

Appendix 1

Home to School/College Transport Consultation 2017: results and analysis

Background

Currently 595 children are accessing transport or receive a bus pass.

In the last year the budget for this provision - home to school/college transport was overspent by £X. In order to bring the levels of overspend back in line with budgeted costs, it has become necessary to make changes to the provision and delivery of these services.

A number of possible options to help reduce expenditure were proposed as follows:

- Withdrawal of the provision of transport to students over the age of 19 years old.
- The removal of transport to specialist nursery provision.
- Increase the cost of privilege places from £495 to £750.
- The introduction of contributions to home to school transport for those in post-16 education. (3 different options)

In order to understand how these options may affect the current service users a consultation was launched. Although mainly targeted at families using these services, the consultation was open to all Portsmouth residents should they wish to participate.

Prior to the consultation launching, the co-production group engaged into preliminary conversations around the topic. A detailed consultation questionnaire was developed and the consultation ran from Monday 9th January - Monday 20th March 2017. The education team ensured that all interested parties were invited to comment (i.e. parents currently accessing the service, interested parties/suppliers), as well as being available on the PCC website. There was also some promotion via the citizens' panel.

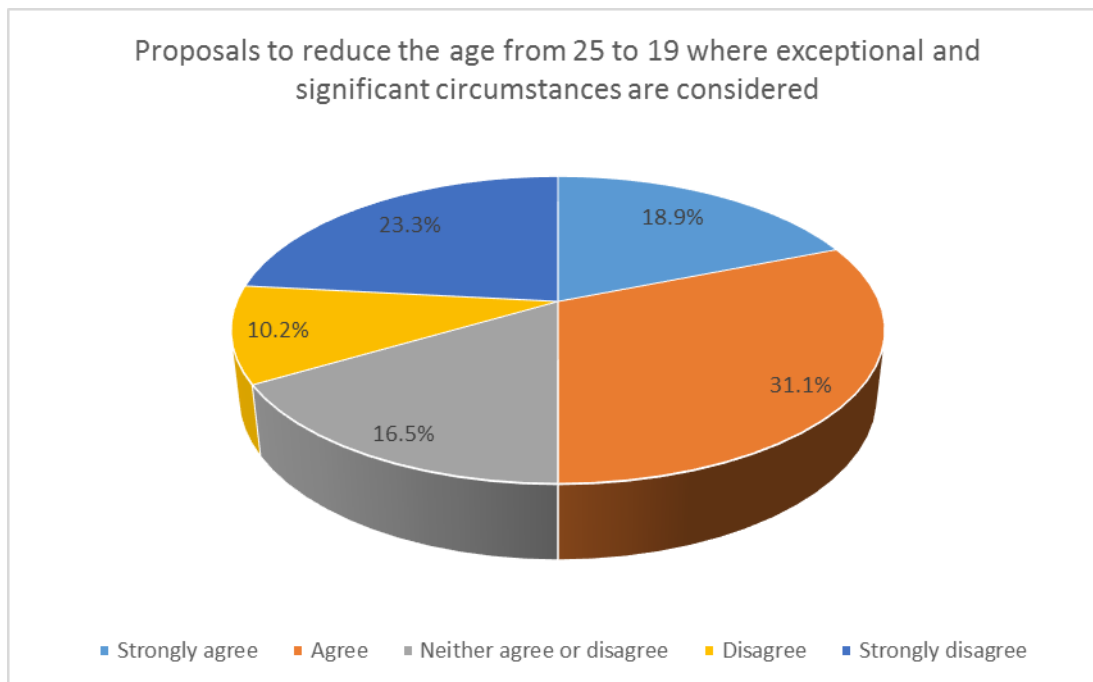
In total 210 individuals participated. The majority were completed via the electronic link, while 6 paper copies were submitted by the deadline.

The confidence level of this sample is 90% based on a response rate of 210. This is the probability that the sample accurately reflects the attitudes of the entire universe.

Key Findings

- Fifty percent of those who responded agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal to reduce the age from 25 to 19 where exceptional and significant circumstances are considered to access home to school/college transport.
- Fifty-one percent of those who responded disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal to stop nursery transport.
- More respondents agreed (44%) than disagreed (34%) with the proposal to increase the cost of privilege places to £750.
- Fifty-seven percent of respondents indicated that their preference would be the introduction of a two tier system - where those currently on low income would contribute £495 and those that did not meet the criteria would pay £600, over the other two options suggested.
- Responses to the change in points remains inconclusive, in that 40% of respondents indicated that they did not know.
- Comments made generally show the lack of understanding people have about council budgets and the allocation of funding.
- For the most part the consultation supports the adoption of all proposals but the cessation of nursery transport. However, although the removal of nursery transport is not fully supported - alternative proposals have not been forthcoming. Therefore without viable alternatives, adoption of this proposal is possible with proper supporting and transparent communication. Consideration should also be considered for how it might be introduced, i.e. staggered introduction to lessen the impact.

