or have more than one child, have disabled children and dependants would have to give up working and can't physically get their children to school."
- "As far as I am aware. Because you haven't made it clear what the changes are"
- "I have two children who go to school in the morning, my SEN child is on school transport and I take my other child to school, if I did not have school transport for my child with additional needs, then he would not be able to go to his specialist school. Due to his additional needs he needs a school which is not local. This would mean I would have two buses to get him to school, come back on two buses and then my other child would not get to school ...I can't be in two places at the same time and this would impact on my job, which mean I wouldn't be able to work. Impact would be huge financial difficulties for us and stress for my child would be high as he would always be late. My child has complex needs and likes his stability of school transport, he would not like the change."

- "It would mean families with a mobility car should use it for that child too and from school"
- "My circumstances are that I simply cannot afford it, even on half fare. I cannot take my child to school myself due to my working hours myself either."
- "Our children travel to a school virtually equidistant from the nearest one. There is not a secondary school within 3 miles. Pupils from Meltham have historically gone to both Holmfirth and Honley, so pupils to the nearest school get a free bus pass and the proposal would take this right away from pupils who are at a school 0.4 miles further away. The impact on many families who have more than one pupil at the school will be immense, costing hundreds of pounds a year. At the very least Kirklees should continue to provide passes to those currently in receipt of a free bus pass until their time at school finishes. Parents of primary school children can make informed choices then about where to send their children."
- "my son day starts earlier and gets home later, he is very upset as on Friday the 8th September his bus didn't turn up and then missed the connection bus to school which this bus is only one every hour so missed the start of school which threw him as the class had start work. my son then got on the bus and he is hearing impaired was told to hurry up by the driver and other passenger."
- "What if my child doesn't get in to the 'nearest' school, or if we feel that the 'nearest' school isn't suitable for our child and we want to use a different school in Kirklees?? This is yet another erosion of parental choice, treating children like cattle instead of allowing families genuine options based on the needs of children as individuals."
- "Our son attends Holmfirth High School. This was a feeder school from his primary Holme J & I School. Living in Meltham both Honley High School, his 'first offered' school (marginally closer) and Holmfirth High School are more than 3 miles away first or second choice would require a bus and therefore a bus pass. There is no highschool i Meltham or within 3 miles of our home. Loosing a bus pass, halfway through our son's high school career would have a very negative effect. As we would find it difficult to fund 2 daily bus journeys. We would most likely need to take our son to school by car. This would have an affect on our ability to work and add congestion to the high school. Additionally, our son meets friends on the bus and under his own steam has become independent. This would suffer if lifts from mum and dad where his option for school"
- "Choosing school based on transport implications rather than educational/emotional outcomes for a child is not in their best interest."
- "To fund three children's bus fares as well as school meals would really be far too expensive for me!!"
- "Safer journey to and from school"
- "It would mean when my child goes to secondary to our choice of school we will incur annual costs of nearly £400 per year. This would be unaffordable and force us as parents to select a school we do not believe best suited to our daughters needs."
- "My children do not qualify for school transport, but I am a governor at a feeder school where many children will be adversely affected by the removal of choice of school if paying for transport is a factor."
- "I think that all children attending school should receive free transport, whether it is the nearest school or not. Getting to school should be free, no matter how far how the distance or which school it is."
- "I am told currently my address is more than 3 miles away and we are able to benefit from free transport. If this changes it would put a huge financial strain on my family."
- "my children live more than 3 miles from their nearest school so will still be supported"
- "My children have to walk to from school - as the crow flies we are under 3 miles away, however my children don't fly, it is not safe for them to walk through woods and illegal for them to cross private land to get to school, therefore they have to walk via the roads and pathways"

- "The school we chose for our child was recently classed as in catchment area until schools started becoming full. Our child is autistic and the school we fought to get him in provides the type of education and social help he needs. We will be penalised for trying to give our child the best education and the best possible start in life if this happens. We are a hard working parents who are not entitled to any support or child benefit this would only be adding to struggles. We have to pay out more for uniform meal are now £2.20 per day and £3.50 ."
- "Our school is more than 3 miles away so wouldn't affect us"
- "My son is currently Home Educated but hopes to go to High School in due course so whilst it won't affect us immediately it will in the future."
- "Currently at Holmfirth High, so this would mean we may have to pay, although there is not much in distance between Honley and Holmfirth high from our house"
- "I assume as son in wheelchair and attending a special school for complex needs - if this assumption is wrong it would have a massive impact."
- "We get mobility allowance so will use the money to pay for transport, just like they do in some other authorities. Manchester charge and hardly any parents have complained as you get the extra benefit for mobility"
- "Do not receive free transport and have our own transport"
- "we don't benefit from it directly. however indirectly it will cause problems in school choice for parents and also attendance patterns to schools. and when there are not enough school places in the north of Kirklees this means actually some of the more vulnerable families will be out of pocket if they have to send their kids elsewhere. you will also indirectly encourage educational segregation in the south of the district - only families who can afford the transport costs will send their kids to places like holmfirth and honley. those with less money won't be able to afford to. this will have a negative impact on our communities and compound problems rather than improve things."
- "All my children live within walking distance to their schools"
- "We'd probably end up helping those who would lose the transport - but that's what neighbours do."
- "My council tax will be used to fund what the government legislation intended it to"
- "Nothing really. My children go to an independent school a few mile away and I don't get help with the bus fare. So it really doesn't matter to me. Why don't you award an allowance to all children of school going age so that some families can benefit from it as well"
- "It would mean my son would have an even longer commute to school in the other side of Kirklees - currently 1.5 - 2 hours each way via transport. If this was via public transport I doubt he would be able to attend school due to his condition and because of the ridiculous length of time and number of transfers he would have to make on public transport."
- "My son is 16 just started college and i now pay for his transport just like everyone else whos at college, but when he was at school i didnt get maximum tax credits so under the proposed changes i would of had to pay, why should some parents be penalised, I think all children of school age who have a disability and have to travel further than your catchment area should receive free school transport. My sons school/college is 6 miles away and i couldnt take him to school because i had to get to work on time"
- "It does not impact me at the moment because there are no school aged children in my immediate family. However I am concerned about the place Kirklees is becoming."
- "I believe my son would still be entitled to his free transport arrangement."
- "i have a son on school free bus and a son on taxi and child will not help me with transport"
- "As my son goes to school in Huddersfield it is 30 minutes away from our house. I just simply couldn't afford to pay for him to get there and back every day."
- "This would effect my child greatly as she is wheelchair bound and requires medical needs and physical help."

- "I think it's fair to follow the rules on this aspect, especially when there are limited funds and they could be better used in other situations."
- "my child has to cross several major roads and can pull away from you and run off - she sometimes has tantrums and throws herself on the floor and reacts badly to noisy environments"
- "My daughter is free school meals and already gets free transport"
- "The new proposals do not include sixth form or college students with special educational needs"
- "I hope my LAC child will still be eligible for transport to her resource provision school, I do not trust the council will do their best to support the interest of the child, and feel that everything comes down to finance. I am tired of the constant battle to ensure our children get what they are entitled too. I wonder what happens to those children who's parents are not able to advocate for their rights."
- "I do not have a child currently in education"
- "For fairness and equity all school children and families should have some form assistance in their transportation to state school."
- "I don't have school age children."
- "No one should get free transport to and from school, people who work do not get it so people on benefits should not get it too. They receive benefits and they should manage with the benefits they receive just like working parents."
- "Speaking on behalf of the people that we support to school, these families and children are dependent on this service and is a huge part of their lives."
- "i am a carer for my husband and will find this very difficult to take my son to school and pick him up however I do pick him up twice a week which I have covered but can not get anymore cover to take my son to school and back home again especially with all the cuts and we are on a low income and cannot afford to pay out any more money as it is tight as it is and struggle at the moment with paying school fees"
- "My child is severely disabled. Attending Fairfield School. I assume there would be no impact."
- "We would still receive free transport"
- "It would possibly force me to leave work so that I could drop my child off to school. This would likely mean I would end up on benefits and be a burden to the state."
- "I, or any of my family use this service."
- "It should result in a fairer way of using limited funds."
- "My child and I would not benefit from changes in school transport as he needs careers; very often i am up most of the night attending to my son as he often gets ill and I am in no condition to drive so early in the morning; i also have my own health problems which are often worse in the mornings having to get both of us ready; if I have to take my son to school myself i would still need a carer in the car to administer medication in case he has seizures or to use the suction machine if he coughs; i am a single mum and do not have careers during the night"
- "My son already has free transport to school as we live more than 3 miles away."
- "This will lead to more parents (including myself) driving their children to and from school, increasing congestion and contributing further to the safety concerns around schools at peak times. The weekly bus fare for children without a pass is, in my opinion, extortion."
- "How will me kids get to school if I don't drive and can't afford bus fares."
- "My son is 12 and currently attends Scissett Middle which is more than 3 miles away, when he transfers to Shelley College his situation will remain the same. We have no other way of transporting him to school (we have one car which is used for work) so need a bus service to be provided for him. If the situation for children like hi remains as it is, that is fine for us. However, if this were to change we would struggle to get him to school."

- "Walking to school with the bags equipment they have to have to. Setting off to school at unreasonable hours. She has to leave at 7.30 now to catch a bus. Unsafe to walk as well. We live 6 miles away from house to school."
- "My children attend the nearest school"
- "I already pay out £40 a week on dinners for 2 kids I can't afford bus fares too"
- "We are residents within the Holme Valley of Kirklees. Our 2 children are aged 13 & 15 and live over 3 miles from their nearest suitable school, which they attend. So, from my understanding they will continue to receive council funded transport."
- "I am currently a full time carer to my partner who has severe mental health issues and memory loss and requires 24 hour care! I don't have the time to take them to school as it can be dangerous if their father is left unsupervised and financially we are already fully stretched that paying for a bus pass for 2 kids will impact on the Care their father gets!"
- "More money to spend on other council services which would benefit the wider population"
- "My daughters will have left school by September 2018"
- "The walk home is a long way along a dangerous and busy road."
- "Financial, we are not big earners but just over the threshold. It would have a negative impact on the family."
- "I have to take our daughter to school because of her disability - to have any funding for this would make a further detrimental impact on us"
- "No other transport too and from school"
- "We don't receive working tax so we wouldn't receive free transportation"
- "We live more than 3 miles from my child's school so he would still get free transport"
- "I assume we will have to pay for my daughter to get to school as she goes to Holmfirth High which isn't the "nearest school". This feels like moving the goalposts."
- "One child has a disability so is eligible for the free transport. My other daughter is under 16 and we live more than 3 miles from her high school."
- "We would have to pay for the bus as it isn't the closest school but had we known 4/5 years ago when we applied that going to this school would mean we can't get free bus travel. We would have gone to the closest school."
- "Would cost us a lot of money"
- "I think we would still qualify for free school transport because we live more than 3 miles away from the school our children attend."
- "Live further than 3 miles from nearest high school."
- "My daughter would still qualify for her free bus pass so no impact"
- "Child is over 8 and lives > 3 miles from nearest suitable school already."
- "But it all depends on what is 'safe walking route' - the criteria. I would definitely say my child is very vulnerable walking because of a) idiotic drivers on the rural roads from Netherton to Honley High b) if a child has to walk on their own in the dark it is VERY dangerous and c) some of the girls (including my 12 year old) have already been approached by taxi drivers. Please consider this very carefully - we are a low income family, not in receipt of benefits and have to rely on the bus. It costs us a fortune when kids next door who are on benefits don't have to pay. We don't begrudge it them - but we would like a fairer chance for our family."
- "I do not understand - I don't get it for free - the bus - even though it is a long and dangerous walk. Does this mean I will get it for free or not? I know that some of my friends would rather walk and sometimes we save the money for bus and spend it on sweets (don't tell my mum hahaha) So it would be really good if that wasn't a problem and we just got it for free. As I know my parents can't really afford it but they can't drive me there either. I think it would be AWFUL if kids who are on benefits get it taken away from them too. It is awful enough having to be on benefits anyway and this would just not be a good thing for anyone."

- "My son cannot travel to school independantly due to his autism removing the transport would have a significant impact to his life."
- "We live more than 3 miles away from the school"
- "I am unsure. We do not get help now to pay the £44.00 per month even though my income is low. £44.00 is a LOT of money to find. I would rather they walk but the roads from Netherton are not something even a grown person feels able to walk on. There is a terrible lack of information abput how to apply for help for travel. About who is eligibe. It is all a mystery. It causes problems amongst the kids on buses. Kids whose parents drive them feel they are looking after theirs better and are saving money. I think the bus trips are essential! They are part of school life, although being safe to walj is also important."
- "Our child has SEN and is unlikely to be affected by the changes. However, it remains unclear even having read much of the documentation, exactly which group/s of children would be affected?"
- "Because it would make the service even better for me and family"
- "We would still qualify"
- "We live over 4 miles away from high school"
- "WE ARE OVER 3 MILES"
- "We live at Marsden which is more than 3 miles from school and not an easy walking route. We definitely need a free bus but agree that others are getting free transport who don't need it and so resources are been wasted which could be spent better in other areas. i.e. Better security in schools!!!"
- "we live over three miles from school and there are no roads with complete pavements between here and school"
- "We live in a rural village over 3miles from the feeder school and there is no footpath to allow anyone to walk safely on the road. Perhaps consideration should be given to changing the feeder schools to increase options where more than one school is within reasonable travelling distance?"
- "We live a long distance from the only school available. There are no pavements in certain areas of the route."
- "It would cause us severe financial hardship and we have no other available school as the school is our only catchment option."
- "We would probably have to drive our child to/from school, therefore increasing traffic congestion near school"
- "My child lives more than 3 miles from school and that is not looking like it would be changed. Also, next year he would not be eligible anyway as he will be over 16"
- "We live 2.8 miles away from school but have no safe walking routes. If you where to stick to the 3 mile rule I would not be able to afford to send my 2 children to school on the bus Therefore puttinh my children at danger walking too and from school! Also it would result in others taking cgildren in cars and adding to congestion and pollution around school."
- "We live over 3 miles away from school."
- "As we live 2.8 miles from our son's school, it looks like he would lose his free bus pass if this went ahead. However, the walking route to the school is along an unlit country lane which in the winter would be extremely dangerous for him to walk. Also, why should we losr our bus pass because we are 0.2 miles under the regulation, especially when children living 2 streets away are eligible. That seems extremely unfair to me. I believe all children should receive a free bus pass if they are attending the nearest high school to them (ie in catchment) Otherwise it could be deemed to be discriminatory."
- "My daughter will not be going to school . simple as that."
- "N/A however for parents of a child with a disability it would place serious added stress to an already stressed household."
- "As we are all in a similar predicament this would be another cost that we can Ill afford"

- "Live within 8 mile radius of high school but unable to get child to school due to poor public transport options. Working hours will not allow flexibility to collect from school at the end of the day Obviously cost. We aren't on benefits but neither do we have sky, and other nice things that people on benefits often have. We are living to our means"
- "My child lives in Upper Denby and has to take the bus so we would have to pay"
- "The only way my son can get to school is via school transport on the days when I am working. So there is no alternative / cheaper means, than for him to use the school bus. If he were to walk home, this would be on narrow, unlit roads wearing a dark school uniform without any pavements. Clearly that is unsafe. There are no ordinary service bus routes within miles of where we live as an alternative to the school bus service. I know this is making a case for school transport generally (whose reliability could be improved I might add) rather than costs but the 2 things are intrinsically linked if there are no alternatives. Extra travelling expenses could make for difficult choices in some families."
- "We live over 4 miles away so my understanding is that my son would still continue to receive free transport."
- "We live in a rural village with very poor transport links to schools in the surrounding areas. The bus service provided by Kirklees offers the children in our village a safe way of travelling to & from school. The majority of parents rely on the bus service, as the only way that their children can attend school safely."
- "Children attend nearest available school which is more than 3 miles away"
- "Not enough information to make an informed decision. Would need to know the circumstances of the people who would be made ineligible. No doubt some would genuinely need the transport and some would not. Very difficult to generalize."
- "Child would still be entitled as we live over 3 miles from school."
- "We have no other school closer to use than the one provided, so we would have extra cost on our monthly household budget if we had to pay for transport to and from school."
- "we live over three miles away from the school that is designated as our catchment area school"
- "It all depends on how the distance is measured, and where it is measured to. For example, from a school to a residence may be well in excess of 3 miles on roads that have suitable lighting and footpaths, but "as the crow flies" may well be less than three miles. There is no differentiation in these rules to make full judgment."
- "[Name] is over 16 and we pay towards the travel cost"
- "would make travelling to and from school impossible"
- "It would limit future choices for high school admissions. What exactly is deemed as a safe walking route as if a child is 2-3 miles away from school that is a long way to walk if they were not able to access free school transport."
- "checks are not done .. i currently get free travel for 1 child yet pay for another just because shes older does not mean she could physically walk all that way .. yet a neighbor who earns just as much with working and tax credits because shes single parent gets free travel .. yet after tax and insurance comes off wage we are under the amount it says ..."
- "We would still be eligible as my son is over 5 miles from his nearest high school"
- "It seems fair to only give people that need free transport - the money currently spent providing transport for those who can afford to pay for it, can be re-invested elsewhere."
- "As a parent of a child with disability and learning disorder I am assuming that we remain eligible for free service"
- "Because there will be no impact"
- "As a council tax payer Kirklees should only support those eligible. This is in order to protect the public purse but also to ensure fairness."
- "Because we have no mode of transport and our child although is 16 has special educational needs."

- "There is no safe walking route from our house to high school as there are no pavements and street lighting is very poor"
- "Although not entitled to benefits this would be difficult to afford. Some families may encourage their child to walk very long distances to their nearest school putting their wellbeing & safety at risk. Our bus is provided as an extra service & otherwise would mean the children in our village getting a bus to the nearest town then another bus to school"
- "as this is the only web address I've got and the fact that you are trying to hide the cutting to early years access fund I am appalled by your actions as a parent with a child which has this funding it is essential that this continues as without it my son and other children like him can no longer continue at the setting and they will loose out on many activities that they enjoy there and the help and support they receive through the setting to help them into later years"
- "I simply will not be able to afford to get my children to school and I'm a working mum with two children who by next September will have them both on the school bus which if this changes mean it will cost £80/90 month to get them too and from school!! I would like to know if this questionnaire is just to show you are doing it for the sake of it and these changes will take effect regardless of what people say. Yet again it seems the council are penalising those that work as opposed to those who get benefits. This cannot go ahead as I won't be able to afford paying getting my children to and from school!"
- "Finding extra money for other transport plus the worry of safty due to my son having diabilities type 1"
- "Free transport for all school age children should be based on income rather than distance. So these children should get free transport:
 - Children who have no safe walking route to their nearest suitable school, regardless of the distance
 - Children who are deemed eligible because of their special educational needs, disability or mobility, regardless of distance
 - Some children in low income families
 It should not be based on distance. Circumstances are vastly different to when these rules were introduced and it is unfair that children living a street away get free transport when they walk to the same bus as stop as those paying and parents can afford fares (and say they can)."
- "My three children live 2.5 miles from school, so I have to pay £120 per month for Bus travel. It is impractical for them to walk, as it's over 1.5 hours there and back, and this impacts on homework time and other after school activities; also, my youngest is 9 years of age, and I don't feel he is safe to walk the route on his own."
- "It would be another household expense just to send my child to school. There isn't a school in Meltham so our children have no choice but to travel over three miles to school. It's about 5 miles to Holmfirth high - too far to walk and as both parents work we can't drive our child to school and back. Also lots of parents driving to school and back must be harmful to the environment."
- "I have three children using the free bus pass and am a single parent working full time. I earn below minimum wage - I would have to give up work and my children would suffer. I've struggled go pay fof school uniform besides anything else. School transport should be free for all - children are our future and should be given the best start in life that is right for them ie. School of choice"
- "The travelling on a school bus is not only safer than children walking, it also enables children the ability to socialise before and after school. And again it shows the council cutting funding against the youth services. Now I believe paying for taxis is ludacris, which I believe social services do. Maybe cut that and make the system fair?"
- "As a family who work we would struggle to get our child to school and the school isn't near to us."
- "Kids wouldn't go to school"
- "Working families will be worse off, when they are struggling anyway. it will increase truency."

- "My son may not be able to get to and from school safely"
- "At this time it has no impact as my child is in primary school. Although in 3 years time my son will be going to Honley High. If there is no free school but I'll have to drive him to school adding to the traffic issues."
- "It would mean I would have to quit work to get my child to school as honley high is not a suitable school for my child."
- "We could not afford to pay fares on top of dinner monies and extra curriculum activities for 2 children- we cannot help our postcode and it is not safe for our children to walk 3+ miles across main roads as there are no other schools in our area"
- "Detrimental to mid income family's unsafe for children during autumn winter months and safe guarding issues"
- "There's no high school in Meltham. It's too far to walk to any high school in other villages, and being unable to drive I can't take myself. I would struggle to find bus fair there and back 5 days a week. Children in Meltham have always had free bus service to Honley high it was free when I attended in 1990s it's not fair to start charging now children born to poverty are going to have there education suffer"
- "It's a big help to parents to not have to worry about another extra expense. Plus what about those children whos parents would rather spend money on other unimportant things. Those children will suffer and so will their education."
- "Another lower rates school is closer than my son's current high school, this is not within walking distance and the safe walking route would take approx 1 hour. There is no direct bus route from my village to this other school. Would this mean that because I chose not to send my son there that I would lose my Sons free travel pass."
- "We can not afford to pay for the bus, or give lifts due to working full time"
- "I live within 3 miles of the high schools my children are likely to attend."
- "Both myself and my younger brother are above school age."
- "It will mean that when our children reach high school age weakly need to pay nearly £400 per child per year. That's £2000 during their high school time per child. We have four children which equates to around £8000. As our children are different ages we can't drive them to school as we're taking the younger children to primary school. This will mean transport effects our choice of high school when it should be about choosing the school which is right for our child."
- "Will cost a fortune to get to school"
- "Could potentially be unable to take child to school due to lack of transport and unable to afford such expense"
- "We live in Grange Moor, King James is linked to our local school Grange Moor Primary the children receive many transitional days to and from King James to help them to settle in as new year 7 students. As a person who [...] is also a parent of a child who went to Grange Moor Primary and now goes to King James school we would be totally stuck if the free pass was taken from us. We are parents who work and claim no benefits from the government but we do not drive either. We feel too much help is given to people who do not work and there fore are left feeling like the people who do work for a living get no better thought of at all. My daughter has just settled into King James after a rocky 1st year in year 7 and is now a happy year 8 student It would be awful if we had to pull her out of this school if the bus was to stop."
- "We would struggle to afford the cost. The cost of going to school is expensive as it is with uniforms and all the educational trips. At £2.40 a day this would build up to a lot of money. We choose a school that could meet our child's complex emotional needs. Not because of distance."
- "We live 3.1miles from our school and access from Meltham to Honley High School is on a dark unlit rural narrow road so is unsafe for children to walk to school and home in the dark mornings and dark nights"
- "We would not be able to afford to pay for school transport even though we both work full time. We struggle to pay all the current bills."

- "It would have a detrimental effect on choice of both junior and secondary school because a family may not be able to choose the school that met their children's needs - they would have to choose based on financial impact."
- "I believe we live 3.9 miles from school so may be unaffected"
- "We live more than 3 miles away so hopefully would still be eligible for free transport"
- "Cost implications in the first instance as we have 2 children who use the school. bus. Secondly we don't live on a public transport route and the school bus currently passes the end in the road. During winter months the children may have a far longer walk if the bus was cancelled."
- "I have a child going to CVHS IN SEPTEMBER 2018, then another child in September 2019 and a further 2 children in the following years. The financial implication for any family is big but for families like myself having to find bus fares for 4 children will be near impossible, and not only that the distance for the children of Marsden to travel is further than surrounding areas so to get a bus then to have to walk up corsway side is going to have an impact on the time children have to get up and how they then perform through the school day. Not to mention the safety of children!!!! Bad bad idea, parents need help and support and that's not!! just the parents on benefits. We as working families get Penalised way too much!"
- "No children of school age"
- "We live more than 3 miles away"
- "I have a 17 year old at college £36 pm 15 and 14 year old, this is a expense we can not afford"
- "We live over 3 miles from the high school therefore my children will still receive free bus"
- "As far as I understand the change of policy won't affect our children's eligibility. In fact it is not clear how this proposal is any different from what is already in place for children living more then 3 miles from their nearest school."
- "My son starts high school next year and this change could mean we will have to pay for the school bus"
- "Son would struggle to get to school"
- "We are just outside the 3 mile limit, but have no safe walking route from the village to scissett middle. A few years ago, council employees came out to look at a safe route and concluded that there was none. Children would have to cross over a busy A road with no pedestrian crossing, and then walk down a windy lane where there is no footpath. This would be suicidal in the autumn and winter months. In addition, being able to use the bus service to scissett means that we are reducing traffic congestion through scissett (which is already considerable during term time) and therefore pollution. The children are also encouraged to become more independent and to use public transport - both of which are valuable life skills for our young people. Please do not withdraw this vital benefit from our rural community."
- "We live more than 3 miles away from the high school, and we are within walking distance of the Infants and Juniors"
- "live more than 3 miles from the nearest school"
- "No impact as we live over 3 miles away"
- "No impact b/c my child lives more than 3 miles from the nearest suitable school if I understand correctly what 'suitable' means and would therefore still be offered free transportation. (You need to clarify what 'suitable' means. Does this mean that a child who doesn't get a place at the PAA school b/c it is oversubscribed and has to go to the next nearest school which is more than 3 miles away would not get free transport??)"
- "The impact on the families that we work with is currently unclear. One issue is what constitutes and appropriate 'SEN' need. All of our pupils have complex and longstanding SEMH needs, however they are not always assessed in relation to these needs causing discrepancies in transport arrangements. This has meant that whilst they are classed as having a disability under the Equality Act, they are not always recognized as such."

- "It would put great financial strain on our family"
- "Without bus passes my daughters would travel to and from school by car. This will add to local traffic congestion and pollution."
- "I could not afford the fare every day. There is not a walking route which is safe from Upper Denby to Shelley College. Not all paved, not all lit by street lights, crossing A roads including one where there has been a death in the last 2 years and regular accidents. Not able to transport to and from school via car due to shift work."
- "This change should not affect my son, who resides in Kirklees, lives more than three miles from a suitable school, has autism and cerebral palsy."
- "Only my youngest child receives a free bus pass as his school is more than 3 miles away. He is leaving in August to go to Shelley College. As this school is only 2 miles away, he will no longer get a free bus pass. Despite the fact that the road to Shelley from Emley is via a road with no pavement or street lights, apparently this is deemed to be a safe walking route. I presume that the council will continue to classify it as such, so none of my children will get free bus passes."
- "My grandson lives in Meltham but goes to Holmfirth High School, too far for him to travel on his own."
- "We live approx. 4 miles from our nearest school (Honley High) and our daughter would continue to be eligible for free transport."
- "No impact personally as we live outside the 3 mile limit to school, but with my governor hat on it will have a big negative impact potentially on some rural families with children at my school who live within the 3 miles but have very difficult journeys to get to school."
- "Costs, currently single income family"
- "If fewer children are eligible for transport in a rural area such as HD8 & HD9, congestion may be significantly increased on some roads that are not suitable for that amount of traffic. From a position of responsibility, I am concerned that current provision is seriously inadequate, and is becoming a safeguarding concern as children are not able to safely arrive at school on time due to overcrowding."
- "I would not qualify even though I am a single parent I work so I don't get any benefits"
- "We have to pay for transport"
- "We currently pay for school transport on the yellow bus"
- "I have no children in the area."
- "We live in Meltham but just short of the 3 mile distance (as the crow flies, not by actual road mileage). However there is no safe route for children to get to Honley High school from Meltham as the roads are without footpaths - both going the direct route over Knowle Lane or via Wilshaw. Especially in winter months this is not acceptable or safe for children to walk in the dark on roads without footpaths and street lighting."
- "my daughter has autism and is aged 15 and currently travels over 5 miles on 2 buses to get to school"
- "I think each case should be looked at individually to see what's possible, not just get a straight no."
- "No impact for me as my child has special educational needs but it's a bad idea because other people may need help"
- "The child I look after has severe disabilities and is with a family on a low income and already goes to the nearest suitable school, so there maybe no change but it is hard to guess what someone else's opinion of our situation would be."
- "my child has special needs so shouldn't affect him"
- "It would put us in hardship"
- "The school is based in a semi rural/rural area. Some pupils travel a number of miles to get here. The impact of this proposal could be very detrimental to families, particularly when we are their catchment school."
- "We currently don't qualify, but I would like to think that the free pass is there if I needed it."

- "The proposals limit parental choice and will force low income families to choose a school based on their financial position rather than which school best suits their child's needs."
- "I believe in parents having the choice of school that meets their child's needs rather than their financial circumstances, this will also benefit the community. As a teacher I'm concerned about the access to a full and balanced curriculum accessible by all students. Limiting transport options limits choice.."
- "I have no children of school age."
- "Parents have the right to send their child to the school they deem necessary to progress their learning, to give them the best opportunity of doing well in their final exams, but also to develop them as young people in our society. Some schools do this very well by providing lots of opportunities other than in the classroom, that pupils can take advantage of. It should not come down to what a family can afford, in terms of public transport to decide which school is best for their child, and not view their educational needs as the highest priority."
- "AS a member of a school community this could potentially have a very negative impact on our school numbers. I also feel that it is victimising low income families"
- "Lack of parental choice regards which school to attend if low income family"
- "As a teacher in Kirklees the change would impact the intake of the school and possibly my job and well-being"
- "It would have a negative impact on our pupils and on our school."
- "As we live in Meltham many children currently receive free to travel bus passes to allow them to get to either Honley or Holmfirth High schools, currently there is a double decker bus taking 70 plus children to Holmfirth High School and as we currently understand it as they are within the Honley High school catchment they would lose their entitlement even though they are over the 3 mile cut off and indeed many of them also would be entitled to a pass if they had indeed gone to Honley High. This is just wrong! Whilst I could understand a pass being denied if the child was originally not entitled to a pass to their "" catchment"" school the denial simply due to their choice is just wrong especially as the distance from Meltham to either of the schools only differs by about 150m or so. Plus I do not believe that the council will take into consideration that there is NO SAFE WALKING ROUTE FROM MELTHAM TO EITHER HONLEY OR HOLMFIRTH HIGH SCHOOLS; as both routes are along unlit, tree lined, higher speed limit roads, with no pavement and for anybody to consider these roads are safe for children as young as 11 to walk along would be a denial of their safe guarding duty! This situation would only be made significantly worse during darkness and by carrying school bags, PE kits, instruments etc and to be able to get to their schools we are looking at an 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 walk; so are looking at children setting off for school at 7:15 am to reach school and not getting home until 5pm, at least! The route is ""fully"" dark at these times from November to February (at least) All we ask is that Kirklees considers the facts on these particular routes Meltham happens to be in the particular position that it uses both schools."
- "I feel it would compel low-income families to make choices of school based solely on cost. This would not allow them to select a school a little further away that might be a better fit for their child. In my opinion this would negatively impact social mobility and young people's life chances in Kirklees."
- "There would be more room on the transport bus for children in wheelchairs and it would also mean that maybe not needing to be picked up as early on a morning and home earlier too."
- "We live over 3 miles from our local high school"
- "I am filling this in on behalf of my son who has autism who is now 21 but did use transport for quite a few years"
- "Since 2006 my son has travelled on school transport, very successfully. However in the earlier part of 2017 there were changes to his travel; new escort, driver, extra children necessitating in a route change as well. As time went on he became more and more distressed and this ultimately resulted in my having to transport him myself on a regular

basis. It worked in the fact that he was no longer arriving in school upset and then continuing to be unsettled all day. But, it meant that he was more reliant on me, which with a youngster who needs to be prised away from mum was a backwards step. I became exhausted as the early morning routine was drastically altered and then I was rushing around. As a single parent of a disabled child I have precious little 'free' time anyway, but doing the school run meant I ended up with a four and a half hour day in which to do everything; clean, cook, garden and socialise....impossible! Thank goodness I wasn't trying to hold down a job as well. Since the new school year started my son has been back on transport, with a different driver and escort. Both of these people have a different, more positive manner, with my son than the previous people, which means he reacts in a more positive way than previously. The escort on board has had more experience with challenging children and realises the best way forward is to try to head off a potential situation, rather than try to calm down an explosive situation. Transport is, at the moment, a happy time again and I have peace of mind again too."

- "I am not a parent of a school age child but am concerned that parents and children have a choice as to where they can attend school - this would cause a restriction for those families."
- "we live over 3 miles but only just and I had to appeal twice to gain funding which was agreed as there is no safe route to walk to school from our rural location."
- "We live a significant distance from the school and so to walk would mean a very long journey, often in the dark, and it would not be safe for my child to walk to school as in some areas there are no pavements or sufficient street lighting. Her school bus pass ensures that she gets a seat on the bus and she is safe getting to and from school"
- "I receive free transport for my child with a disability I don't believe the changes will affect him."
- "Our daughter is 14 years old and attends the nearest school, which is more than 3 miles away. She would still be eligible for free home-school transport, as far as I understand."
- "As a teacher, we would be victimising families who wouldn't be able to afford the buss pass."
- "I'd still be paying for transport or taking my child to school as I live just with in the radius Does not help those who are disadvantaged e.g single parents"
- "I have two children that take the K3 bus from meltham to Holmfirth High School . It is not the high school in our catchment area but at the time of choosing a school for our children we didn't realise that the bus service would be an issue !! If we had chosen to send them to honley high school we would still live more than 3 miles away and would still receive a free bus pass ! It seems very unfair to penalise us for deciding to send our children to Holmfirth high school without being informed that the bus situation could change !!children from Meltham have gone to Holmfirth high for years on the free bus and we were under the impression this wouldn't be an issue !! If the service was stopped it would mean my 13 and 11 year old daughters would have to leave the house at 7.15 to catch a bus from [location removed] to Holmfirth at 7.30 and then from Holmfirth bus station to school another bus leaving at 8.10 am ! This would not be something I would be happy for two young girls to have to do!i haven't even looked at the times for coming home !!!"
- "this will cause a further living cost to our family or a problem with working hours should we have to transport our child to school ourselves. my child would be unable to walk or cycle the distance safely."
- "We would have to pay bus fares for two children both too and from high school. It is our understanding that this would be in the region of £30 per week - a massive impact upon our family funds. However, this would depend upon how the LA apply the over 3 mile criteria. Both our children attend a school over three miles from home. This is because when they both started at the high school there was no suitable provision closer - i.e. no co-educational school. However, now that there is some provision, albeit a free school, the LA may consider we are no longer eligible, but clearly it would be quite unacceptable

to pull the children out of their current high school to move to this closer provision. And of course the local provision may not have places. We received the questionnaire on the basis that we are receiving free bus passes but are not eligible - under your proposal it is not clear if we are eligible or not. If the Council do not clarify in this area, then there is an additional impact of uncertainty and potential for unfairness."

- "Currently my children have special needs and have transport to and from school. The current system is very poorly managed the new changes will allow transport services to discriminate against disabled children who require this service. Currently children are not treated with dignity and respect and pushed around to meet school opening and closing times. No communication is given to parents from and to school. Transport staff unable to take children on and off mini bus appropriately. The new changes will create more problems for the children involved."
- "My children live more than three miles from school so they will still have free travel."
- "We receive free travel because there is no safe route for my children to walk to their schools, so if I understand correctly then we will continue to benefit from free travel."
- "Our foster child has a disability and complex medical needs and attends Fairfield School, Heckmondwike. My understanding is that should you change criteria she would still receive transport to school so there would be no change for us."
- "Children will refuse education"
- "[Name] is not my child and living with me as result of a breakdown at home and then myself being asked to by a social worker employed by Kirklees Council to care for her. I do not have any form of legal accountability such as fostering or Special Guardianship for [Name] and as she attends a school that requires two buses to get to, feel that the authority should take some responsibility for getting her to school particularly as my finances are limited. It may be that an alternative school may have to be sought if transport is not provided which would not make sense when she is so close to leaving school and would be an upset caused by the authority. [Name] also has to walk half a mile to get the bus which enables her to get the connection - the B10 in Georges Square - as the 358 does not arrive in ample time. This increases the risk of injury as the hill is often unkempt and slippery in winter."
- "My son receives transport due to his SEN. my daughter doesn't receive transport to her school but I have struggled in the past to get her to school on time due to waiting for [Name]'s bus. I need transport for both children. My daughter will be 11 soon and hopefully will be able to get herself to high school."
- "currently we do not need the transport service, however this may change in the future."
- "I am going to access school transport shortly- this would affect me"
- "currently no impact as our school is reasonably close but in future our child may need alternative provision such as special school or pru, we would need transport as we only have 1 car which is used for dad to work. public transport would be far too costly to some of the provision."
- "I am not using at the moment but when my son gets to secondary school it is likely this will be a different school to our local one because of his needs and I need to know that he will get suitable transport there because I have no car."
- "It will block some children from being able to make a choice about where they study. Especially in the more rural areas of Kirklees where distances between schools are greater."
- "A set criteria should avoid inconsistent decision making but on the other hand it might be too narrow and exclude those who have unusual circumstances who are then left in need. My interest is my child might change schools and I want to know that I would qualify for transport for him. I am hoping that a outside transport might help with this."
- "AS WE LIVE MORE THAN 3 MILES FROM SCHOOL, OUR CHILDREN WILL STILL GET A FREE SCHOOL BUS PASS."
- "One child is a wheelchair user and will still receive transport to school if the changes are made. My other child walks to school."

- "I think we live more than 3 miles away from the feeder high school"
- "I work in an SEN school and this would have an appalling effect on our children."
- "I'm 13 years old, I've got a physical disability and I live more than 2 miles away from my school."
- "We may have to pay for transport to school when my children reach middle school."
- "Though we wouldn't be personally affected by cuts to this service I think that low income families certainly will be. It's important to be able to have some choice, or the ability, to send your children to a school that meets their needs."
- "My daughter is currently in Year 9 so we would have two years of having to pay for her bus fares, obvious financial implication. There is no direct bus from Meltham to Holmfirth High so there are also safeguarding issues to consider."
- "Additional cost to the authority. Or would this definitely be a saving"
- "[Name] would need access to the school bus service however currently pays and I have no problem continuing to do so."
- "Discriminating. It is not safe for my child to walk to school and it would take too long as the distance is nearly 3 miles. There is no safe route to walk so under these rules, my child would be eligible for free transport."
- "Our daughter walks to school but if we move this may change"
- "Parental choice of school dictated by funding choices. If a family leaves more than 3 miles from 2 or more schools, family will make a decision based on funding, not by which is the most suitable school"
- "We couldn't afford for both our children to pay bus fares and it's too far for them to walk on unlit country roads without a foot oath"
- "Having 2 children at different schools we have no choice for 1 child to go on the free school bus. If this became a payment form of transport we wouldn't be able to sustain paying. Being working parents it would be difficult to get 2 children to 2 different schools for the same time."
- "I CURRENTLY HAVE TWO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL AND THEY CATCH A SCHOOL BUS, THIS COSTS ME £20 PER WEEK. THEY LIVE JUST WITHIN CATCHMENT. IT WOULD TAKE THEM 50 MINUTES TO WALK ONE WAY. FUNDING SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ONLY PEOPLE WHO CANT AFFORD OR FOR ALL."
- "We have already applied for help with bus fares/ bus pass for my 10year old in primary school, we had to move him from his nearest school next to our house, because they were not addressing his educational needs & support he needed. So now weekly I have to drive him 100 miles a week round trips in total. I am recently divorced single parent of two children & after long term sick I haven't any work presently, am on benefits & despite that have to resort to trips to the food bank because I struggle to pay for his travel! So I can totally empathize with parents wanting support from bus pass to get to the best school their individual child's educational needs. It remove freedom of choice & any support to children & families when we need it the most in a young child's life up to finishing education! I was both distraught & disgusted at the lack of support I got from freebuspasses not even a half fare pass, nothing! The reason given because not a nearest school despite my reasons given! Since he has move he has greatly academically & emotionally improved, so why should we had to geographically choose over a poor school and end up with children failing to meet academic standards best results?! The KIRKLEES COUNCIL letting us down again in children's most vital years!"
- "As a responsible council, always mindful of attempting to provide the best services, fairly and within budget, I have to assume you have already deemed the children not currently eligible, but nevertheless in receipt of free transport should indeed be receiving it, under the 'special discretionary' clause you mention at the top of this questionnaire. Before rescinding your original, fair decision regarding these children, efforts should be made to find further funds to be able to continue this support."
- "Have a disable child on special education needs and with a statement"

- "No impact as we receive free school meals but as this is a rural area, all children should be able to have free bus transport. This will have a significant impact on many families and affect family life."
- "We should not have to pay for a disabled child's transport"
- "In September 2018 we will have 3 children at a local secondary school which is just over 3 miles from our house. As we also have children in primary school it's difficult to give them a lift by car and is too far to walk. We appreciate the zero fare bus pass. If we have to pay for 3 bus passes we will have to save money elsewhere, possibly not allowing them school dinners but making them take packed lunches which is cheaper and also cutting back on our food budget and other living expenses."
- "Money is tight. I'm constantly finding out about areas where I didn't realise the council spent money and sometimes it surprises me. I am a person who follows the rules. I believe that they are in place to ensure fairness and so the council should follow the law. This already makes a reasonable distinction between those who get special help eg younger children, those with special needs. If parents of children who live outside of Kirklees chose to send their children here, then they should pay for their own transport. Equally, if you apply to send your child to a school miles from your home then you should take responsibility for the cost of that."
- "It would mean reassessing what my child is entitled to and changing a routine if we don't qualify."
- "This would have no impact on my family but I am concerned about the impact on other families. This will mean low income families choose a school based on proximity rather than the best school for the child."
- "My daughter would still qualify as she lives more than 3 miles from her school in the primary admission area."
- "My child would qualify under the government regulations."
- "This document doesn't explain what your proposal is in enough detail. I assume that it is to do with low income families but without scrutinising your policy and the governments alongside each other I don't see how anyone can make an informed decision. I can only assume this is intentional on your part."
- "My daughter would still qualify as she lives more than 3 miles from her local school"
- "I live more than 3 miles away from my school"
- "Paying for school transport would mean we would struggle financially to get my child to school. My child moved to this school for specific reasons and his sibling will also have to attend there."
- "It would not affect me as my child lives 3 miles on the shortest route to school not the actual route the bus takes which is further and I still have to pay for my child's bus fare. Personally I think if one child gets free bus fare and all children should be entitled to it. The children who live at the top of Kirkheaton in big 4 bedroom detached houses get free bus fare but the children in rented houses lower down have to pay how can that be a fair system. Just because me and my husband work and don't claim benefits again we are forced to pay. Kirklees strategy is very unfair that I have to pay over £400 a year to send my child to school."
- "My son has special educational needs."
- "Some pupils at our school will lose their necessary transport arrangements"
- "I have 3 children to get to various different places and when my youngest finishes school I am at work so the bus is essential for my child."
- "We would pay."
- "My child cycles to school"
- "No idea, there is insufficient information given regarding the proposed changes and in particular how this will affect families who currently have to pay for transport to school anyway. You need to be more specific in all areas."
- "Cost of school bus fare is a considerable cost"

- "The children I work with are often from low income families who would suffer if their free transport was taken away."
- "My child lives just under 3 miles away from school & has to catch a bus in order to get there. His friend who only lives a few streets away also catches the bus but gets a free bus pass. I feel this is unfair as my child actually walks further to catch the bus than his friend and it costs me over £40 per month when it costs his friends family nothing. I am also a single parent, his friends family have 2 incomes- how do you explain this? Surely if children in the village have to catch a bus to get to school - all the families should pay or none of them pay!"
- "There are many children in Kirkheaton who receive a free bus pass and I think that if the scheme were to be withdrawn many would take their children to school by car which would mean increased congestion around schools. It would obviously have a financial disadvantage also on many families"
- "We have had to pay for transport despite being on very low income, just under 3 miles from school and having a child with learning difficulties. It's not safe for our kids to cycle, due to the large number of inconsiderate people who drive their kids to school. However, we've got on with spending the £16 plus a week as our kids education is important and we don't expect to subsist on handouts. It's the 3 mile threshold that is unfair."
- "As we do not yet use this service, I am not sure of the impact these changes, if any, would have on our family."
- "we dont receive free transport, however I am a single parent and the bus fares cost me £80 per month."
- "We live more than 3 miles from school"
- "I assume because we are more than 3 miles from school that my children would still receive free bus travel. I really hope this is true as I am a single parent family with two boys still at school so this would have a massive impact on us if we had to start paying."
- "Unless you are going to force ALL children to go to their nearest school, this policy would be unfair and mean that families with more money are able to have more choice about where they send their children to school. Families who struggle to pay for bus fare would lose the option of sending their children to schools that may not be their nearest, but may be more suitable to their needs. Either enforce a rule of all children are only able to go to their nearest school, or provide a fair choice based not on financial situation."
- "I understand it may be necessary to change the policy for some children in some circumstances. However, for me as a parent carer of a disabled child, the transport has become essential. Disabled children (as in my child's case) quite often are unable to attend their nearest local school, but attend the school most beneficial to their learning and wellbeing. There is also a cost element to the parent when they are travelling out of area each morning/evening. It also impacts of our working lives and at present, enables me to work. This would not be so easy if the transport was stopped. This would have a financial impact on me and other parents/carers. It also means a degree of independence to the child, particularly as they get older."
- "The current system is unfair and there is no obvious change with this proposal. My son (now 20) and daughter (14) have both had to pay, currently £2.20 per day. My daughter walks around a quarter of a mile to get on at the same stop as many other children who don't have to pay because their house is in the opposite direction, yet closer to the same stop.. This scenario is made more unfair when the free bus pass kids are from wealthier households. I speak from experience as our friends income is around 25k more than ours but their two children got free passes despite having a shorter distance to walk to their nearest (the same as my child) school bus stop. £2.20 per day for each of two children for five years is a lot of money. It is therefore very clear that if my household had to find the money, then their household certainly could have too."
- "It would not affect my family as we do not require school transport, however it may affect many of the families I work with within my role in education."
- "The transport for my child would not change."

- "Negatively impacts on other families."
- "Extra expense, not fair if the nearest school is over 3 miles away, limiting children to which school they must apply for."
- "But it will on people who do need it"
- "Our child is already in year 9 with 2 more years in school following the proposed changes. We didn't make the choice of school with consideration to the cost of school bus transport and therefore have not budgeted for this. We would request that Kirklees does not introduce this to students who are already at High School age as it would seriously impact the family budget. Particularly for families with several children at High School. It would be a ridiculous consideration to move children to the nearest school part way through High School to avoid bus pass costs and would negatively impact their social experience, wellbeing and education."
- "If my child did not receive free transport it would mean having to give up work to take him therefore putting strain on finances"
- "This may impact on school transport for our son, who is due to move up to High School this next September and he has got Cerebral Palsy and currently putting his EHCP form in, which replaces his statement."
- "Free travel to school is a huge bonus and saving, and we feel very lucky to have it where some families don't. It would definitely impact us in a negative way if we had to start paying every day."
- "My 2 children are in [...] at Holmfirth High School. Holmfirth High school is 4.2 miles from our house. They go to this school as up until 18 months ago we lived in Holmbridge therefore Holmfirth high school was the nearest school. Honley High school is 4.1 miles from our house (therefore nearest school). I presume this means that my 2 children would be entitled to free school bus passes regardless of which school they attend as both schools are more than 3 miles away. There is no safe walking route to either of the schools as they are roads without footpaths. In Autumn/winter it would be dark at the time they are walking to and from school which is obviously very dangerous. If my 2 children no longer received a free bus pass it would cost me £1.20 per child, each way, per day to school this equates to £24.00 per week or approximately £96 per month; I cannot afford to pay this fare for my 2 children."
- "My son is eligible as has a disability however the nearest school cannot meet his needs. This has not been covered in your consultation."
- "My child qualifies as he has special education needs and disabilities. We choose not to use it as I'm available to take him to school in his Motability car."
- "This may or may not have a negative impact on our family in future, depending on which high school our two sons go to. We live in Meltham and our nearest ""suitable"" and high school is Honley, which is over 3 miles away. If the boys go to this school then the proposals will not effect us, but if they go to Holmfirth the proposals would mean we would have to pay for their home-to-school transport."
- "No difference as would not receive transport under either criteria"
- "Payment required for monthly bus pass to Holmfirth."
- "The child we foster has delayed learning therefore needs transport to and from school"
- "We live too far away from school for my children to walk there. A school bus fares would cost us £20 per week, this is £80 a month. We are a family on a very tight budget and to have to find this extra money each month would have a huge impact on our family finances."
- "Big financial effect"
- "We live more than 3 miles away from the school."
- "We both work full time and our work places are a long commute each day, we also live over 3 miles from the school and we rely on this fabulous service to function."
- "Our 11 year old son is severely disabled and wheelchair bound so I expect there will be no change to our circumstances"
- "No children at school at present"

- "No family affected"
- "I have 4 children , all starting high school over the next 4 yrs. Having to pay for a bus that is unachievable for my children to walk is unacceptable... this is yet again making cuts in the wrong area."
- "My child's nearest school is 5 miles away, however that school was not a safe environment for her or the school bus there, she was severely bullied, police were involved and she was moved to another school. My son will also be bullied by the same kids on the school bus and I cannot put them in that danger. I have no choice but to send them to another school, taking her away from her friends and uprooting her to put her in a new school. There are not any schools near us (Marsden). I don't receive benefits, my husband and I work, I cannot afford bus tickets for my children to attend school and they will not go back to Colne Valley."
- "You are hitting those who are most in need the hardest to save money. It is unfair and will put children at a huge disadvantage."
- "Live more than 3 miles from closest school"
- "Parents and children unable to make the best choice for their education but forced to make the most convenient"
- "Do not require this service"
- "All my children have had free bus passes to & from All Saints Catholic college apart from my youngest, last year she got one but this year she can't have one, all to do with it's not the closest School to where we live what a feeble excuse this is as we put down on our forms for our closest school but she's was given All Saints as it was her feeder school she has to get up at 6.30am to make sure she catches the bus into town then has to get a dedicated school bus from the bus station to school this journey takes her over an hour where is the SAFEGUARDING for children like my daughter that have to do the same as her & at a cost of £35 per month it's unfair that low income families like myself suffer & the ones that sit on their arses all day doing absolutely nothing get everything handed all on a plate to them the system is ridiculous"
- "My granddaughter currently attends Honley high school, and would qualify for a free bus pass under the new criteria."
- "We have to pay for both our sons to catch the bus every day. At £2.20 a day, that's a princely sum of £132 per every six week term. To a family on low income with little benefits - as these have been slashed by government, it now seems a cruel irony that you are to take away free transport. Education is a right NOT a privilege. The least you can do is find the money for these kids to get themselves to school to learn and go on to be workers and tax payers. It starts this early. Rob them of their transport and you are robbing from their futures. Is it really worth that? Is a few more pennies for the pot really worth taking free transport from one of the most important parts of our society. It won't impact us, we'll keep scraping together what we've got to pay for each day/week/term but don't take it from those who need it."
- "If my children want to take A levels at one of the best schools in the country (Greenhead), Kirklees should be encouraging them to get a place there. Next you'll be saying that because education is only compulsory until 16 that parents will have to pay for an A level education. What are we paying rates for?"
- "My child uses the K3 to travel to school which I currently pay for as we live within 3 miles of school. However, we are shortly to move to a more rural part of HD9 where the bus happens to pass fairly near and so she would have qualified for a free bus pass. She would still have a mile walk to catch this bus but it would have meant she could be independent and travel to school with her friends. If the free bus passes are removed then I would anticipate a reduction in service users for the bus as some parents may choose to take them in the car or lift share with others. I am concerned that this would then impact on the bus service with it eventually being removed altogether."
- "The cost of sending our children to school would stretch our finances greatly. The cost of bus fares, School meals, request for contributions for tech and school trips for 2

children would be difficult for us financially. There is no reasonable, safe route to walk and I would be concerned for their wellbeing if they were to attempt to walk. I am trying to find employment as a teaching assistant as I am currently doing the STL3 course, if I manage to gain employment this would mean myself and my husband would leave the house on each morning before the children and therefore transporting them ourselves would be out of the question."

- "Children in Meltham mostly travel to Honley and Holmfirth High schools which is a journey over 3 miles. It would impact on adversely on low income families and those with a 2 or 3 children from the same family."
- "Maya daughter is severely disabled(attending Castle Hill School which is 6 miles away) and has no awareness of danger, she requires full time support and thus is eligible for free school transport."
- "When my daughter starts high school she will be entitled to free bus pass due to where we live but I think it should stay as it is now"
- "Would need to pay for travel to school in future"
- "whilst by law the minimum only must be applied this is not always best practice and as a rate payer i believe that we need to do more whether the law requires it or not and we must aspirer to more."
- "My daughter will no longer be at school when this would be implemented."
- "Release precious resources for other services."
- "my great grandchildren have to be taken to school by their mother. They live in Rawthorpe but go to school in Newsome Rawthorpe school is across the road from their house.."
- "My child as autism and attends a autism provision at Thornhill High-school wich is over 3 miles and two bus journeys away my child is not capable of useing public transport unattended and struggles when he uses public transport with help that combined with the hour and half it takes on the bus would make things more or less impossible for cole to cope with"
- "I don't expect the council to get my children to and from school regardless of distance ,I choose their schools so it is my responsibility to get them there"
- "My children have grown up"
- "A school bus is safe for all school age children, they are put at risk if forced to take public transport."
- "Don't receive the service."
- "My daughter attends Holmfirth High School . We live a mile from the bus stop on [...], Hade Edge. No footpath down to the bus stop. Extremely fast road. Numerous crashes into our fields over the years. This afternoon, (17/10/17),at 3.55pm a crash occurred on the junction of Scholes Moor road and Greave road, my daughter was walking to meet me when she heard the crash behind her and had to run out of the way or she would have been knocked down . My son has special needs and attends Southgate School in Almondbury . I would not be able to get them both to school for 8.55 a m when school starts. A lot of children live on fast dangerous roads with no footpaths."
- "Our school aged child attends a school ~0.5 miles from home. We typically walk or occasionally take the car if the whether is particularly bad."
- "My child have mobility issues and severely disable. According to law council will provide free transport to disabled children regardless of age and distance so probably I will not be effected with implication of that strategy."
- "I have to pay for my child with a severe learning disability to attend the local special school as he is now in 6th form. I resent having to pay for this. It should be free"
- "My children would benefit from a school to home transport but they would not be eligible due to our income being above the amount to qualify. However, I still strongly support the idea in general, as I believe there's many families in Kirklees that would benefit from this change very much."

- "My daughter has special needs and can't catch a bus by herself (she gets easily confused and very frustrated), never mind two busses to get her there and two to get home and as I don't drive I can't take her, plus I have a child at another school I have to get to and an infant, all this added stress and worry will make me have more sleepless nights and this will have a negative impact on my family"
- "Our daughter currently has a free travel pass to attend King James High School, as the distance is over 3 miles and our son is due to start King James High School next September. As the crow flies Mirfield Free Grammar School is closer than 3 miles from home, so I suspect that we would fall foul of the statement: ""children older than 8 years who live more than 3 miles from their nearest suitable school"". Note that MFG should not be classed as the ""nearest suitable school"" as we are within the catchment area of King James and KJ is traditionally the feeder school for Kirkheaton Primary."
- "To be honest I never knew this scheme existed. It is the first time I have heard of it. I don't think the council has been very transparent in the past highlighting the scheme or service. Either way it does not affect me as I have a car and I am able to drop my own child to school without any help."
- "I'd like to think it would free up money to be spent on other services within the council. This may or may not affect me, but I believe it would be a fairer system"
- "We'll need it in near future. Parents with a SEN child have a lot to face and school transport is a facility they definitely need. Council should by all means support those parents."
- "Thinking of others less fortunate than ourselves"
- "My brother and sister do not get a free bus pass, so it would make no change to them. But when I was in high school in Kirklees a few years ago, I did receive a free bus pass, and it was vital in allowing me to attend a school where I would be safe from bullying, unlike the school in the catchment area."
- "I am concerned that if these changes happen my child with autism will no longer be able to get her mini bus to the provisions unit at school and that she will be made to go on one of the other bus' that she would not be able to cope with."
- "My child leaves school this year, as a parent of a child who uses transport at the moment I am concerned that he will not be able to access college without being taken as he is not able to travel independently."
- "If this change takes place I am concerned that my Autistic son will no longer be able to get to his specialist unit within his high school. It is too far for us to take him ourselves as we have a younger daughter who attends a school closer to home and it's impossible to be in two places at once. He requires supervision at all times as he is not safe to travel alone."
- "The cost"
- "Less congestion on the road And will reduce the risk of an accident happening. Also will stop drivers who have no awareness of road safety dangers to others.eg parking on yellow lines and blocking driveways"
- "Would struggle to get my child to school, as she would not be capable or confident on public transport"
- "Basically my son wouldn't be able to attend school"
- "As my child has SEN he should continue to get free transport. But I am very worried that he might not get hit after 16. He cannot travel independently, there is a risk of what would happen with other people on the bus, he doesn't go on his own anywhere at the moment. I don't drive so I couldn't take him."
- "At the moment there might not be but if my child with SEN ends up in a school far away to suit his needs, I would want transport to be available as I would not be able to take them there and take my other younger child to school."
- "My child is eligible for transport as he has special educational needs"
- "My child has SEN and is attending the most suitable school. I would be very worried if there was any change to this, because he is not capable of travelling independently, he

does not currently go anywhere without me or other support. I cannot take him myself as I'm working and would have to give up my job if I had to."

- "School staff member - changes could effect our SEN pupils"
- "If transport was withdrawn from any of our pupils it would have a huge impact on their attendance at school"
- "My child will be starting reception in September 2018 and as long as he gets his first choice of school this will be in walking distance so transport will not be required."
- "Expense & they live far away from school"
- "My child has a physical disability which means he would be Eligible for free school transportation if we required it"
- "I totally understand that budgets are even more restricted than ever, but the Council needs to be alert to the fact that if low income families are penalised it could lead to lack of attendance in school. I would want to see a policy in place about how exceptions are dealt with on a "case by case" basis. What is the process and how do people apply? I would want to see public information evidencing that "x" number people were considered and "y" number were approved and why. I would not want to see a blanket policy to turn someone down and wait for them to pursue it before investigating individual circumstances"
- "For the last three year years we were led to believe these rules were already in action. And even had transport denied after a year regardless of meeting the criteria. After an appeal it was reinstated but still the whole process was distressing and difficult."
- "My child would have to walk over 3 miles to school on a morning on her own. she is only 11, this is simply not safe! Holmfirth is out catchment school."
- "Technically Honley High is our nearest school by about 300 yards but is just as inaccessible as Holmfirth High. Our son was suffering anxiety issues and bullying at school and the perpetrators were all going to Honley High whereas all his friends were and are at Holmfirth. Therefore we appealed and were accepted at Holmfirth where he is doing very well. Honley and Holmfirth are already theoretically oversubscribed. Naturally, we would expect our second son to go to the same school as son no 1 in two years time."
- "My daughter would have to catch a service bus to Denby Dale then would have to walk either up a lonely road or very very lonely footpath to get home and from Autumn time would have to do this in the dark"
- "Safety of all children is always the most important criteria"
- "It would limit the catchment area for my son's school and the mix of pupils and the school and his education would be the poorer for this."
- "Currently don't receive any transport for my children but plenty of families I know do. Would impact massively on them if it was withdrawn. Children and families should have a free choice to attend the school that will best fit the child, not a decision to be made on whether they can afford it."
- "My child has no safe walking route to Honley High School, we appealed before and it was agreed by Kirklees Council that this was true, so my child would still be legible for free School transport."
- "I don't drive and therefore I wouldn't be able to get my son to school as we are not on the bus route."
- "There are no secondary schools within three miles of our home address. Having been allocated a place at Holmfirth High School in 2014 we were given a free bus pass based on distance. We then naturally requested a place for our second child at the same school. The changes would mean an annual cost of approximately £800 to send our children to secondary school."
- "I do contribute to my child's transport costs as she is 17 but if I had to pay the full cost I would not be able to afford to do this. My child attends a specialist school which is meeting her needs. This nurturing environment has enabled her to learn and gain new skills but is a good 50 minutes drive from our home in peak traffic. It would not be

possible for me to make that journey twice a day and work, which I need to do to provide for my family this also enables me to contribute to society and pay my taxes etc. This post 16 provision has made my daughter much calmer which has enabled us to continue to support her and not need to continue with her respite care. Providing transport which is affordable has enabled my daughter to access appropriate education which as resulted in a saving in to be made in respite costs."

- "Entitled to chose a local high school and I did for my 2 children. Now this is going to penalise me and my 2 children for choosing and being accepted by the council at their local school. As a single parent this is outrageous as I will not be able to afford the bus fares they will need to pay if this propasal is accepted. It will be of detriment to their education and may mean we need to consider moving to another local school that may not even have places for them."
- "my children currently have home to school transport and if they didnt have it i wouldnt be able to get them to and from school and am on a low income but not as defined by you but im very close to what you use as low income."
- "I am very unsure what the position is regarding post 16 transport . There is no mention of this and if there were plans to change this it would have a huge impact, my daughter is unable to travel independently. The journey is 2 buses or a train and bus and so very complex. It would take me at least 3 hours a day to take and bring back which would mean I could not work the same hours or take my younger daughter to school."
- "At present no children in the family"
- "I work full time and my husband works away from home. We have no close family in the area and i am not in a position to take my child to school. The cost of the bus pass would have an impact on what my child can afford to do."
- "Please note that the question ""what do you think of our idea to make this change to our nom-to-school transport policy"" is missing from the easy read and the printed version. Additionally this question is missing too from the printed and easy read version. Therefore there is no option to say why the impact would be ""negative"". We therefore think there will be an inconsistent response to this survey overall as there are different questions in the different formats. The PCAN response is negative because most of our members replied negative. The reason for this was mostly because they did not understand how the changes would affect them. Most were in receipt of free home-to-school transport because of their child's SEN needs but were concerned that the proposed changes might mean they would no longer be assessed as needing it. Some concern was expressed over what this meant for post 16 travel with parents unsure if free home to college transport would be on offer and this was worrying at a time when they were choosing post 16 colleges. Most felt their children of any age were unable to travel independently at present at all and for those who might get there eventually it was a concern that a child might be expected to make a lengthy journey or one requiring a change of bus. Parents were concerned that the removal of transport (given their child could not travel independently) would mean that they would have to take them themselves which could result in them having to give up work or reduce hours particularly as many schools were a long and/or complex journey from home. This was a concern if the parents did not have the use of a car (or could not drive) or where the parent was responsible for getting other children to school. Children with SEN/disabilities were more often than not at a different school and parents could not be in two places at once."
- "presently both my children attend the local school and walk there so they will not be affected by this."
- "It has not been made clear whether my child would be affected by the proposed change as Kirklees have not confirmed which routes would remain unaffected. However, if the route from Meltham to Honley is affected I would then have to pay travel fees for my children to attend school. I am a single parent who is not entitled to benefit as I work and I have 3 children, all of whom would have to be funded. This would have a significant impact on the families finances."

What transport support provided by Kirklees Council have you or a family member used to travel to/from school? – other

- "When my daughter and son (who both have significant SEN) were younger, a taxi was provided to get us to the sadly-now-closed Ellerslie child development centre which was invaluable as we would not have been able to get there otherwise as we lived out in Marsden. My son also received independent travel training and is now as an adult an independent user of buses. The value of this training to him in terms of independence and self-esteem cannot be over-estimated."
- "Bus to school"
- "Clients use taxis, minibuses, travel training, mileage payments and passes. Some also have escorts."
- "Mileage payment because my child has been refused transport on the bus with no reason given. Have complained but no answers"
- "He gets school transport"
- "use of their own mobility car"
- "as Kirklees have said they will pay for mileages as this is no good to me as I don't drive"
- "My children are not high school age yet."
- "Behaviour on school buses is a Issue that needs to be addressed to safeguard children adequately"
- "I went to Holmfirth high from Meltham in 1989 free transport was provided then it's just a cost cutting exercise .Yes I feel every child should be entitled to free school transport."
- "At the moment my son will not use a taxi to and from school. He has limited language and does not have confidence to get in a taxi by himself."
- "I don't get any support at all from the council."
- "taxi"
- "As an employee of a special needs school I believe that all of our families require access to school transport"
- "We are wasting tax payers money by providing this additional free service it needs to stop as we the tax payers and council tax payers do not benefit from any of these services and why should people on benefits or low income do. They need to work extra hours or get multiple jobs to pay for these extra services."
- "Escorted mini bus"
- "Passenger Assistant working school transport."
- "Wheelchair access taxi"
- "Children currently use council funded wymetro buses and have a free bus pass. This is not regarded as public transport."
- "we get on the K7 but have to pay for it which is so expensive!!!"
- "She has pass to board k7 but we have to pay £44 a month. She even offers to pay some of it from her pocket money (£3 a week) as she feels guilty at how much it costs."
- "And we are very grateful for these passes"
- "None by Kirklees, we moved here from Leeds"
- "Free school bus travel"
- "School bus from yorkshire tiger Its expensive, always late, no service from kirklees"
- "Currently don't receive transport for my child and have never had it offered, nor a mileage allowance. Would like to find out about it"
- "My son travelled in a mini bus with other children and an escort"
- "Yellow bus which we pay for weekly"
- "Application made but declined on grounds of not at nearest school, which I. had just removed him from because for 3 years not addressing his educational needs to meet

current standards. We haven't been given any financial support whatsoever. We are on benefits, free school meals & food bank support . funding to travel or help towards mileage payments or even the bus passes would ultimately be the much needed support to get my son to & from school. My eldest son has the half fare pass, yet my youngest son who needs to travel further for the best educational for him gets nothing to support his travel needs."

- "K86 bus"
- "Walking as primary school is within easy walking distance"
- "Our pupils at some point have been involved in the areas i have ticked"
- "N/A at the minute. But will be relevant when our son moves up to High School this next September"
- "My two children get on the K3 bus which goes to Holmfirth High school"
- "I know have to pay"
- "none"
- "None"
- "We shall need maximum support when the time comes."
- "None of the above, however I can see merit in all these options if my child required school transport in the future."
- "My daughter has delayed development, physical health issues as well as suffering from anxiety. She find busy crowded places very difficult to handle and becomes agitated on public transport. She is very tall 6 foot 4 and very underweight part of her condition unable to gain weight. People comment constantly about her height which makes her very uncomfortable when we go out and she has had remarks made questioning her gender which she finds very distressing it can feel very intimidating. I have had a few bad experiences on public transport with her having panic attacks and at the height she is now I wouldn't attempt to take her on these. That is why she requires to travel on a mini bus or taxi not on public transport."
- "Parents ticked nearly all these boxes."

How valuable do you find each type of support you receive from the Council? - other

- "i have one child that get no help with tavel at all"
- "His own wheelchair taxi as due to is health needs he often goes to school late"
- "we don't get any help with the cost for the bus even though we need it so badly!"
- "I don't understand these. We just get the pass to get her a place on k7. Then she pays 2.20 a day to get to Honley high from.netherton."
- "The only draw back with school buses is their unreliable nature and poor attendance. They are often late or breakdown."
- "We don't currently receive these"
- "Extremely valuable"
- "Don't receive any"
- "Majority of the children I work with receive transport to and from school, without which, many simply would not be able to attend."
- "I don't receive these apart from one child has half fare pass the other nothing but have applied and any would be extremely valuable"
- "Again, what exactly do you mean by ""valuable""? Yes we need the yellow bus service, but we have to pay for it anyway."
- "My son is eligible for transport or mileage payment but we choose no to use this and use Motability car instead. However, if we have to move further away, we might need the mileage payment."
- "I want sure which of the above applied my son has a King James bus pass only"

- "My daughter will never be able to travel independently due to the severity of her disability."
- "We have not applied yet."

If you find any of your support from the Council only partially valuable or not valuable, please tell us why below.

- "Because the young adult has to be mentally capable to use public transport and independent travel arrangements"
- "VALUABLE, HOWEVER MY SONS TRANSPORT IS WITHOUT AN ESCORT, WHICH HE REQUIRES DUE TO SEVERE VISUAL IMPAIRMENT. TRANSPORT HAVE REFUSED TO PROVIDE ESCORT TRANSPORT AND MY SON IS NOW TRAVELLING IN A TAXI."
- "The mileage payment is partially valuable but I would rather my child had a place on the bus like she had before. She has lost her place with no reason given to me. The mileage payment doesn't cover my actual mileage and is short by 4 miles per day. I don't know how to challenge that."
- "Don't understand when families have a mobility car this is not used for transport to and from school"
- "I have still got to find rest of money for the bus as only get £306.65 FOR YEAR and cost ME MORE AND AM ON INCOME Support"
- "Have boarding & half fare passes but a one way trip is £1.10 per child"
- "A lot of money is wasted"
- "At the moment my son will not use a taxi to and from school. He lacks the confidence to get in a taxi without support, which we do not receive."
- "taxi is the most valuable thing to me but i cant lost my other son bus pass"
- "Our taxes and council tax have been creeping up yer after year this needs to stop as well all this free school transport nonsense too."
- "my son can not make his own way to school and home as he is not danger aware and is very vulnerable and mileage is not good as still same problem as in my answer to previous question"
- "My son catches a contracted bus but it is not safe as children bully one another and misbehave yet no one takes any action against these children"
- "Mileage payment not helpful when work full time. Healthy for kids to have independence of attending school on their own"
- "i dont now if the K7 is provided by the council but it is still good to have a bus as it is a killer and scary walking from netherton in the dark when you are doing the school hours until 3.45 it is DARK and there are loonatics driving on the roads down to Honley high and no pavements."
- "Only concern is that the children use a bus pass on a public bus. I wonder what powers the Council would have to ensure the bus company continues providing potentially a non-profitable route for children living in the more remote villages."
- "See above. We received no information from the council on living in netherton and travels to Honley high. It has all been a mystery, if you are working class and cant drive your kid in a posh car to school."
- "As above, the school bus is poorly managed, children are left for long periods when the bus breaks down or does not attend at all. Children are regularly bullied on the bus and nothing is done to manage this behaviour. Other members of the public have been present on a school bus, children have been allowed on with no regards to safeguarding procedures?"
- "The Emley to Shelley College bus has been changed this academic year and there are not enough seats on the bus for all the children. It doesn't seem sensible to provide a bus with seat belts if more than 20 children are standing up for the entire journey. That's

not really improving safety is it? It would also help if there was a conductor on the bus in addition the driver. The children's behaviour appears extremely poor on a regular basis and another adult on board to help the driver would be an advantage."

- "I have moved closer to school but for many years needed the free bus pass for my children to get to school."
- "it is imperative that he gets this transport and funding for early years access fund to help him with independence and give him a safe environment to develop his skills"
- "My son is able to get about with his bus pass it is a life saver it saves lots of money with been on a low income and not working due to been my sons carer with him having diabilities type 1 also this helps with his hospital appointments if he needs to leave school early"
- "I don't receive any funding for my children and I find it frustrating that I have to pay £120 per month for the school bus. If they lived within a mile I would let them walk, but this isn't the case, as they live almost three miles from the school."
- "The only support we receive is a free bus to school and back. Without this service my child would have to walk for over an hour each way to get to school s we both work and can't pick him up/drop him off."
- "We could not get our child to school by car due to work"
- "We are thankful our children can travel safely to their school free of charge to us"
- "Minibuses/taxis are expensive, funding and payments can be forged."
- "N/a"
- "My son has free travel due to distance we live due to a safeguarding reason"
- "limited access very long dangerous walk to get to the only form of school transport available"
- "As young people are travelling long distances, the social competency that is required to ensure that they are safe, can work effectively in the community etc. is not always there. This places the children in high levels of stress and anxiety prior to attending school, often meaning they have had to spend upwards of an hour travelling."
- "Non profit transport is desperately needed"
- "For disabled children who can not communicate or have poor mental health these services are not suitable."
- "I think my daughter should get some help in getting to her school as I have to wait for my sons bus before I can set off to get her to her school. Even if my daughter had gone to the catchment area primary school (cowersley primary) she would not be able to get to school on time."
- "Because we only have one person who drives and [names]'s Dad works driving the day, he is the main driver."
- "Daughter in wheelchair and is severely disabled can't go to local school her statement is for a special school, normal bus transport would not be suitable."
- "n/a"
- "It is not applicable at the moment but in future I want to feel that the service is there - he is vulnerable and couldn't travel on his own,"
- "Still quite expensive."
- "Young people need to be able to travel locally; its a great benefit. If all young people have a bus pass it will contribute to their education"
- "N/A"
- "Not valuable cause i have to pay to send my child to school."
- "My son (sons from next year) could not get to/from school without yellow buses."
- "Cost of bus fares to school would have a significant impact on household expenditure"
- "I am completing this survey on behalf of the children I work with in school (often they are looked after children and/or from low income families) and not for myself or my family."

- "bus passes and public transport is not always appropriate for children with SEMH needs. Taxi drivers are unaware and untrained in the needs of the children they are transporting, even though training has been offered."
- "The support is not there for families where both parents work & are on a low income"
- "The one thing that is lacking is free transportation to a second home. My ex partner and i share joint custody of our daughter yet you are unwilling to provide transport to and from his home. This limits the time she can spend with him and restricts any respite i receive."
- "a 7 year old cannot use public transport alone."
- "I don't receive anything"
- "We have been offered travel training fpr my child - this is not appropriate due to her high anxiety and additional needs - is this to save money?? this will not met her needs but cause safeguarding issues!"
- "I am disabled and would find it difficult to bring my child to school each day. Because of my son's special educational needs he has to attend school out of the local area My son is too young and vulnerable to ravel on public transport."
- "Without them my child would not be able to get to his SEMH school"
- "We live in Netherton and are of pension age. It saves us using the car to take him to Holmfirth and in the cost of Fuel. My wife and I also have some health problems"
- "I find travel training not valuable because it wasn't tailored to his needs and was a big risk to his personal safety."
- "A bus/train pass was used by parents but mainly to take the child somewhere at weekends or after school. They could not travel independently so it was needed at these times as often these parents did not have a car. However it was used rarely by our parents to take the child to school as most parents had more than one child and could not take the disabled child on the bus to school as they needed to take the other children to school, or alternatively the parent needed to be at work. Where it was used to take the child to school it was a valued option. Travel training was a very mixed picture. Some valued it, others felt it was too short to achieve its purpose. The child was not trained to make a complex journey they felt and the journey to school was a complex one. Some were agaisn their child doing it as they felt it would mean the child would not get transport in future when the parent felt their child need a lot more time than the course offered to feel able to use public transport."
- "The bus and the escort are very good for both of my kids and they always come on time"
- "As a parent I am committed to provide my child with their education - without transport I do not consider they could access this. My child is unable to walk or get themselves to school independently and would not be able to attend without the service. Other children walk and this is not an option for my child, neither is using other methods of transport."
- "Because being a parent of a severely disabled child often involves very little sleep, having transport does not have to put my child at risk by driving whilst exhausted"
- "My child attends Castle Hill Special School which is some distance from our home, and due to work commitments proves difficult to travel to and from"
- "Eases worry about getting child to school"
- "To continue to provide transport to further education. I would be willing to pay some amount as normal children but it needs to be topped up by council to provide taxi/minibus due to autism, ADHD, Tourette's, Dyspraxia and Dyslexia"

If you find any of your support from the Council as valuable, very valuable or extremely valuable please tell us why below.

- "My daughters are mentally and physically disabled"
- "My son is not able to leave the house unsupported and I work. The bus ensures he safely gets to school"
- "I couldn't work and do school drop offs and pick ups,"
- "Great safe reliable service. Means we know our child gets to and from school safely with other children but under care and supervision of an escort."
- "Had I not been transported to school, I would not have been able to attend a school that could provide me with the support I required. My education would have suffered extremely and my life would be considerably worse."
- "When my daughter and son (who both have significant SEN) were younger, a taxi was provided to get us to the sadly-now-closed Ellerslie child development centre which was invaluable as we would not have been able to get there otherwise as we lived out in Marsden. My son also received independent travel training and is now as an adult an independent user of buses. The value of this training to him in terms of independence and self-esteem cannot be over-estimated."
- "Firstly if there is no transport available there has to be a process put in place to allow that child education in an appropriate setting to meet the needs."
- "My son goes to a different school to his younger sister and having transport means both children get to school on time"
- "Affects our family unit in a positive way both emotionally and financially."
- "I have 2 children with special needs. They both go to separate schools. If my 14 year old didn't have a disability she would be able to make her own way to school but due to her disabilities she can't. I can't take 2 children to different school at the same time. Without transport it would be impossible"
- "We rely on the council to supply transport like many others do. Without the assistance of transport, many special schools would not be able to get the students in to school. Although you look at lower earning families and take this in to account you must see that people who have no form of transport cannot support the child in getting their child to school"
- "We need transport to my child's special school and it is invaluable for the family, I do think too many children are put on mini buses as my 5 year old is picked up 90 minutes before school begins"
- "We would not have been able to attend special school if transport was not available"
- "This is the only practical and safe way to my son from Mirfield to Horbury."
- "We find the space in the minibus for school extremely valuable as it will allow us to transport our other child to school"
- "It makes getting to school possible"
- "The seat in the minibus is extremely valuable. My child's previous escort was really friendly and fun, and very competent and it helped to start the day for my child and she looked forward to getting on the bus and going to school. I know that she's safe and I don't have to worry about her. However it all went wrong with another escort who didn't have the right training and who was rude and abusive to me. She couldn't get my child's name right. She assaulted me by slamming the bus door open into me on purpose, I complained but have had no answer from School Transport. Just a letter saying that they felt it was better if my child no longer goes on the transport! No action taken against the escort or apology to me. So now I have no choice but a mileage payment which doesn't actually cover the miles that I travel."
- "Very positive experience of having transport which allows me to take my other child to school and I'm still able to work part time, which I would not be able to do if I had to catch 4 buses a day. Sometimes the transport is late, but generally it's ok. I am happy with the escort and driver and that it's the same people, my son feels safe and happy going to school with familiar people."

- "The half fare bus card allows my daughter independence when I'm at work and is affordable for her to travel when she occasionally needs to. I cannot afford to pay half fare bus travel on a daily basis."
- "The distances to Holmfirth and Honley High Schools are between 3-4 miles. There are no safe walking routes and the distance anyway would be too far to walk. Both sets of pupils need to have free passes to get to their schools. To give this to some families and not others is discriminatory. This can only be done for children in the future who have yet to decide on high school choice, so they can make an informed decision and accept consequences. It would cost around £80 a month to send two children to Holmfirth High which is beyond many families, particularly when the school was chosen on the understanding there would be a free bus pass."
- "It gives families genuine choice based on the needs of their children as individuals."
- "From the second day of High School our son has used the bus and bus pass. This has helped him to be organised, independent and of course safe on route too and from school. As my wife and I work, a routine set around the bus service is very manageable and fantastic value."
- "It saves a significant amount of money and prevents me having to drive my children to school on an already over congested school run"
- "Free bus pass will enable my daughter to attend the school we feel best meets her needs. Without the free bus pass we would not have this option. This removes parental choice."
- "I have two children with bus passes to get to school. If I had to pay for this it would be significant amount that would be a large impact on family finances."
- "If free school bus passes were not available this would put a huge financial strain on my family"
- "Free passes for half fare and no charge for boarding oads"
- "As stated overleaf - without transport, the journey to & from school would not be possible due to my sons conditions and arduous journey via public transport, which is dire in Kirklees."
- "Seat in a taxi-When my son was at school i had to go to work,but if i had to travel 6 miles there and back twice a day i wouldnt of been able to get there for my times of work,iwould of had to pack my job in,there was no other schools nearer that could meet his needs.Bus pass-we have recently just got a buss pass so his college can use it when they are learning their independant travel which is important because some young adults can go from using taxies to using a bus independently,which frees up space for others that cant yet travel independantly"
- "I find it extremely valuable as this allows my son to get to and from school everyday and have an education."
- "We find it very valuable because my daughter gets the help and care to travel to and back from school"
- "because of the major roads and my daughters behaviour"
- "It is the only way my daughter can get to school"
- "I have children at several different school and could not possibly be able to take or pick them up as they all need to be or leave school at the same time."
- "Could not manage without it, school is an hours drive away each way"
- "I have two children who need to be in different schools at the same time. Neither are able to travel independently. I cannot split myself in two."
- "All families that attend state school would benefit from with funding transport"
- "Our taxes and council tax have been creeping up yer after year this needs to stop as well all this free school transport nonsense too."
- "as it gives me the time to sort my husband out as in previous answer"
- "Our son is transported safely to and from school each day."
- "It is essential for me so that my child can get to school and so that I can maintain a job."

- "My son has behavioural and emotional issues and would find it impossible to get to his specialist school with out transport."
- "My son has a learning disability and can not travel to college independently. Myself or my husband would have to take him which is impossible as we also need to work."
- "I have an autistic child who is often distressed by the noise/behaviour on public transport and it would be unsafe and too far for him to walk, so his taxi service is of huge benefit to him"
- "It saves us a small fortune!"
- "Bus pass is invaluable because it allows my daughter to travel safely without carrying money around."
- "A bus pass for our son to travel to and from school is a necessity."
- "Allows her to travel to and from school getting there in reasonable time and safe too. My daughter has CPRS and is in quite a lot of pain with her ankle most days."
- "I rely on the free bus"
- "Because of the shifts and work requirements we have as parents we would not be able to ensure our children attended school regularly as required."
- "My children take on a lot of responsibility and my eldest steps up and makes sure his younger sibling is safely taken to school and back easing the pressure off me as we do not have any family for support!"
- "The school is to far to walk and walking route would not be suitable"
- "It helps enormously having free transport to school. It would put a large pressure on the family budget if it had to be paid for."
- "Our daughter is unable to access any other forms of transport because of her disability. Subsequently one of us has to be available to drive her to and from school which has obvious financial implications."
- "It provides a safe and useful travel arrangement for my children"
- "Child is able to get to school safely & easily. Reduces congestion around school as students arrive on school buss rather than parents cars."
- "The transport is valuable to me as I am unable to get both my girls to two different schools at the same time in the morning and still get to work (in a school) on time."
- "It helps me get to school safely and I find it extremely valuable"
- "Saves us a lot of money"
- "Our two children use their bus pass every morning and every evening to get to & from school indendently."
- "As a working parent we would not be able to take our daughter to school & rely on the school bus to do this"
- "Contracted bus is healthy for kids, reliable and part of routine. Way of mixing with others and gaining independence"
- "I didn't even know the council were involved. I thpught it was between schhool and bus companies"
- "Because I pay for transport to come to my house every morning to take me to college I also receive a disability bus pass so that someone can come on the bus with me when I am travelling, but in the near future I will be starting Travel Training."
- "I know my children can get too and from school safely each day. Both parents work so cannot provide lifts,and we are too far,and it would not be safe to walk."
- "My child lives more than 3 miles away with no safe walking route - so she is safe getting to school"
- "WE WORK AND WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFICULT TO TRANSPORT OUR CHILD TO HIGH SCHOOL"
- "As a family that work full time and leave for work in different directions it is massively important to us to know that [name] is getting to school safely and on time. And as a family that are on a medium income it would still be a financial hardship to finance daily fairs to school by a normal bus."

- "Living in a rural village the school bus is essential to allow children to develop independence and get used to travelling on public transport on their own."
- "The drivers charged my child adult rate on occasions until he received his card, even though he was in uniform and clearly not an adult. The cost would not be sustainable for us, we truly could not afford. My son is gaining valuable independence coming home. It allows me to work."
- "A pass on a contracted bus is the only way I can SAFELY ensure that my child has arrived at school. The walking route is unsafe and unrealistic for an 11 year old to undertake and has safeguarding issue in many parts. If I had to take my child to and from our nearest catchment school I would not be able to go to work, due to the hours and there is no other direct bus route."
- "It's one less expense/hassle for us to have to worry about"
- "The free bus pass provided for my children is amazing. It enables them to a safe reliable transport too and from school. It reduces congestion and parking issues around school. making it safer for other children. It gives the children life skills and gives them some independence managing their time and ensuring they catch the bus. it also promotes public transport and encourages the next generation to use it."
- "school transport."
- "I think that each child (regardless of how far they live from the school) should receive a free bus pass if they are attending the high school in their catchment area. It is important that children can travel to and from school in a safe manner. It would be extremely costly to have to self fund a bus pass, something which we would struggle to do. I don't believe the council should be able to deny a free bus pass purely due to the fact you are deemed to live too close to the school. It is my belief that in this day and age, to walk to school along an unlit country lane would be unsafe."
- "I know my child will travel with his peers and be completely safe travelling from home to school."
- "As already stated. Bus pass for dedicated school bus is very valuable. We wouldn't be able to get child to and from school by any other means"
- "I think the K78 school service to/from Grange Moor and King James is a Public bus rather than contracted. I would be very concerned if the direct school service was changed in any way other than the funding."
- "This is the only way that my children can go to the nearest school safely. Our nearest high school is over 4 miles away, so it is vital support for us."
- "We live 3 miles away and obviously the free pass saves us money. It is also useful in that our child does not have to carry bus money."
- "My child can not make his own way to school due to mental health issues."
- "Children get free, safe transport to and from school"
- "A dedicated bus to ensure my son gets to school and back safely is essential. It would impact on the finances if we had to pay for this. It is too far to walk, and I am not in a position to take him myself."
- "Our other son is ineligible due to his school being slightly less than 3 miles from home. The walk is nevertheless too unsafe/too long for a 10-year-old child. His annual bus fare is £429 of our taxed income (what therefore gross?). We would obviously have to find £858 of taxed income without the pass for our older boy."
- "It means my daughter can travel to and from school easily and safely."
- "As it saves us money so my son can attend the school for our catchment area"
- "living ""out in the sticks"", it makes a massive difference to the viability of families based in the village. Without the transport provision, there would be a whole mass of mums taking kids down to school in cars, adding massively to the traffic congestion already experienced in the Holme Valley. If the funded bus places are taken away, it would add a great burden on local parents, carers and add massively to the pollution in the valley, which is already one of the worst in this area."
- "Gives [name] a bit of independence"

- "i am a single mum currently in receipt of ESA, my daughter could not get in to a local school and travels 6 miles per day. i would not be able to get her to school (financially) if this service was removed"
- "It enables our daughter to travel to school safely on a dedicated bus without additional costs to enable this."
- "it saves me a small amount of money but that still adds up and pays for stuff needed for lunches"
- "It is very convenient and reliable"
- "My son is non verbal in a wheelchair and his fun singing bus ride is a highlight of his day"
- "It is not our fault that the catchment secondary school is a bus ride away. I believe that any one who has to take a bus to their catchment school should be funded. I would rather the secondary school was in walking distance, but it isn't"
- "Because we do not have a car."
- "because I know my child is safe and will make it school on time"
- "my child would not be able to get a direct bus to school from our home address therefore my child would have to get a bus into the town centre and then to their school which would make them vulnerable travelling alone on two buses."
- "As stated it would mean 2 long bus journeys we could not afford to pay for"
- "it gives him his independence in a safe structured way."
- "It's absokurely invaluable as a working mum finding it difficult to pay bills having a bus boarding card for my child and even more so from next September e when I have two children needing it. Please please do not stop this vital lifeline for me and my kids"
- "It also helps my son get around"
- "As a parent,I feel content that my child is safe on a dedicated school bus where they will travel with other children from their school. I know the bus is safe and goes to/from the school reducing risks for my child."
- "The bus which takes him to school is extremely valuable. I don't know how we could manage without it especially as both parents are in full time work."
- "Children would not be in school without it"
- "In couldn't afford the time or money to get my son to school, therefore he would not be going."
- "We are reassured that our child can get to school no matter our financial situation."
- "It ensures my child gets to and from school safely"
- "We believe free bus travel to our school should continue there are no other school choices for us in kirkheaton"
- "Its a massive help in getting my child to her place of learning."
- "Because it would put me on financial hardship if I had to pay approx £9 per week for my Son to receive his education"
- "It allows any child no matter the distance to travel to a school they wish to whether it is the closest or not. If you walked from where we live to the high school my sibling attends it would take over an hour. If it snows or is heavily raining it would be hard to walk to school at all and do attendance would drop unless a parent can provide transport which for most is unlikely due to the hours of work."
- "Bus and train passes are crucial, education is crucial, this should not need an explanation."
- "As it allows me and my sister to get to schoool. Without it they may be issues with payment"
- "It's the only way my child can get to school."
- "It helps my child travel to and from school. If it was taken away he may need to change school which would be a disruption to his learning"
- "I have twin daughters and aside from the cost it is the safety factor that I know they are not at risk when getting to and from school"

- "Children are independent, even though over 3 miles to school; There is the ability to get into school earlier or stay at school later (music lessons, revision, after school clubs) by using public transport instead of the contracted bus; The money 'saved' on transport can be used for school dinners."
- "Enables my child to get to school safely"
- "Without free transport to school this would place a even larger burden on our finances."
- "In the up coming future it will be an expense hard to find, no benefits no support 2 full time working parents in the house hold. No pay rise in as many years as one parent works in public services. Inflation goes up, cost of living and for us no pay rise!"
- "It is the only way my child can get to school and as such access statutory education."
- "Stable transport offers parents the knowledge that children will get to school on time, public buses are often late, you can not leave school age children wondering at bus stops if they are going to get to school on time.Regular bus drivers offer stability and reassurance for children."
- "I couldn't afford bus fares for 3 children attending high school"
- "The convenience and safety of a contracted bus direct to the high school from our street is fantastic."
- "Please refer to previous answer explaining why the buss pass is so important to my son and our rural community"
- "Its an extremely dangerous route for my 2 daughters to walk especially during the winter months when it is dark and there is no public lighting or footpath on a national speed limit road. Sheep are killed on this road on a weekly basis!!"
- "Being able to access a contracted bus which is technically functioning and well regulated gives me immense peace of mind. I think it is a good idea that priority is given to younger children as well. I have lived in other areas of the country where buses used by school children look completely unsafe and the children are very unruly to such an extent that I wouldn't want my children to use them."
- "It helps our family due to been a large family of seven"
- "Children should be encouraged to see public transport as the 'norm' for routine, repeated short journeys such as trips to school. However, without a bus pass current pricing structures makes it far cheaper to travel to school by car. The bus pass saves on congestion and pollution as well as parental time."
- "The free transport to school for my daughter is extremely valuable as it allows my daughter to be able to get to and from school safely"
- "Without this transport I would struggle to get my son to school"
- "It is not practical to expect 10 year olds to walk 3 miles along roads with no pavement to and from school every day. I work and am unable to take children to school, so rely on the bus."
- "For the very reason some councillors in the past implemented the scheme, children need to get to school safely, and often have to go long distances. We pay our council tax for these very issues."
- "I find it extremely valuable because I couldn't afford to pay their bus fares, it isn't a safe route to walk as it isn't all pavements and my son couldn't physically manage the distance."
- "Walking distance from home to school is excessive and if free transport was withdrawn it would cause severe disruption to our work arrangements should we need to drive our daughter to and from school on a daily basis."
- "If we didn't have this facility we would have to drive our children to school which (1) is not a sustainable/environmentally friendly option, (2) would mean we would have to drop our children off at school at much earlier times to fit in with our working habits and there is no facility at school for them to wait/be safe and (3) public bus services to our village have dropped off to about 2-3 buses a day with none direct to school nor timed to coincide with connections leaving unsafe journeys home on dark roads and a200metre climb in height."

- "It ensures my children can travel to and from school safely."
- "Our daughter gets 2 buses to and from school as she goes to a specialist school for her needs she has a long journey of over an hour to and from school each day"
- "I needed a break from driving. I drove my son with additional needs and then my daughter for 19 years."
- "It is the best way for the child to get to and from school as he lives with his elderly grandparents and it is difficult for them to take him back and fourth. It is also a social opportunity for him as he gets to interact with children he normally would not meet during the school day. It gives him a strong sense of independence as he travels with out a parent or guardian to get to school like able bodied children."
- "my child is in a wheelchair and visually impaired and cannot make is own way to school"
- "It allows the children to get to school safely and on time, and it also allows choice without increased financial burden currently about £380 per child to get to school if using a half fare pass!"
- "We find it very valuable due to working so need the transport to get her to/from school on an wheelchair accessible bus."
- "The school bus that both my children have taken to school is invaluable. It gives them a sense of independence whilst also being safe and fun (with friends). It's only a 10 minute walk to the bus stop and gets them to school in good time."
- "I do not drive and my son was unable to travel alone as the school he had attend was over 10 miles away . I also have a daughter who needed to be taken to another school at the same time as my son ."
- "The impact without these services are (and were) massive, yet sometimes in the smallest of ways. Because a child with multiple disabilities needs such a lot of input from a carer on a daily basis, a couple of extra hours of input with reduced hours of 'free' time can pile a huge amount of extra pressure on to that carer - it could be enough to make that person buckle. It can then impact on anything that person may be involved in during the time the child leaves for school, such as a job. These knock on effects also add to the pressure of an already stressful life. Being paid mileage for transporting your child is excellent, but it doesn't relieve the physically demanding situation on the carer."
- "A school pass ensures a space on the bus, reduction in bullying incidents as no money needs to be carried and also secure travel to school as there is insufficient street lighting and pavements for my child to make her own way"
- "We would have to pay for the public bus service for our daughter (and son, before her), which would have been 10 years of paying to get to the nearest high school. We are grateful that we have not had to do this, or enter into complicated reciprocal lift arrangements."
- "this transport my child safely to and from school on time."
- "We have two children attending high school over 3 miles from home. There is a school bus to and from school but there is a charge. Further, because the children have to stay for an additional hour after school as part of their GCSE study, they regularly have to get a public transport bus home. We understand the fares to be in the region of £30 per week for both children half fare - we could not accommodate this in our family finances without having to give something else up - we do not know what that would be. Hence, this is extremely valuable provision."
- "This service is required to get children to school on time and in a safe environment"
- "We would find it very difficult to pay for travel for two children to school every day."
- "Because it means my children will have a safe means of transport to their nearest school."
- "As our foster child attends Fairfield School and we also foster other children who attend mainstream school our transport for her is vital. This is because it is impossible for us to drop 2 children and pick up 2 children from different schools in different locations."
- "because it supports the families with one less thing they need to worry about and and provides a safer way to travel for our children"

- "It helps to spread the cost of finances and enable [name] to continue to attend the secondary school she is familiar with."
- "It meant that my son could get to school and I could the other children to schools (5 different schools) The Yellow Bus saves me taking him - it's too far to walk and very difficult by car (no parking and on a bus route)"
- "[Name] school transport to Woodley is vital as I do not work and cannot work and I find running a car expensive."
- "Very valuable – [name] is unable to travel on public transport or any other transport without someone being with her as she has learning difficulties and has scoliosis of the spine and uses a wheelchair"
- "i haven't used any yet (my child is 5) but the travel training, bus passes & funding for your own travel arrangements would be essential to many. my child is unlikely to be able to travel independently until adulthood."
- "LIVING 3 MILES FROM SCHOOL, I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO EXPECT MY CHILDREN (AGES 10 AND 12) TO WALK TO SCHOOL FOR SEVERAL REASONS. I WOULD STRUGGLE TO PAY THE COSTS OF BUS FARES TO AND FROM SCHOOL FOR TWO CHILDREN, 5 DAYS PER WEEK."
- "It would be extremely difficult for me to take my youngest child to school if my daughter wasn't able to go with school transport."
- "I would find it hard to afford to pay for 2 children daily and would struggle to be able to take them myself and there is no other direct link to School."
- "As above"
- "Both my parents work, so they don't have time to drive me 4 miles to school everyday."
- "As explained previously the cost implication but also the peace of mind that she isn't on public transport but on a dedicated service taking her directly to school."
- "Bus passes for our children is essential for them to safely get to school"
- "Our family situation would change hugely if this wasn't the case"
- "THEY CAN YOU USE THEIR HALF FARE PASS FOR OTHER JOURNEYS"
- "Any help is extremely valuable to help contribution to travel or we have to make decisions between food or travel, luckily the children get free school dinners, but the cost of getting my second child to the best school for him impacts now because we were declined help or free bus pass on grounds not closest, but all other schools were full & very nearest we had to move him from to give him a better support in education. He has sensory & auditory processing disorder but isn't statements because previous school didn't have funding to do the statement! So we had to move him to a smaller school that could automatically give him better support! So if the council gave us mileage payments or even funding equivalent of bus fares because it's a remote location or bus pass I would automatically afford other resources, meals, uniform, shoes etc. Or drive halfway to a drop off/pickup point to put him on a more direct bus route & use bus pass for his daily travel to school totality of 100miles a week! It isn't ideal in distance but in quality & choice of educational needs its the best school for his individual needs."
- "This family has no other way of getting our child to school: the family car is unavailable at the required times and private hire of wheelchair taxis is prohibitively expensive, far exceeding the transport component of financial support provided."
- "Having a boarding card for a contracted bus ensures my daughter can board a bus to get to/ from school"
- "It means I don't need to find the right change for 3 children's bus fares, spend at least £40 a week on bus fares or worry about weekly passes getting lost. 3 bus passes is a large expense out of our weekly budget."
- "N/A"
- "We depend on this service as she would not be able to attend her local school without this. Also the cost would be something we would struggle to meet."
- "Essential safe travel."

- "Because my child lives too far from her school to walk and she has no other way of getting there."
- "I know my daughter is able to get to and from school safely as I don't have transport myself. I appreciate the financial help greatly. As a low paid worker I would struggle to fund this journey myself."
- "I would struggle to get to school"
- "It enables my child to attend school on a daily basis to receive his full education."
- "We would not be able to get my son to school without this service without my husband or I giving up our job."
- "I am a single parent and the cost of a bus pass would be a huge chunk from my wage."
- "For Q12 below: if you mean support as in council providing for then no we are not eligible. If you mean it's there for us to pay for then yes we are."
- "We do not yet use these services, but I have ticked the relevant boxes anticipating how we would value these services. If I had to take my daughter to and from school, I would have to reduce my hours at work or even leave completely. I also see this as valuable time my daughter has to socialise with her peers, as she couldn't get to school independently like most other children do."
- "We have two children who attend the school, which is more than 3 miles away from our home, and to pay for bus fare would be a huge jump."
- "It would cost a lot of money for my children to get to school ie it would cost me £4 per day, £20 per month, £80 every 4 weeks which is a great deal of money bearing in mind that my children live too far away to walk to school"
- "Allows me as a single parent to work. Takes an amount of pressure/strain off of me, so I can come straight to work. Financially, looking after somebody disabled is always going to be more expensive and the cost of travelling out of area is helped by this transport."
- "My husband starts work in Bradford at 6am and I start work in Huddersfield at 8am. If there was no school bus provided it would mean a very early start for my daughter and I."
- "Independent travel training is useful and helps older students prepare for adult life."
- "Children can access reduced fares on bus to and from school"
- "Because I can't be in 2 places at once. I can't get my other child to school on time if my daughter didn't have school. It's important that she is on the minibus as she has no sense of danger and can't travel independently."
- "Without the bus transport our children would not be able to travel to school independently and therefore as parents we'd find our working day impacted trying to transport them to school in a family car, causing much more congestion near School drop off areas and more pollution."
- "I am aware of other children who join the bus after my son and who pay every day. The fact that we don't need to has been a massive bonus to us as a family, and continues to be so."
- "The alternative would be paying £96 per month for my 2 children to travel to and from school everyday. Walking is not an option as the roads are dangerous (no footpaths)."
- "We are unable to transport my son to his school due to work commitments and his nearest school stated that they cannot meet his needs. This criteria has not been covered in your consultation."
- "My son is able to travel to the school that best suits his needs without the aid of school transport this most likely would not be possible."
- "With 3 other children and new born baby I wouldn't be able to transport my son to and from school"
- "I think the mileage payment is valuable for people who have to travel quite far to get their children to school. I currently do 20 miles a day transporting my son to and from school, but if we have to move to a more adapted home which is further away, we might

have to claim the mileage as wouldn't be able to afford it any more. So this would be very valuable."

- "Helps pay towards travel costs. With school uniforms and trips they are required to attend, cost of secondary school is expensive."
- "It allows my children to be independent & gives them the chance to learn how to be resilient decision makers - if they lost their passes we would have to drive them to school as the bus fares would be over £80 a month. This would mean changing my working hours and it would seriously reduce the children's independence as well as adding to the traffic congestion at school drop off and pick up times."
- "The school bus and free boarding pass is very important to our son and us. It would not be possible to take him ourselves due to work commute. It is a long way to walk and no safe route with suitable pavements and lighting. Not to mention the cost implications, likely £60+ per month"
- "Whilst the transport provision we receive is valuable, the respite provision we receive once a month at Hollybank is extremely valuable and we wonder what we would do without it."
- "Due to safety, my child cannot attend her nearest school (5 miles away), so instead of getting the dedicated bus to that school, the council give up payments for us to pay towards bus passes on public bus or fuel. We pay the difference."
- "Because my autistic son would not be able to go to the school most suited to his needs without the transport, and would instead have to 'settle' for one where he would not get the help required. And all so the council can save money."
- "Free public transport to school should be a council priority to reduce car trips, reduce congestion and pollution. Free transport should be provided even if your child does not attend the closest school."
- "Mainly the financial costs and the distance the school is."
- "I would not be able to carry on working if transport was not provided for my daughter to and from school."
- "My daughter would have to get two buses and walk in between buses if there was no dedicated bus"
- "It's the only way my child could cope with the journey to school"
- "As explained previously, extremely fast roads, no footpaths, devastation if a child is killed trying to make their way to the nearest bus stop. Speed limit on this road is 60mph, which is often exceeded. Withdrawing this transport would be a serious risk to lives, not just through road traffic accidents, but also the risk of abduction. This would put young people in a VERY vulnerable position."
- "It's a great help. There is no doubt about it. It's difficult for me to take my disabled child to school because I don't drive and he is becoming very heavy. It's very tough to take him anywhere so if I need to go out without my husband then I usually avoid in my disabled child presence, because it's extremely difficult to manage him alone. I am extremely grateful for your services."
- "My daughter getting the minibus from home to school and back is a great weight lifted off my shoulders as I know she will get safely to her destination and back, I'm not constantly worrying if she has made it. I find the minibus an invaluable service to me and my child."
- "Special schools are not on doorsteps"
- "I live in Holmfirth and would not be able to get her to the specialist school that meets her needs. I would not be able to work so this would cause more financial issues for me"
- "A free bus pass for the school bus allows the children to easily get to school without having to take multiple buses and rely on timetables that aren't created to fit the school day. Under your proposals, children from Meltham would be unable to get a free bus pass for going to Holmfirth High School - they would then have to get a 20 minute bus into Huddersfield followed by a 40 minute bus to Holmfirth, and that's if the times lined up."

- "my child's current seat on the mini bus is extremely valuable as it means that she can travel to school in a safe and calm environment without getting distressed and I can take my other children to primary school and nursery."
- "I value the seat in the mini bus as this keeps him safe and calm ready to learn to the best of his ability."
- "The current arrangement allows my son to be independent of us (his parents) but it also enables him to have support. He is able to travel safely and the staff are fantastic at keeping him calm. He would not be safe to travel alone."
- "My daughter attends a mainstream school with a deaf unit. This is the only provision in Kirklees and is 12 miles from our home"
- "knowing that my child has a safe and supervised journey"
- "It gave my son the opportunity to travel without a parent in a semi-independent safe space. It meant that he could attend school without any negative impact on us as a family financially (without that transport I would have had to give up work to take him to and from and I have another child as well)."
- "As I don't drive I just couldn't get him to school. The bus pass plus one is very good so I can take him places."
- "Because the transport is safe for my son. It's very expensive on public transport for me to take him to and from school and difficult to travel with him as he has complex health needs. He also can't walk. (I don't drive and I live far away from the school). However, I have to act as his escort because the transport office have said that they can't provide an escort. This stops me from being able to do anything else - working, training or anything. I am so stressed, I have medication for blood pressure. My son doesn't sleep and I just don't get any breaks."
- "Because I wouldn't be able to work - I've already had to cut hours so that I can be there when he is picked up."
- "Taxis are extremely valuable to our pupils. Due to their SEMH need, they would not be able to travel independently via bus or other means."
- "My son has always attended an out of authority due to lack of appropriate provision within Kirklees. I initially transported him to/from school as I had already given up work to care at that point and due to his health it would have been impossible to arrange transport at the same time every day. I really valued the mileage payment because I was doing 84 miles a day and was not in employment to pay for it. Later we have had a taxi (sometimes shared with another child) with escort, essential for a deafblind, non verbal very vulnerable person. Apart from the odd glitch with unreliable taxi companies the service has been excellent. I would be lost without it and would certainly not have been able to return to work as I would have been travelling for at least 4 hours per day. And I would have often been driving without a good night's sleep (my son has never slept much), which is very dangerous. If I had been driving him to school all that distance I would not have been able to meet the needs of my other child, 3 years younger. I can't imagine how awful my life would have been. The transport also enables my son to be a bit more independent and not rely on me all the time. He has a great relationship with the escort and the transport service have managed to be very consistent with escorts over the years for which I thank them. This consistency is essential for so many children with additional needs."
- "Being unable to work due to disability and my partner is my carer, we have no way to supplement extra income. Due to various cuts to other services for school like school uniform vouchers we have to stretch our already extremely tight budget even more. Transport to and from school would devastate what little we have."
- "My daughter gets to and from school safely each day. I work as a teacher and leave too early to take her to school. We do not live in walking distance of the high school. It is over 3 miles."
- "It enables us to afford to send our child to school and to get to work on time."

- "It is very valuable as this provides my daughter with safe travel to and from school with other children from the village, safety in groups"
- "Child safety"
- "It helps our family financially."
- "My son wouldn't be able to go to his school without his Taxi to school"
- "There are no schools within three miles, let alone walking distance. My children therefore have to travel by bus and there is no alternative whichever 'local' school they attend."
- "I can not express how important valuable school transport has been and still is for my family. My daughter has received transport for school from entering a special school at 7 years old, with out this transport logistically I would not have been able to work or take my younger child to her school. I also experienced a period of time when I could not work or drive due to problems with my spine the escorted mini bus enabled my daughter to go to school. I would not be able to work without school transport now as she travels a good 50 minutes in peak traffic each day. Being able to work helps me cope with my caring role, as well as being necessary to support my family."
- "This is the only way I can afford to get my children to their nearest school of choice!"
- "because without it my children wouldnt be able to go to school that is suitable for there needs"
- "The journey is long (12 miles) and if done on public transport would be a bus and a train or 2 buses and so take over an hour. She cannot in any event travel independently. If I were to take her it would mean 3 hours each day in college and it would mean I would have to reduce my hours and not be able to take my other child to school."
- "safety concerns"
- "It was important to me because I am a wheelchair user and it was safer for me to travel with school transport from home to school & back again everyday"
- "Safe reliable travel for my child."
- "Despite some issues raised over lack of training, lack of escorts and bizarre routes which seemed to take no logical path, most parents valued this option. Reasons why included: I couldn't take my child to school myself, transport ensures they get to school and I can get my other children to school/myself to work, also there was praise for some drivers/escorts. Parents who had chosen the mileage/funding option were happy with it as it gave them choice as to how to get their child to school. A few parents did not even claim the mileage even though they could have. Some claimed the 25p per mile wasn't really enough when fuel prices were rising."
- "The use of the pass saves a significant amount of money for the family."
- "My child is special needs, we extremely value the support as getting my child ready is a task on its own and it just makes our lives a lot easier."
- "I would not be able to get my son to and from school"
- "Because it is a long way from Dewsbury to Moor End Academy"
- "I find my seat on the taxi very valuable because of the distance to school. If I didn't have a place I would be late to school"
- "I find my place on the taxi very valuable due to the distance of the school to fulfil my education"
- "Because having a place on the taxi is a lot of help and I get to e with my friends. My bus pass is valuable because it means I can go on any bus in Kirklees"
- "So Mum and Dad don't have to drop me at school because it is far away"
- "Because it saves my parents a job. But I have to get up early because I am the first one to be picked up before 7am"
- "Our child is severely visually sight impaired and will not be able to get to school on time. Transport support is extremely valuable/helpful for our child to get to school/home safely and on time."

- "Having space for my child in a mini bus as she is unable to travel on her own. Her school is in a different town and both parents are working parents"

Are you (or someone in your family) eligible to receive transport support from the Council? - I am eligible (or someone in my family is eligible) to receive transport support from the Council, but I make my own transport arrangements. - Please provide details below.

- "Local busses"
- "My son lives more then 3 milrs from school and there are no pavements on part of the journey, but we make arrangements for him to be taken to a suitable bus stop."
- "I make my own transport arrangements because have never been offered an option. Never been discussed"
- "As previously outlined in theory my son is eligible in age & compulsory education at 10years old & I am on the appropriate benefits to quantify help, and both children on free school meals. But have not been deemed any help after application on grounds of nearest school. Which he had attended but we had to remove him from the school failing to support his attainment & needs , so immediately moved to only school with places left that had best support for him. So I have to drive every day there & back 100miles in total week.. in his best interests. But unfortunately presently unemployed it's a great strain my expenses on top of food/bills/clothing. I am exasperated at the council declining me of any form of travel support from the bus pass / funding services. I wouldn't be choosing to travel this far obviously if it be wasn't the best school & education for my child! I am eligible on written criteria but a geographical decision was made and its basically what you're outlining your new theory of conditions & decisions to conduct. What is the point of the service if it's not on individual merit of a situation firstly and geographic locations aren't substantial? There is no logic in the ethics of your thinking & decision making if that be the case!"
- "Not currently used. But we have put on our son's EHCP form that he will need school transport from September 2018"
- "Eligible for free bus pass but I get a lift or walk"
- "Over 65, but a car owner, so don't use public transport"
- "I am not sure if I am eligible for my child with SEN but as the two of them are at the same school there is no point having it."

Your ideas

The Council wants to help people to be as independent as possible. We have less money with which to do this, but we are firmly committed to helping people live better lives.

Please use this space to tell us about any ideas you have which could help us do this achieve our objectives.

- "I am a working parent with a disabled child and no support has been offered to me. More can be done to aid working parents"
- "If a child has a certain illness (not born with), they should be entitled to free transport. My daughter suffered from anorexia so any walking was deemed unsuitable. But was not disabled."
- "Transport extended in evenings and weekends for young careers to enable them to do extra curricular activity Smallnumber of taxi journeys per annum as in London I.e 10"

- "It is ridiculous that the people in the houses at the top of the village get free travel to school but they still catch the same bus as the fare paying students. It should be free for all or none, or the fare paying students should have a separate bus. It costs me £70 a month to send my children on the school bus as I live 2.98 miles from the school. There is NO WAY my children would be able to safely walk from Kirkheaton to King James and arrive by 8am. Why should the families in the big houses at the top of the village get theirs free when they all get on the same bus at the same stop?!"
- "If my child was at "normal" school as a parent I would have to pay for a bus pass, I feel we as parents should pay this amount for transport."
- "My son relies on this service when going to respite twice a month. Hopefully from September 2018 he will be at a different specialist school where transport will be required. I don't drive and we are a single parent family."
- "Transport should not be funded for children to go to a faith school if there is a suitable nearer school. Low income families should have free travel to school, and so should children with disabilities. Other children should only get support if there is no school nearer to their home"
- "We have had a travel training service provided for some of our older HI students, so they are now able to travel to and from school independently, this has been very useful to increase confidence and independence."
- "Divert benefits currently paid to bad parents towards transporting the children of good parents. Make schools where bad behaviour is a problem fund the transportation of good pupils to good schools. Set up democratically-elected parish councils in each parish that does not have a parish council, and require each parish council to set up an academies trust to run all schools within the area it serves. Help parish councils to gain control of academies just as the council helped Moor End take control of Chickenley. This will reduce transport costs by enabling parents to put people in power to improve local schools so they don't need to send their children further away. End the overdiagnosis of children with special needs. The vast majority of children who misbehave do so because they want to behave badly and not due to a disability. Some parents financially benefit from their children being diagnosed with disabilities they do not have. Labels are interpreted as licences to be bad, and this has financial implications for public services long after children have left school."
- "Limit the support to families paying the basic rate of tax or less."
- "Transport should only be provided to those who absolutely need it. Where transport is required for children with disabilities whose parents work, there should be a small cost towards this that enables them to stay in work. Non-working parents should collect their own children from school unless they themselves have a disability and are unable to do this. Transport should not be provided to those who wish to attend a certain school for religious reasons, they should attend their closest school or move closer to their desired school. Transport should still be provided for those who have to attend special schools as this isn't a choice. Escorts should be trained better to understand disabilities such as Autism so that they can best support young people. This will reduce the number of young people being removed from a group bus to be escorted by taxi with 2 escorts which is a ridiculous pointless expense! All families who have been issued an adapted vehicle for their child's use should take their child to and from school unless they are using short breaks after school in which case this one way journey is on school transport, also if they have had overnight respite the one way journey to school should be via school transport but the parent should collect the child at the end of the day. Mileage shouldn't be paid, if they can afford to run a car they can afford to take their child to school."
- "Provide only the most cost effective option e.g. bus pass rather than taxi. Academies to source sponsorship to provide students in need of transport with help. Car buddying schemes for parents to join and share cost of travel, with some type of reward e.g. discount of petrol at supermarket"

- "PROVIDING SCHOOLS WITH THEIR OWN BUSES OR PROVIDING EARLIER SCHOOL OPENING PROVISIONS FOR WORKING PARENTS TO ENABLE THEM TO DROP THEIR CHILD OFF AND CONTINUE TO WORK, WITHOUT TIME RESTRAINTS CAUSING ISSUES IN EMPLOYMENT. EXAMPLE, A FREE EARLY START BREAKFAST CLUB AT THE SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN WHO WOULD OTHERWISE RECEIVE SCHOOL TRANSPORT."
- "Make more effort to have all the children in a family at one school or at the least within a short distance so parents are then able to transport or walk with their children. Stories in local newspapers of children within a family placed in schools many miles apart are not encouraging. Some parents who have to rely on public transport find this untenable"
- "Don't make unrealistic judgement about children and young people when it comes to independent travel. Just because they appear to cope whilst on school transport doesn't mean they will cope on public transport."
- "Stop wasting money repairing property/items that would be cheaper to replace with new. I.e boilers in houses. We had numerous call outs to a boiler in one of your properties that if replaced straight away would have saved the council a considerable amount of money. Keep a closer eye on the care you are providing to families to ensure you are providing the care you are paying for. I.e home respite and carers."
- "If you could fund training for schools to provide their own transportation and the right insurance that could be useful, or funding for parents who live near each other to pool cars."
- "No, my child will never be capable of independence due to her autism and special needs"
- "I understand the need for independent travel but due to my child complex needs this is not appropriate- my concerns is a safeguarding issue, issues with danger etc. Use the council tax or other funds for transport rather than making off this very necessary service. Make savings elsewhere rather than SEN services."
- "Has stated before, mobility cars and vans should be used for transporting pupils to and from school they are for that child/ young person"
- "As I said previously, there should be no changes to current pupils. To be fair this can only happen to future pupils with costs spelt out to allow informed decision making. Meltham should be made a special case, given it is equidistant between two high schools. The long term effects of this policy will be no savings from Meltham pupils. If this is enacted, all Meltham pupils will go to Honley and all get free bus passes. All that will be taken away will be choice for no benefit to the councils finances. In the short term it could provide real hardship for many families."
- "All children with Special Education Needs should be offered escorts either on a bus or taxi Not meeting my sons needs at all"
- "How about investing properly in all aspects of education?"
- "I feel that the first choice school element is mute. If the 1st and 2nd schools are both further than 3 miles. The new proposal limits choice for parents and students. The first choice school does not necessarily offer the best 'fit' for the child as we successfully demonstrated in our appeal process. Choice should not be curtailed by additional costs of transportation. Cost savings to KLC by reduction of travel support will reduce the numbers of children travelling to school with public transport. Savings will be negated by costs uncured with congestion and associated traffic problems. There will be Health and Safety implications."
- "Without school bus services more cars would be on the road to drop children off at school which would have a very negative impact on our already congested school run to avoid paying the unaffordable price to get three high school children to school!! There would also be a negative impact on my working arrangements!!!"
- "For high school children living in Meltham the two closest schools are Honley and Holmfirth, but both are over 3 miles away so they should receive free transport whichever they attend. Removing the eligibility for children already attending Holmfirth"

school because Meltham is not in the PAA for this school penalises these families unfairly. Removing the eligibility for children currently applying for high school removes parental choice of school and should be reconsidered."

- "Continue with the same support, why are children & young people continually losing out on support & provision ?"
- "consider other areas of work where large wastage is made is councillor expenses etc"
- "Would be helpful if my children were able to travel on the bus and be issued with free bus passes , they walk 40 mins each way, in all weathers, and now the winter is coming it will be dark earlier. There are so many crazy dangerous people around"
- "Parents claim a lot of different benefits for their child surely if parents have mobility cars they should use them to Transport their child to and from school, instead of using it for their own personal use. Some of the mobility benefit can go towards cost of transport."
- "Make the school transport system means tested. if you can afford to pay for your child's transport you should have to do so. lets now give well off people cash to get their kids to school. Save the money and ensure those under privileged families get the money to get their children to school."
- "Independence means assisting people to travel as appropriate to their needs. Provision of safer roads, lower speed limits and sensible parking options could go a long way to helping."
- "The Council's two aims are incompatible. Quality costs money. The Council should be honest and admit it is trying to solve its financial problems at the expense of some of the most vulnerable and poorest people in Kirklees."
- "School age children who are disabled and receive DLA money also receive a mobility car should not receive free school transport as their parents/caters should transport them to school in the disability car that is for them rather than wasting the councils money"
- "I think parents with only one child who receive high mobility for that child should be providing their own transport for their child to school. They have no other children to worry about and most schools give options of breakfast clubs for parents who need to go to work. Many of us with a child with special needs have to take our other children to a different school for same or similar times therefore transport support is necessary for our children to be punctual."
- "could be a little bit put together for future people"
- "maybe the major supermarkets could offer you a discount on fuel for transporting disabled children"
- "Ensure that people from the same area are picked up using one vehicle instead of several vehicles"
- "Give the people who NEED the support the support simple."
- "Transport assistance should only be given to the most needy in our society."
- "Give transport assistance to the children who need it the most. Look at scenarios where parents are receiving a mobility car but also get free school transport, can they not use the car to transport the children themselves? Can carers transport children to school if their contract has a transport element? Look at whether children are attending their nearest school. Look at a more rigorous policy for post 16 students. Train more students (who are capable) to travel independently, giving them more life skills."
- "More encouragement of active travel which has many benefits for the individuals and for the wider population. This needs to include safe routes to school for walking and cycling."
- "Our taxes and council tax have been creeping up year after year this needs to stop as well all this free school transport nonsense too. People need to take on extra jobs or work long hours just like we do and pay for these benefits from their own pocket. As a kid i use to walk 6 miles round trip daily to get to my school and never got any free transport so why now, it needs to stop."
- "as a carer for my husband and having a son with special needs I find most day to day tasks a chore and we struggle financially with all the cuts you keep making"

- "The 'mentors' on the coaches are a great idea - supporting those children who could use bus passes. But this is only right in certain circumstances, e.g. in our case our child has severe learning difficulties and is highly vulnerable. I would encourage Kirklees to 'do the right thing' and support the most deserving in our community. We are a hard working family, taking away the travel assistance would result in me losing my job."
- "I think If all parents of children needing home to school transport paid for their journey's, whether absent from school, or going to school. These children are allocated a seat in a taxi or a bus. If a vehicle is allocated to pick up eight people, and four do not turn up, that vehicle still as to go the same distance, when a smaller vehicle could have been used, thus lowering emission's."
- "By keeping transport the same you are already helping"
- "I do feel that the cut-off point for KJS from Kirkheaton should be eradicated and that all children who attend KJS from the surrounding area should receive free transport."
- "In my opinion all bus travel should be free for all children to get to and from school. They are not going for fun. The outrageous fares for children on public transport leads to many more parent cars on the roads which leads to congestion and safety concerns, which cost the council more in the long run."
- "I think support should be given to children with SEN and mobility problems and all school children that live 2 miles (for up to 8 year olds) and 3 miles (for over 8 year olds) from school. However, I do think that arranging taxis and transport for children that attend school out of their own catchment area. If it is their decision to attend that school when an appropriate one is nearer home, eg faith schools etc. If parents make this choice I feel they should pay for their own transport costs."
- "No matter whether people recieve free school meals or what. They should pay if they choose to send their children to a school that isn't their nearest unless that is because there wasn't space at that school. Unless they have a disability"
- "At this time we feel that the current service provided is the best for our children's school transport needs."
- "Allow families with low income to receive the free transport but the others should pay maybe half the price of busses passes!"
- "Reduce the Management Overhead in the council and make them more accountable to the public who pay their wages. Improve staff competency and skills so they are more efficient at their jobs Ensure fairer collection of council taxes. Many small households with a large number of adult occupants or houses with extensive extensions pay a disproportionate level of tax compared to others who may use fewer council services. Increase bin collections and expand on the type of waste collected. Remove fees for bulky waste collection. If you are truly committed to improving people's lives then you would understand (or at least try to understand) the impact of fly tipping and reduced bin collections on the majority of people."
- "All benefits should be means tested and not standard eg winter fule payment Benefits such as this should only be paid to those permanantly resident in the UK Regular checking people are eligible for benefits eg housing benefits when peoples savings exceed limit but didnt at time of assessment are not picked up Do not provide taxis for school run where public transport is available Get a six sigma expert in to assess how your business is run and streamline it/make suggestions for improvements that will save on staff and reduce non value adding activity/duplication"
- "Why do you have less money than last year? Surely our children's eduction and safety should be top priority."
- "Logistics for any family with a child with a disability is very complex - please do not remove one of the few things that help make life a little bit more straightforward."
- "Children who attend a special school and have a disability should be entitled to this home to school transport for free. I also think that if a child lives more than 3 miles from the school that has been allocated for them by the council should be allowed to receive transport for free too."

- "You should only stop giving free bus passes to people who don't choose the nearest school from Sept 2018 onwards as the information might have impacted someones choice about choosing a different school has they of known."
- "If you don't have enough money to support services, increase council tax rather than cutting services even further."
- "You have to save where you can save, and this seems sensible to me"
- "First of all - walk the routes that the kids are taking to Honley High from Netherton - then you will SEE just how vulnerable they are and how unfair it is that some kids get their bus paid for and others don't - even if they are poor families as we are!"
- "you should get parents to car share their children to school - some of the parents have huge cars and could easily give lifts at pick up points but no one knows who needs the lifts and who dont. I think some parents would definitely do it and it would stop al the cars from all the schools going down the same roads and nearly running other peoples children over."
- "Bike lanes and schemes to encourage cycling to school."
- "Why not make time to speak to parents who live on the bus routes...and k8ds too? Newsome and Honley High would happily make this happen i am sure"
- "You could ask nearby councils for some funding if it's possible"
- "MORE DIRECT CONSULTATION RATHER THAN ONLINE SURVEYS. AN INITIAL COST BUT A BETTER WAY OF ASSESMENT THROUGH FULL RESEARCH"
- "In my view there isn't any good alternatives to the situation. I think a downside to this situation will be more children missing education when ""the car won't start""etc. And what happens when the busses go on strike which could happen leaving children stranded. Maybe if you spend less money on busses you will have more to use on gritters in the winter to keep more roads open!! It all depends on wether when the money is saved it is used in some way to make it worthwhile"
- "Make the bus company's you support, by paying them bus pass fees, provide the buses that are needed when they are needed. We find the bus passes very useful and valuable. Having said that, we pay for them and will continue to pay for them when our children have left school. We also paid for them for 20 years before we needed them, be careful who you upset."
- "A reliable, safe bus service for school children would be but the logic of sending children to limited feeder schools when others are closer is madness. Review the whole system of which schools fall within given catchment areas, this would give parents greater choice, reduce the need for school transport for some children and be more eco friendly by reducing traffic and travelling times."
- "You cut funding voter those on low income and they won't turn up. It's difficult enough maintaining high attendance."
- "Ensure that children who live in the same village and have to attend the same catchment school by bus, are all given the same transport support. It is totally unfair that one household may get a free pass and yet the next door neighbours do not due to the 3 mile boundary rule, yet they attend the same catchment school. The children in villages such as Kirkheaton must all attend King James's by bus. Why should neighbours, with a higher income receive a free bus pass when others may be struggling to pay the monthly fare or have more than one child at the school? In additional walking routes MUST be safe and have pavements and lighting to ensure the safety of all children using them. Certain designated Council routes have clearly been chosen to ensure that distances remain under 3 miles, but are often not safe or suitable routes for a child to walk alone. Safeguarding must be paramount in the decision making process."
- "I believe it is a child's right to travel to and from school in a safe manner on a school bus and I believe that the council has a duty of care to each child to get them to and from school in a such a manner. Therefore every child should have a free bus pass if they are attending the school within their catchment area regardless of the mileage calculated from their home to school. I believe denying a child access to this bus pass could put

them at risk of having to walk on potentially dangerous, unlit windy country roads, particularly if the household would struggle to self fund a bus pass."

- "Pick out the older children who are able to walk ok and are not confined to a wheelchair or walking frame and as long as bus transport or a parent or a carer has a car and can drive them it should narrow it down a bit. I know for a fact that many children use school transport as an easy way to get to school by there parents who have no disability at all that stops them from getting a bus. if my daughter has to catch 4 buses a day in a wheelchair to and from school she will not be going and I don't drive ."
- "Children/young people with a disability should not be affected by cuts - parents already under pressure with cuts from support services - if they are just about coping now think of the implications on WHOLE families if their burden is added to. Remember most of these young people have vulnerability issues , crossing very congested roads at peak times and travel training will NOT be the answer for many of them!"
- "Some parents that have vehicles could help others take them from home to school and they could all put to with petrol also the person who drives the children should be vetted."
- "Maybe continue with dedicated pass for school bus but at a minimal cost for parents"
- "Please don't take free school transport away from families living in isolated, rural communities. Life has fewer opportunities for young people out here as it is, please don't make it more difficult."
- "My son receives free transport because we live over 3 miles from school. I would be more concerned with any changes to the bus service then being forced to contribute to the costs of his transport."
- "A fairer system would be to charge for the last n miles of the journey so that people that travel, say 10 miles, would only have to pay for the last 3 miles. In this manner you could maybe charge less for the last 3 miles but still gain some subsidy. It would directly affect me as my daughter lives just outside the 3 mile limit and therefore we do not pay for our transport but it would seem a fairer way to apportion cost. I understand that administering this system may incur a cost by yourselves."
- "None"
- "Not sure where money could be saved in other areas. Understand the need to manage budget but making savings in this area is likely to put child safety getting to and from school at risk."
- "I think that people who get a mobility vehicle for the child/ children should bring them to and from school and not use the vehicle to take other siblings to school."
- "Political pressure needs to be put on central government to make changes to the antiquated law of free transport outside a certain distance and chargeable within it. All local authorities are in the same position and could collaborate. If every child paid a minimal amount for travel (low-income families would remain exempt) this would generate more revenue than is currently received from heavily charging those who live closer to school but are still unable to walk for safety/distance reasons. It is grossly unfair that - and there are instances as ridiculous as this - boarding at certain bus stops, some children are free passengers and some children pay, purely because their addresses are slightly further away or closer to school."
- "I believe transport should be provided if a child has not got into their first choice of local school due to oversubscription, so are incurring extra costs for transport through no fault of their own, simply because the schools in their local area are not large enough to cater for the needs of the area. (eg because extra housing has been built but without the required service infrastructure.)"
- "Please, cut down on some of the benefits freely given out to people whom then have a much better quality of life than my husband and myself who both work full-time!"
- "charging all bus users a nominal fee of 50p per journey instead of £1.10 per journey"
- "you may want to get your website and surveys proof read for clarity, some of the questions are not entirely clear, and would fail ""clarity"" tests. the phrase in the text above this box is a good example ""which could help us do this achieve our objectives.""

- what exactly does that mean? English may not be the first language of people you are trying to reach here, and these questions should be run by an English Language clarity expert so that you get the actual response you are looking for. Confusing questions will result in incorrect answers."

- "i am not sure what your 'special consideration' rules would be, but i am assuming it will affect people on the lower end of income that will suffer. I am a single mother with two children, one school age, and one older but disabled. i am in receipt of ESA myself, but hope to get back in to work once my disabled daughter is more stable. taking away free school transport would mean i would have less income to live on, if having to provide transport myself. the council was unable to offer us a school closer to home. catch 22 situation, and causes more stress and worry for people. disappointed with the council, yet more cut backs"
- "Have council tax bands above F charging more money to th rich who can afford it"
- "Encourage walking/cycling as a positive option for most. Dis incentivise those who use cars to get to school, other than where there is no option."
- "By provding a decent service low of cost for the council and individual families."
- "do not cut funding to early years access fund its so important for young children to get the right support in a safe environment and by taking it away you will be isolating these children and stunting there learning and independence. as for transport not all parents can get to the school and this form of transport is essential for independence and confidence also with all the cuts you keep making you will get less children turning up to school as they cant get there and parents cant afford to take time off work, afford taxis to take them, not be able to run cars the list goes on its a disgrace I'm ashamed of how bad this is getting"
- "The bus pass my son has gives gives him freedom and able to go out wen needed it extremely valubel to us it enables him to a more dependant life even wen money is tight it's a big waight off our minds not having to worry about bussfairs"
- "Parents should all pay for school transport unless they are entitled to free transport due to low income (evidenced) or disability. All others should have to pay. The current system is discriminatory as children a street away/in the same village get free transport which their parents can afford. These children get the same bus as those paying."
- "Please continue to provide the children of Meltham with a means to get to school and back ie. a free school bus service,"
- "Higher taxes to pay for children - why increase free childcare to 30 hours then takeaway bus transport?"
- "We pay an awful amount of money into health and social care, these companies you pay make millions of profit per year, I believe the government should take care of this themselves, that way we wouldn't be creating millionaires of tax payers money."
- "I would be happy to pay a small annual fee for my child's bus pass to and from school to ensure his safety."
- "Cutting free school buses for families with low income or over certain distance would be a mistake. I feel this due to the fact uniform policies, school dinners, trips etc are pricing families out of school."
- "Keep it as it is"
- "Children are our future investment into their education is a must to secure our futures and by allowing free safe transport to and from school will achieve this. Without transport will almost certainly result in absences and financial strains for families"
- "Stop paying for children to get taxis to school, give them school places in schools local to them and make them walk.. ...the exercise will do them good and it's not as though their parents have got jobs to go to."
- "Free bus passes for children who live more than 30 minutes walk from their school if a school bus is available to travel on. Otherwise alternative funding or a contribution is available for children who live far away and who's parents cannot afford to put a child on the bus."

- "Looking specifically at the children from Meltham, there isn't a high school within 3 miles therefore all should get free travel regardless of which school they choose to attend. Also if you choose to allow choice of school due to religion or belief this must be extended to choice of school for specialty or special educational provision. My children were all but forced to attend Meltham CE as neither Meltham Moor (eldest daughters initial school) or Honley infant could accommodate both children. This school is more than 3 miles from our house along a 50mph road with no pavement yet we do not get any allowance as there is a school closer (without capacity to take them)."
- "Education is key, and sometimes for a child to be properly educated they need to have specific circumstances ascribed to them. Any sort of a blanket rule is effectively ineffectual, however practically speaking it benefits no-one to save £300 a year and send a child to a school where they would not succeed. Stop making the lives of children and parents more difficult."
- "Make an annual fee for the boarding passes like £5 to get it and then it's valid for a year"
- "Maybe if money from the council was spent more wisely and effectively you wouldn't be thinking of removing what is deemed an essential service from children and their families. If you live in rural areas there are often no safe paths to walk on so buses are a priority when you live 3 miles or more from a school. Parents can not transport children to work because they are having to go to work, if all councillors paid their council tax and we stopped having to foot the bill for removing waste that has set on fire (Lockwood) the council would have more money."
- "Grouping people together obviously uses less money than individuals paying for themselves with council funds. Could taxis be used to bring people to a central point to then use shared transport? (Impossible for some disabled people)."
- "The service has already been cut, getting rid of the late bus, cutting 3 buses to and from Marsden down to 2, no need to reduce this service any more."
- "We had to wait for 2 children to go to and from school we wouldn't have better lives. Arranging consultations and receiving letters after these dates have past is not very good either."
- "Pay rise needs to match to the cost of living, as a council you look after no 1 you! MPs don't go without their pay rise. Our local council have a free bus pass in place for a reason a reason that has been good enough for many many years why change it now? I appreciate as a council there are struggles so what's the answer? Pass it on to your public put us even further under the headline."
- "People who get a car funded because of a child's disability should use that vehicle to transport the child to and from school"
- "Children's travel to school should be free, we already pay for college transport and after school bus."
- "Focus on school bus passes for rural communities in order to encourage the use of public transport in our young people."
- "My daughter goes to the nearest accessible school. We would love to send her to a better school but are unable to fund the transport costs. I do not think that parents who choose to send their children to anything but their local school should receive any help with transport costs. This includes religious or disability grounds. Children with disability issues already receive significant help with mobility costs above "normal children" even when at a young age they need similar supervision. Their mobility allowance should be used to get them to school and back. Mobility allowances are unjust when older people who have greater needs than many families are not given any help. Integrated, affordable comprehensive local transport linking isolated rural areas would help to reduce congestion on roads and minimise social isolation."
- "If funding is limited, one could suggest that people with religious or other beliefs might have to pay for transport themselves if the school is far away. We could make it a requirement that children have to attend their local school so transport isn't required"

except in exceptional circumstances - e.g. rural location, disability, etc. Money saved on transport could be used on improving facilities in schools."

- "School transport is essential especially in the rural areas to ensure our children can get to school safely. Limit/cut expenses which are paid to staff, and those in the more senior management and including counsellors, MP's etc."
- "As your ideas involve spending less money, I cannot comment, as I would personally like to see the amount of free bus passes extended. I feel it is extremely unsafe for my children to walk to school (especially in the winter), due to the lack of pavements or street lights. However, they are not eligible under your rules, so when my youngest son begins there next September I will be spending over £100 per month on bus fares."
- "Please use our council tax for the benefit of people who live in Kirklees, and put the value of the people before unnecessary schemes."
- "Better connected bus services for the villages collecting around key outlying villages....which even those within the 3 miles could use if they have to pay a subsidised fare."
- "I believe that it is important to support those who need support. However, home to home transport must only be used if no other forms of support is possible. I believe regardless of financial income that young people need to understand that in life things cost. Everything today has a financial impact."
- "Save money by making road repairs more efficient - i.e. quicker so not paying out more costs for generators, temporary traffic lights etc."
- "I should have known about this years ago, then my child might be more independent. But I didn't so am in a difficult position now where she won't travel or do anything much on her own."
- "Better training for the staff would be appreciated as they have little or no knowledge of driving regulations in regards to transporting wheelchairs. They have little knowledge of safety with ramps and tail lifts and also with how to strap down wheelchairs safely. The staff are all very happy, helpful and nice but they would benefit from the training. Better organisation of routes so that children are not on the buses for so long would help too. Some of the parents of the children could be persuaded to work directly for the council and trained as escorts and drivers on council bought buses. Some outlay initially but cheaper in the long run than farming out the contracts each year to unreliable companies."
- "being informed when things change would help alot"
- "My family are not eligible to receive support, however I am answering this questionnaire with friends who live at other locations in the area. There are very few secondary school choices in our area and for many, these schools are not easily accessible - definitely not within walking distance. To remove the opportunity for free bus passes restricts their access further and prevents free choice. Choice of school will be based on financial necessity not based on the most appropriate/best fit school for their child's needs."
- "I agree that the council needs to be very prudent with the use of public money but this proposed change will only save money if parents exercise their right to chose the best school for their child rather than the nearest school. If they are financially forced to choose their nearest school they will still receive a free bus pass, meaning no saving for the council. Therefore the savings will only be made if parental choice is curtailed which is not in the best interests of the children who should be our priority."
- "I object to the proposal to remove free bus passes for students who live over three miles away but have a school closer to where they live. The proposals limit parental choice and will force low income families to chose a school based on their financial position rather than which school best suits their child's needs."
- "In areas such as Holmfirth and Meltham the nearest school is not necessarily within easy reach and a bus is the only way for the children to attend. Some children have to walk on dark, unlit roads without pavements as it is to reach the nearest bus stop. You need to think about the safety of our children before the £'sss."

- "Issue passes to children over 3 miles away from their catchment school, but only issue passes to children that choose another non catchment school if they are over 3 miles away from it AND had entitlement to a pass to ""their catchment school"". BUT THIS MUST NOT TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE CHILDS SAFETY/SAFETY OF THE ROUTE..... SAFEGUARDING IS PARAMOUNT! WALKING ROUTES MUST BE ""SHOW TO BE SAFE"" - WELL LIT, 30MPH OR LESS , A PAVEMENT NEEDS TO BE AVAILABLE FOR THE FULL ROUTE AND THE ROUTE MUST BE ACTUALLY PHYSICALLY LOOKED AT WITH REGARDS TO A CHILD DOING IT DAY IN DAY OUT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION WEATHER, GRADIENTS, DURATION OF WALK ETC."
- "I think each case should be looked at independently. My son couldnt have attended school if it wasn't for school transport . It was miles away and would have taken all day had I had to take him on public transport . At the time I also had a much younger child who needed to be at school and needed obviously taking . It was a very stressful time for me and I was grateful for the school transport . My relatives were not helpful so I had 2 children who needed to be at two different schools for 9am . When my son was at his middle school I knew of a parent who insisted on her son using school transport whilst she followed behind the mini bus in her car to take her other son to the same school . This annoyed me greatly because it was a total waste of time and money and she was only allowed to do this because she was a very challenging person if someone told her ""no ""."
- "Continue to support families in enabling them to have a choice about the school that their child attends without causing undue pressure and stress, especially low income families."
- "Help single parent families who yes just make it past the threshold for maximum working tax but only just make ends meet but working all the hours under the sun"
- "all children that lives a distance from school where they are unable to walk or cycle safely should be given travel passes. for safety and independence."
- "This problem has only arisen for our family because of a long standing lack of provision of co-educational schools in our area. If the council had quality co-educational schools in Batley then we would not have needed to send our children over 3 miles away to be educated. The problems are far deeper than whether the LA provide a bus pass - they are historic issues about school provision, impacting upon the school transport budget. So, one idea is for the Council to get the educational provision sorted out .. however, I suspect that it is probably cheaper for the council to continue paying for bus passes rather than make some actual change and set up, run and manage a successful co-ed school in the Batley area. If the free bus pass is taken away, our family will have been hit twice - once by a lack of local school provision and then by the cost of £30 p.w to send our children to a school where brother and sister can be educated side by side."
- "Reduce the number of staff in administration. Have better trained escort on transport who can meet the children's needs on the mini bus. Have spot checks to identify problems. Stop discrimination of disabled children."
- "Ask for donations towards the cost of transport"
- "my sons transport is necessary. We used to get the bus to a mainstream school and he was bullied by the other children when he didn't speak or respond due to his autism and severe learning difficulties. The care he is given in Orchard View and YPAT are very far away from where we live so we need transport to these places."
- "it is about looking at individual circumstances. families with additional needs have complex lives and it is not always easy to apply a set of eligibility rules. Whatever eligibility criteria is applied there should be a option to make a discretionary case. Look at the whole family dynamics."
- "I will need to be applying for transport for my daughter from Sept- without this service my daughter will not be able to access the best school to meet her needs. As a parent i

am unable to bring her myself- the service is a live line and the only line my daughter has to go to the right school for her."

- "Children who are not disabled and able to make their own way to school should be supported to do so"
- "more funding for people to make their own way to places, central govt could sort out their pip mess so people have mobility cars & are able to become productive individuals, standard independent travel training for all children who are able alongside organised travel arrangements. if people are unable to be fully independent please accept it."
- "Disabled children are very vulnerable and its not their choice they need to go to a school that isn't near. They have different needs eg they are not the same as kid who can just catch a bus."
- "The buses will be running anyway, irregardless of what type of pass or ticket a school student has."
- "It should be clear that if a school is named in the EHCP then this is the most suitable school for my child. There should not be an issue about transport if the school is named. There might be nearer schools but if SENACT agree and a different school is chosen then transport should be supplied."
- "Work on making roads and footpaths safer for pedestrians and cyclists to use, especially on routes to schools and other local facilities."
- "A more adequate bus service from meltham to Holmfirth would negate the need for a specialist bus service for fare paying children"
- "It is a legal requirement for children to attend school. By charging to get the bus, some children will not attend school. Either make it free fo all students or everyone pays regardless of distance/safety unless on low incomes/receive benefits/assistance for special needs. I appreciate the restraints on funding in the council, so the balance between ensuring parents can stay in work and pay taxes versus council savings versus children attending school to receive their education needs as well as being safe to be considered in this process. The current system is unfair and biased and discriminatory. It needs to be changed."
- "I think that bus passes for secondary aged children should be means tested - regardless of distance from school. Some families within the 3 mile radius struggle paying for bus passes and I think a walk over a mile is too long for many, especially given the state of local roads and pavements along with the weather."
- "There is nothing on application forms for personal information to the parent/carer stipulating the reasons of choice, not every special or extra educational needs gets statements to support that child & parents have to research & make educational plans /school moves best for their children. Any support for travel is gratefully received but to receive nothing seems that the council are not committed to helping people live a better life or support the best educational school for the child applied for assistance in getting to school. As I am currently struggling experiencing the failure of the free bus/ funding services to support my child. We do not like to seek help it is a last resort not unlike having to goto the food banks in these circumstances for the welfare & best interests of our children."
- "Stand up to central government and get the funds you need. Enough of this austerity!"
- "I feel as a tax payer this funding should be carefully looked at and reassessed. Families with children who are disabled get DLA and this is for things such as transport and this is what it should be used for and nothing else. The money they receive; free; is plenty enough to help them do this and more. Its about time some parents realise that it is not anyone's fault that their child is disabled and that they have to manage the money they receive in a better way as we all have to do and not expect other people in society to pay."
- "children who are able to make way to school should and financial help to those on low income families should be provided"

- "Make sure denby dale has a bus service that gets our children safely to scissett middle and back that is not 1hour and a half early or is full before it gets in to the village and therefore the bus is then so full it is dangerous. We ware more than happy to pay for a service but this year the service was taken away and no answers to why"
- "Encourage partnerships to raise revenue in the local economy eg the retailers in our town centres to plan their own activities in line with big events. Global Diversity café should have late night openings when there are Hudds Town Hall events and partner with them for promotions together of each other. Dewsbury minster should adopt the Dewsbury town centre Christmas light switch on in conjunction with outdoor carols and stall holders selling Christmas produce in the minster. Hudds to take advantage of the vibrancy and £ of our student population (embrace them) and make the U of H hold it's graduation in the town hall again so graduates can invite more than 1 guest."
- "Safe School transport in my opinion is essential. Taking Free transport from children who attend their local school may encourage absenteeism, also may mean some children taking unsafe routes to school putting them in danger. We need to invest in our young people and not make their lives more difficult."
- "I would be happy to make any suggestions I may have, but without knowing specifically what your proposal is I can't do this. I have found this consultation very strange."
- "As a kirklees council worker I understand the financial pressures it faces but helping children to attend School in a safe and financially assisted way I think isn't a choice but very much needed. I rely on the bus service for my daughter and the free pass is a real help. I am disabled so can only work part time and therefore have limited income so understand how hard it must be for some families. I am lucky as we should still qualify as she lives more than 3 miles from her local school. I do think it's hard from the information you have provided to work out which families will be affected? Don't make school attendance more difficult for struggling families."
- "Keep free school transport. Reduce use of empty double deck buses during off peak times."
- "If one child's parents have to pay then all parents should have to pay unless your on a low income or benefits."
- "School Buses can be over crowded"
- "My child's bus pass is a necessity for me and it is an essential service which I depend on."
- "Buddy system or shared transport arrangement with local families or fellow pupils."
- "You must continue to provide free bus passes for all those currently eligible.It will NOT mean those pupils will go to their nearest school, it will simply me more private transport to enable pupils to go to their preferred school , and ultimately more cars on the road as a result."
- "Free school transport should be open to ALL children to safely get to and from school irrespective of income. Free school transport ie buses should be universally free for school age children who need it."
- "Terrible wording and unclear questionnaire. Results will be badly skewed based on the users interpretation of the questions."
- "If you insist on making all children pay then the cost should be lower"
- "Please continue to provide transport passes for our children based on their, and their family's, needs. Some of our children travel in from outside our catchment area to access the range of services we offer at this school, many of which are not available at schools closer to their home."
- "Sorry, but don't believe this is the Council's aim. As long as there is a welfare state that acts as a lifestyle choice for those who didn't value the excellent education opportunities available in this country; whilst not supporting those who suddenly find themselves falling on hard times; there is little chance of people being willing or able to be independent."

- "Parents who are able, could take their child to a central pick up/drop off point to travel to and from school. This would save time and money and cut down the child's traveling time and shorten their school day, which can often start at 7.15am until 4.30pm."
- "cycle routes, safety for bikes at school."
- "I think the Council should prioritise who is entitled to receive free transport. For those who are vulnerable and there is no other way/ or it is difficult in transporting a pupil to school, these are the people who should remain eligible for transport. The Council should support those who need it most."
- "Would it be possible to means test so that people who can afford to pay do so? There must be many thousands of pounds to be saved by not funding travel for those who have the income to pay their way."
- "Ask the schools to provide further training for drivers around pupils who display SEMH needs to help them understand that the journey is a difficult time for the child as well as them."
- "I think you should have mentioned what figure you spend pa on giving free transportation to children beyond the boundary, then we'd know the scale of the problem. I don't know anyone who gets free transport."
- "Put more money into useful things like school transport rather than people hiding in corners catching people dropping litter."
- "The existing school bus system seems to be the most efficient way of transporting children to school. If the buses were not full we could suggest reducing the number of buses, but this is not feasible because they appear to be full."
- "The free home / school transport enables my child to build up relationships with other children and adults in a social situation. As he attends a specialist school this is an invaluable service"
- "How about the same small charge for everyone for each journey instead of some paying and some not?"
- "Continue providing free school bus passes to children who live 3 miles or more from their school."
- "Is the provision of transport to Children from low income families a statutory requirement ? Why is free transport provided when they live 2 miles away from school when everyone else has to be at least 3 miles away, before distance is seen as an issue ? How is this fair to all children, how does it relate to low-income working households ?"
- "Children with Autism etc should be able to access travel training - it makes them independent and have a sense of self-worth and achievement. Otherwise they would be even more anxious all the time. it can help them to grow up."
- "Meltham has three primary schools and a growing population, due to the number of new houses being built. A new high school for the area would reduce the need for so many children to be bussed out every day."
- "I feel it's extremely important that vulnerable children and young people are transported safely until they have reached a level of maturity and understanding to know how to keep themselves safe whilst traveling independently this is where schools and collages do there best work whilst being supported by the home school transport that is in place to keep them safe so they can learn this basic skill in a safe environment"
- "Allowing children (who live too far away from school to walk there) to travel independently to and back from school is an invaluable resource. It ensures that families can go to work knowing their children can get to and back from school safely. The bus journey also teaches them invaluable life skills needed to become positive active members of society. I think that if all U18s in education had a free bus pass we would be able to take huge amount of car journeys off the road & it would produce much more rounded, resilient and mindful young people who think for themselves instead of relying on others. It would be a fantastic investment by the council and show that Kirklees has faith in its young people and wants to invest in their futures."

- "Hmmm, difficult when less money after yet more cuts!? Volunteers?? Safe passage of children and education should be high on your agenda"
- "stop spending money on stupid schemes and concentrate on the core issues ,young people are the next generation of voters who will remember things like this ."
- "To be honest I'm not sure this country has gone to the dogs . I feel we have no hope for the future tax payers of this world ."
- "Perhaps any child who is already receiving help should carry on with receiving? Parents can then make a decision on what school their next child attends knowing that they won't be receiving help. Don't punish the ones already in receipt of this help. Look at the reasons as to WHY the nearest school (3 miles away +) is not acceptable to attend. My son is in year 6 and we don't wish for him to go to colne valley because the same kids who attacked my daughter are still there and will do the same to him. I've seen taxi's pick up kids from Marsden, I believe this is funded but I don't know why. If it's due to disabilities then fair enough."
- "Perhaps ask for a one off amount to be paid by all parents at the start of the school year?"
- "You need to go back to when ANY child that lives further than 3 miles away from the school gets a free bus pass as you are DISCRIMINATING those families"
- "I would say one positive would be to stop reducing services aimed at the poorest and/or most vulnerable in society. Instead have a top down overhaul of any council staff on a salary over £50000 and see exactly what they do for the money they are paid. Look at the management structure of each department and try to reduce the layers and layers of management staff."
- "As a parent of child with severe disabilities I don't have the luxury of sending my child to the local primary or secondary school like her other siblings. I don't have a choice as to where my child goes to school, she cant use public transport or walk to school independently so I need support in order that she can get to school and I can get to work. I'm not lazy and cant be bothered to walk her there or take her in the car, my job simply wont allow me to do this. There are no breakfast or after school clubs and i don't have the luxury of sending her to another parents house as the type of support she requires is very specialized. I'm happy to pay the same amount of bus fair that any independent young adult pays to get to a middle or high school on a daily basis, but anything over and above this would, in my opinion, be very unfair."
- "I think the council should give/pay the parent or carer the cost of the journey (weekly) for travel by the most economical public transport matter and then the parent / carer makes the arrangements. The council should not provide extra or different options unless the young person is not able to travel by a particular mode"
- "There are health benefits to be gained from children walking and/or bus riding to and from school."
- "Any changes made should only start at the beginning of the school year. The new rules could be ameliorated by allowing free travel to any child whose parents are in receipt of income benefit and go to the nearest school that meets the other Council criteria for placement."
- "Walking buses would save money and provide exercise."
- "Stop wasting money on unnecessary things ! It's SO easy when it's not your money ! Recycle your materials through all your departments instead of throwing away."
- "May be providing some sort of help in learning driving lessons and helping people on low income support to buy cars on lease. Or may be introducing training programs to help those who are able to learn to become independent. Also checking use of funds in order to determine if it's not misused."
- "small coaches/buses to take children to school/home would be more cost effective than taxi rides unless there is a discount built into the cost."
- "Cut high managers wages or annual bonus for them. Means tested help to contribute perhaps, but not for low income families"

- "Instead of simply removing the free pass, would it be more beneficial to replace the free pass with a heavily subsidised pass instead?"
- "Escorts would be valuable to support my child SEMH needs during travel Taxis need to have consistent drivers in order to support SEN"
- "As far I my self and my wife are concerned, the system works fine"
- "I am a parent that travel from Mount pleasant in Batley to Carlinghow Hill in Batley, every day to drop off my child to school. The situation could be improved if we were allocated a car park in the grass space opposite the school, which presently belongs to Batley Boys High school. At the moment there is also an order from the council stating that parents will be unable to park on the hill outside the school, or alongside Chinewood avenue or at the bottom of Bradford road to drop off their children to school. This will make it much harder for parents to take their children to school if they can't find anywhere close to the school to park or drop of their children. It is also a matter of safety and safeguarding for children because these rules will put children in harms way and make it more dangerous for kids to be crossing dangerous roads whilst trying to get to school on a morning. The children who go to the school are aged from 4-11. KIRKLESS Council would be better operating the road into a one way system during school times. It has been done before and would be more safe."
- "Please do not put restrictions on children and their education options. Thank you."
- "Speed up the school transport referral system which takes so long it prevents pupils from accessing their school whilst they wait for it to be arranged."
- "Look for areas to reduce spending that will not have a negative impact on the lives of children for years to come. These proposals will force poorer families to send their child to the closest school, which may not be as good for their child's particular needs. You are closing off choice in education, and only allowing better-off families to choose the best schools for their children. There are other areas in which the council can reduce spending that will not ruin the futures of working class children."
- "To get rid of or to remove children from the mini bus would be an absolutely stupid idea because as parents of a child with autism we spend so much time trying to help our child to become confident and happy and to be as calm as possible, this is also what the school does, if these children were to then be put on the regular school bus it would mean that the children would be turning up to school upset and distressed. Also there is always the chance that there is going to be other children on the bus that will not understand a child with autism which then poses the risk of bullying which is going to be extremely damaging for these children."
- "I am the parent of a soon to be post 16 child i find the prospect of the lack of transport for him very worrying as he is not able to cope with this lack of transport. I have spent many years trying to get my autistic child to travel calmly and with less worry but for my child to travel on public transport because he is open to suggestion and suffers with tourettes and with this comes tics that look as if he is masturbating."
- "I do not feel that the current free transport for children with disabilities should be taken away. I personally believe that such a change would put a majority of the eligible children at risk, especially when public transport would require more than one bus to either get to school or home."
- "Reducing the cost of Home to school transport making it reasonable amount to working class families"
- "Ensure children are allocated a schooling place nearest to where they live which will encourage walking to and from school. Use of traffic wardens daily near highly congested schools to reduce the risk of an accident waiting to happen"
- "Possible asking for some monetary contribution from families receiving transport. Seeing if their are parents who could provide a vetted car share scheme to bring other children to school."
- "Continue to provide home to school transport giving disabled children opportunities to attend education and to do something without parental support (otherwise they become

so reliant on you and this increases anxiety when you're not there). My son has epilepsy so travelling fully independently is very difficult. He is also multi-sensory impaired so is completely unsafe near roads. I know a family whose son with similar needs was knocked down and killed outside his own house, crossing the road to the bus stop.

These individual needs have to be taken into account and it is not assumed that everyone can do travel training. As a parent I am not happy about my son accessing public transport on his own because of the attitude of the public to vulnerable people who look different - they are target for physical abuse which often ends up on social media."

- "My child is still delayed and he might be able to be independent but this is a long term thing and it might take a long time. He's not mature the same way as other 16 year olds."
- "Not providing an escort so I have to do it, means that I am not independent. So this should be addressed. Parents should not be in this position."
- "I find this a worrying proposal, any child living where we do in a rural village has to use school transport as there is no way of travelling independently anyway The proposal is unclear as to exactly what it is proposed to change therefore it is hard to comment on the impact"
- "- Lack of understanding of Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs from school transport colleagues and taxi drivers. Behaviour is the communication of underlying SEMH need and these highly vulnerable SEN pupils need understanding of this via: - Routine - timings - consistency drivers - following school advice - working with families - Individual case by case decision on whether an escort is required, rather than blanket no"
- "I am worried about who will assess if children are ""DEEMED "" eligible because of their special education need. There is currently a lack of understanding when it comes to the needs of SEMH pupils as their disability is not visible and quite often they can be penalised for this. We also do not get given the options of escorts which would be a useful resource especially with our younger pupils."
- "Sadly my son won't ever be able to travel independently being completely deaf, non verbal, severely vision impaired, restricted balance and mobility and a limited understanding of the world around him. However, for more able children, I have heard about travel training. However I believe parents need to be convinced of the value and viability of this as they are (rightly) very protective of their children and young people so it is a massive step. So perhaps some training and workshops for parents around the travel training, and maybe getting them to try the training out to see how it works."
- "There's various ways the council could cut costs. They should look to how much paper they use simple things like that I'm sure there's plenty of savings that could be made."
- "Keep bus passes for children who need them. The safety of our children getting to school for their entitled education should be what matters most!! You can't expect a child to walk over 3 miles a day to get to school. They also shouldn't have the choice of school taken away from them because a bus pass is unaffordable. I am a teacher but would still find the cost of a bus pass costly to get to a school that is over 3 miles away!"
- "The school bus takes an incredibly convoluted route to get to Holmfirth high - going right past Honley High. I'm guessing the route could be altered more, smaller, units used. At the moment, when the bus breaks down, a great number of kids are affected. The alternative is to make the school day start earlier so kids can be dropped off earlier."
- "I fully understand the shortage of resources in this and other Council areas. It is very difficult to pitch people's needs one against the other and say who should be funded and who not. I sympathise fully with the lack of funds forthcoming from central government. My suggestion would always be to try to remove middle/senior management as much as possible and concentrate on front line services although I realise this is difficult to do. I have worked for the Council recently and was still surprised to find more middle managers than I might have expected in these times. I understand there is a no compulsory redundancies policy but I think perhaps people could be moved to other areas of the Council or deployed in less senior roles, possibly on a TUPE type

arrangement. On the other hand my experience of the Council is limited to one department, I might be talking rubbish!"

- "Children who catch a bus to school are already being independent. Making them pay to make the same journey does not enhance their independence. Where families are in the position where there are no schools within three miles, there should perhaps be no distinction made between them in terms of catchment school. This allows families to continue to make a choice on what is indeed the most suitable school for their child, to use Kirklees' terminology rather than a choice based on finances. In this unique situation of location no money will be saved as families will simply send their children to the catchment school where they will still qualify for a free pass. Parents could offer to make a small contribution per year of £50 towards a bus pass, even though all schools are over three miles away."
- "I can only speak from my own experience. I do appreciate that there is limited funding, I do not object to making a contribution to my child's post 16 transport which I am doing now because it has enabled her to access an appropriate college. I would be prepared to pay a bit more because this college has helped her so much that she is settled and this has defiantly made her much calmer and easier to manage at home. I could not afford to pay full cost of her transport but I do not need respite care now she is in an appropriate educational setting. It is an over simplification to look at each service in isolation as reducing access to one (transport) could increase need to access another (respite). Each case needs to be taken on individual merits especially with children and young people who have complex needs as a parent I know I provide round the clock care for my daughter and losing transport to appropriate educational setting would result in my daughters anxiety becoming more than I could cope with."
- "Restricting the choice of local school is going to adversely affect children's education, lead to overcrowding of certain schools and penalises single income families like mine unfairly. It is an outrageous proposal and should not be granted."
- "by making sure you get value for money when paying the taxi firms for their time to do home to school transport. By not giving out free bus passes out to people who live 3 miles from school if there is a school bus that covers that route unless they are on a low income."
- "Although my daughter uses a taxi to college now, I took her to school when she was at school because it was a simple journey for me to do and did not involve waiting around for taxis which was not convenient with the other one to take to school. Then she started at the same school so it made sense to do this - the journey was not long in a car although complex otherwise (2 buses). More parents should consider this if it works for them - a sensitive conversation should be had. Travel training is a good idea so that travel to college might be possible. Most college are in a central location and only involve 1 bus journey which is a more achievable journey than one involving 2 buses or trains as well. However, travel training can take a long time and needs to be done considering the needs of the child. It could take a year or more for some or just a few weeks for others. Parents are put off trying it because they fear that once it has been done there will be no further offer of transport even though the only journey the child has completed is a simple local one and not the type of journey that might be required to travel to college. Also some children are not ready and need the support for longer and it should be available as it is a good step towards independence but needs to be handled according to the child's needs. On a separate note I don't think the council should be subsidising the yellow buses which take children from Almondbury to Rowley lane. There are 2 schools locally taking children from 3 to 11 and there is no need for these buses as there are at least 2 local suitable schools. Is it proposed that these be cancelled? If so it seems a good idea to me. If you want your child to go to that school then you've made the choice to go out of catchment so you need to get them there. Similar issues apply to the Kirkburton Middle bus and the Shelley Bus which both pick up children from Almondbury even though there are 2 high schools in the village. What do

you charge these children? I found it quite annoying that those children got transport provided (at what was presumably a vastly reduced cost?) when no child who attends Honley was allowed to use the bus to transport them to the top of Station Road/Northgate which would have therefore meant a public transport option. It is not very consistent to sometimes provide buses where no usual route exists, to take children to out of catchment schools but not other children in out of catchment schools. Maybe you should commission some more buses and charge for them and you might make some money! On the question of taking away free buses where the law does not require it, this might mean you taking passes off children who might otherwise not attend school at all, if parents don't give them the money they can't catch the bus, this could be a rather short-sighted policy. You also need to consider how funding works for those attending alternative provision - if you are thinking of taking this away you aren't going to get any attendance! There is a lack of understanding in school transport that being unable to travel because of SEN or disability includes children who cannot travel due to significant anxiety or lack of awareness of danger (including being easily led so that they might go off with any stranger who chatted to them). They may have an ASD or mental health diagnosis and this is just as important as those who cannot travel due to being in a wheelchair. You should also give schools some support if they wish to arrange their own transport options if some of their students have no pass in future. For many parents the issue is not that the transport is free but that it exists at all - they would be happy to pay in many cases."

- "If charges have to be made then a subsidy for the pass. Encouraging use of bus transport should be maintained rather than encouraging shared car transport as it is more efficient."
- "PCAN listened to over 100 parents through different methods and provided the ability for some to complete paper copies with us, or online ones at the time - others completed the surveys themselves at home. We spoke to people on the phone and commented to others on Facebook as well as holding many face to face events over the last 6 weeks. We have some general comments on the survey: 1. It was very unclear to parents of children with additional needs what the changes were going to be and therefore they often felt it difficult to comment. 2. Those with low incomes found it extremely difficult to understand what was listed on the front page of the survey as the additional criteria for low income families. It was incredibly hard to work out if they would be affected. Some of these people had difficulties with reading/understanding written information and/or learning disability. It meant they did not feel able to comment effectively. Those who used the easy read version did not get the question about what they thought of the proposal so could not say it was a bad idea. Regarding these low incomes - how much will the additional process cost to determine eligibility? Will the cost in hours and paperwork outweighs any savings? 3. PCAN would like to point out that the question of "nearest suitable school" is a question of fact not the council's opinion. It is whatever the law decides is suitable based on the facts. We are concerned because we had one parent state that, despite the child's EHCP stating a given school, that the transport department waste time and resources writing to the 3 nearest schools to double check they would not be able to meet the child's needs. Avoiding this would seem an obvious way of saving money. If the EHCP states a school and SENACT have agreed it, why is this happening? 4. PCAN would also like to point out that it is a question of fact whether by reason of the child's SEN they cannot be expected to travel to school, not the council's opinion. The Statutory Guidance on this topic talks of health and safety issues which is clearly relevant here too although not mentioned. Our other comments are: 5. We have come across some parents who do not get transport when it would seem their children fulfil the legal requirements. If there is a mobility issue then whether or not there is an EHCP, the child can qualify - this is clear in the Guidance and in the law where mobility and SEN/disability are listed as 2 separate things yet we found one case where transport was never offered. 6. PCAN came across significant issues where transport do not seem to believe that SEMH is a SEN or disability issue which it is.

These students were definitely treated differently when it came to qualifying for transport with parents prevailed upon to take children to school in circumstances where if that child has a different disability they would not have been. 7. We had one parent comment that she thought it would be cheaper for the council to take her other children to school so that she could take her disabled child. It would work out cheaper as the local school was much closer (and she would pay the cost of taking her disabled child). We understand that in some cases free bus passes have been given in cases like this where the law does not state that the child is entitled (because the pass was given to the child without SEN/disability). We would strongly urge the council to consider such options as overall the cost would be less for the council and the parents happier. 8. One person (living in a rural area) stated that IF the child was no longer entitled to free transport, the parent would be prepared to pay for transport to be provided (e.g. pay to use a school bus where boarding cards are the norm) because there was no obvious public transport option for their child. For some parents the fact that there is a transport option is more important than the fact it is free. 9. However most parents commented along the lines of ""We can't see a different option for getting our child to school which doesn't involve me giving up work."" 10. PCAN supports the concept of travel training as it is an important life skill. However the experience of those parents who have recently been offered it was not encouraging. The course was not long enough and there was little understanding of the needs of some of the children. Most special schools and RP units are not one bus ride away for most people and such journeys are often more than would be expected of a child of a similar age who did not have SEN. One parent told us that the children seemed to have been chosen on the basis of who had the most expensive transport not who was likely to succeed at travel training and had a simpler journey. It was not driven by the needs of the child but the needs of school transport. Parents felt very strongly that their children were vulnerable to abuse on buses and were suggestible and could easily be preyed upon. 11. There were a few comments made that the council should not be targeting disabled children and their families in an attempt to save money."

- "Travel training for Children with additional needs who do not use school transport would be essential to preventing these children needing transport in the future. For example my daughter can make her own way to school presently (she walks with either me or a group of friends) however if she needed to move schools due to her autism or when she leaves school and goes to college she will need transport as she is not capable of catching a bus alone. she will not ask for help of people she doesn't know and would struggle with where to get on and off the bus in time. however with proper training (which she will not accept from me) she probably could manage it in the future. This is true for a lot of children who attend the local mainstream school but have special needs."
- "Put a petition forward to the government for more funding as cutting transport for children will make it very hard for people to cope especially if they are working. It is a tough job looking after a special needs child and this is making it even harder for parents to cope with."
- "Increase and open more volunteer positions for the people to give help in terms of driving busses. By doing this it will reduce the amount of drivers salaries."
- "IF this is the case then the service needs to be evaluated in a manner that truly reflects and differentiates users with their capabilities to travel in a safe manner and environment - those that can be transported independently may require an escort on the bus/train route to remain safe in all aspects/areas - do the council/government realise this could be a serious loss of life!"
- "I have an autistic son at Honley Provisions when he is 16 he will leave but even if via travel training done by ourselves he is not able to access public transport to facilitate an equal playing field. Post 16 he will need a taxi/minibus to Taylor Hill further education"
- "My child has to be picked up very early because there are children from Dewsbury and Batley and Huddersfield. I feel it would be better if each area had its own taxi. He gets home late and has to rush to get ready for mosque. It is a very long day 7.25-4.25"

- "The taxi is a very safe place where I feel comfortable going every morning and at the end of the day. The disadvantages are that I would prefer not coming in the taxi very early in the morning. I would also want the taxi to pick me up a bit later after school due to GCSE catch up time. If I do make my own way it is harder and takes more time"
- "I do find it very helpful but sometimes my current taxi previously would come about 15 mins earlier than the last time, so I wouldn't be fully ready. Or would come 20 mins late this means I Have to miss lessons. But quite a lot of the time to does arrive on time. I do find it a quick way of getting to school I get to be with older students from the same school, which I prefer because previously I was in a taxi with 8 people I only knew 1 person as the others were from Lydgate"
- "My place on the taxi is just fine. If I didn't have a place \I wouldn't be able to get to school on time, the taxi is alright"
- "Getting the taxi is a good thing. The journey takes a long time, over 1.5 hours. It would be better if it was shorter"
- "Reduce the number of councillors in the Kirklees area as 69 in the Kirklees area are too many"
- "Fundraisers Local company to sponsor"

Freeformat response received

Subject: CONSULTATION RESPONSE FROM MELTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FROM MELTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Thank you for your e-mail of the 12 October enclosing links to the two consultations, Short breaks, Social Care Transport and Access Fund Consultation and Home to School Transport Consultation, with a deadline to respond to both of the 22 October.

As you know the Town Council were not informed about the above consultations and were only eventually contacted when I raised the issue with Kirklees Council.

Fortunately, the Town Council were able to consider the Home to School Consultation by calling an urgent extra ordinary council meeting on Monday 16th October as a parent had already altered the Town Council to the consultation a few days previously. As a result of that meeting the Council resolved that I should write to Kirklees Council and the relevant cabinet member to set out the concerns the Town Council have regarding the proposals.

Firstly, the Council understands that Meltham residents are in a unique position in having no available school within 3 miles. The position in Meltham has always been that parents could choose one of several schools for their children to attend. However historically significant numbers of children have attended both Honley and Holmfirth High Schools which are both approximately the same distance from Meltham. However, the Town Council understands that Kirklees Council have informed some parents that Honley High School is the official catchment school for Meltham children. The Town Council requests clarification that this is indeed the case. Assuming that this is the position the Town Council understands that the proposal is that if parents choose a non-catchment school, for example Holmfirth High School, their child will not be entitled to a free bus pass even though they live over 3 miles away from the school and even if they would have an entitlement to a pass to get to Honley High School.

The Town Council would ask Kirklees Council to consider the impact of the proposals on Meltham residents who are specifically affected as a community due to the geographic position, being about 3 miles from both Honley and Holmfirth High Schools. The removal of entitlement to the pass specifically disadvantages Meltham as a community and places an unfair increased financial burden on Meltham parents who choose to send their children to Holmfirth often for good reason such as having a sibling already in the school.

If parents are forced into the position on costs grounds of not sending their children to Holmfirth High School they will be sending them to Honley High School and will the Council understands be entitled to a free pass which could result in the Principal Council not realising any monetary savings whilst causing distress and disruption to Meltham parents, their children and the two schools. The Town Council also understands that Honley High school will soon be at full capacity and therefore, Holmfirth High School must remain a financial viable option for parents.

Due to the unique circumstances set out above the Town Council requests that Kirklees Council accept that in the case of Meltham children both Honley High School and Holmfirth High School should be accepted as 'nearest suitable schools' and that the entitlement to a free pass should remain in place for both schools.

The Town Council would also urge Kirklees Council to have regard to the part of the consultation that refers to funding free home-to-school transport for 'children who have no safe walking route'. The Town Council are of the opinion that the roads to both Honley and Holmfirth are wholly unsuitable for children to walk along. In places there are no pavements, no lighting, and there are high speed limits. It is suggested these roads are clearly not safe for children as young as 11 to have to walk along at 7.00 am in the morning or 4.00 pm in the afternoon particularly in the winter months when it will be dark. The Town Council would be grateful for Kirklees Council's view as to whether there is a safe walking route for Meltham children to both Honley and Holmfirth High Schools.

The Town Council are also concerned about the terminology used in the consultation which appears inconsistent. The consultation makes reference variously to 'suitable', 'catchment' and 'nearest'. In particular the consultation refers to the 'nearest suitable school' and Councillors seek clarification from Kirklees Council as to what exactly is meant by the phrase 'nearest suitable school'. The Town Council believes that Kirklees Council should improve the wording in the consultation to provide clarity and provide interested parties with more time to respond to the revised consultation exercise.

Lastly it was noted at the Council meeting that Kirklees Council appear to have only communicated with parents of children who already had bus passes so parents whose children were going to high school for the first time will not have had the information to inform the choice of schools that they made.

I look forward to receiving a response from the Council on the above issues.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Chard
Clerk to the Council