Results



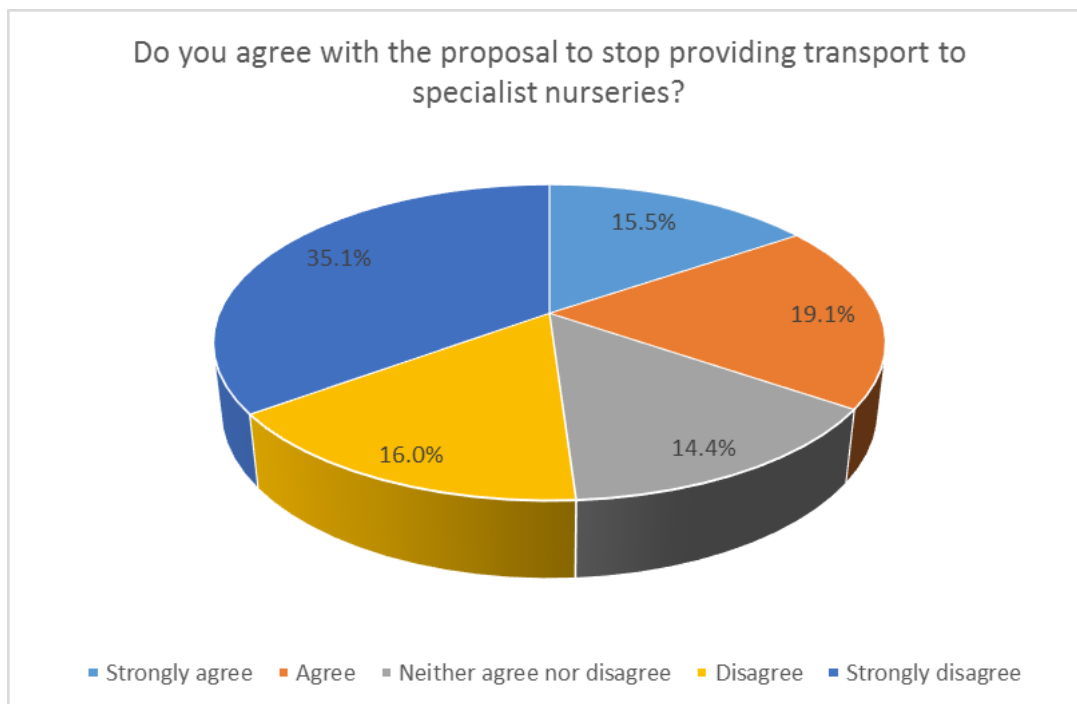
Of those that responded, 50% indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed in the age reduction for when exceptional and significant circumstance are considered for home to school/college transport.

Those that disagreed or strongly disagreed accounted for 33.5% of the overall number of individuals responding to the consultation.

Of those that disagreed/strongly disagreed, 73% of these individuals provided additional comments.

Full verbatim comments are available at the end of the report from page 11.

In this instance few comments provided any adequate alternative to the proposal and mainly centred on how cuts should be made to other services before affecting Home to school/college transport or how small money making activities could be undertaken to raise the required funds - such as crowd sourcing or renting conference facilities in council buildings.



Fewer individuals agreed/strongly agreed with the proposal to stop providing transport to specialist nurseries - 51.1% disagree or strongly disagreed with these proposals.

Of those who disagreed, 74% provided additional commentary and further information about possible alternatives. For the most part the comments provided failed to provide tangible or viable alternatives. However, there were a number of comments that suggested charging those who could afford it, may help support the service in some way:

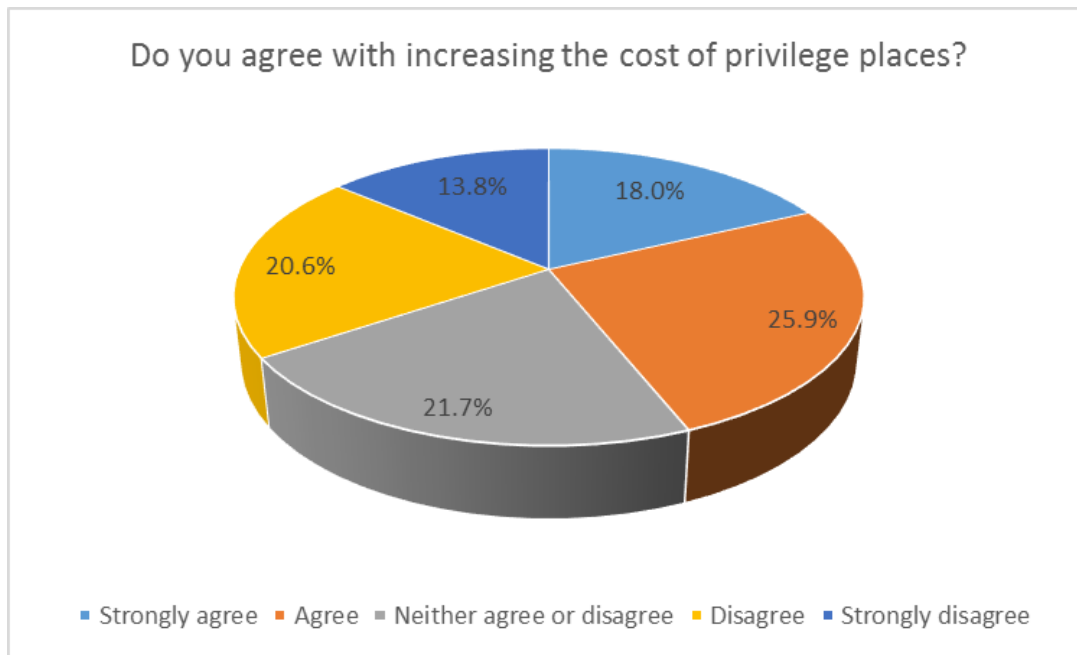
"Offer the transport at a nominal cost for those living closest to the nursery."

"Make parents contribute to cost of transporting their child. If parents have several children at different schools they couldn't transport them."

"Again a contribution from families could be charged if they are in a financial position to do so. Also the specialist nursery may be quite a long distance from their home so it needs to be taken into consideration."

"Ensuring that the children who receive transport have means testing and no other alternative method of transport."

"Parents/Carers could contribute towards some of the cost?"

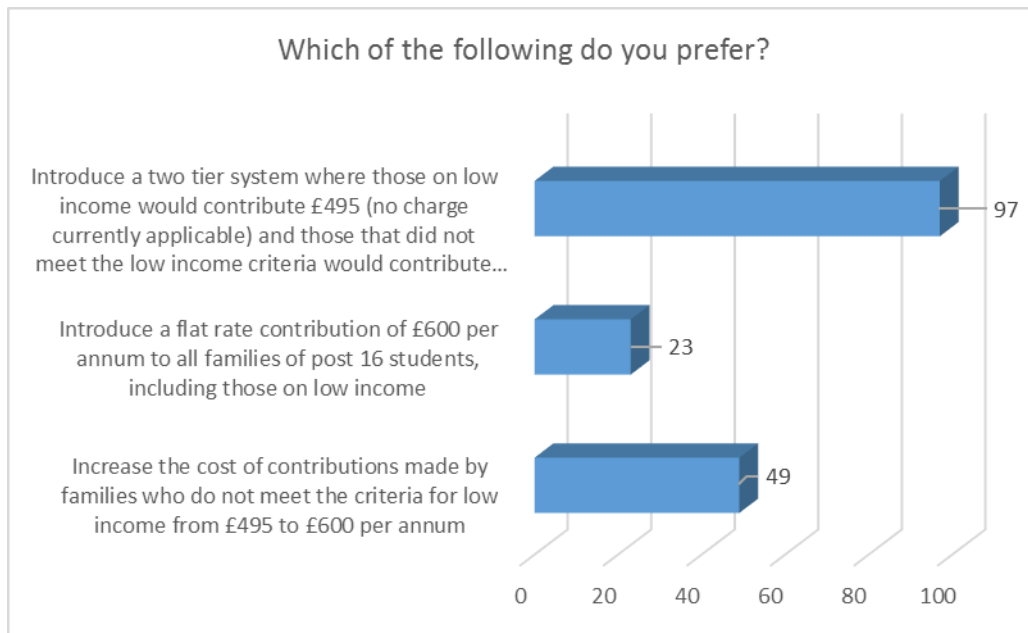


Overall, more respondents agreed/strongly agreed (43.9%) than disagreed/strongly disagreed (34.4%) with the increase in the cost of privilege places.

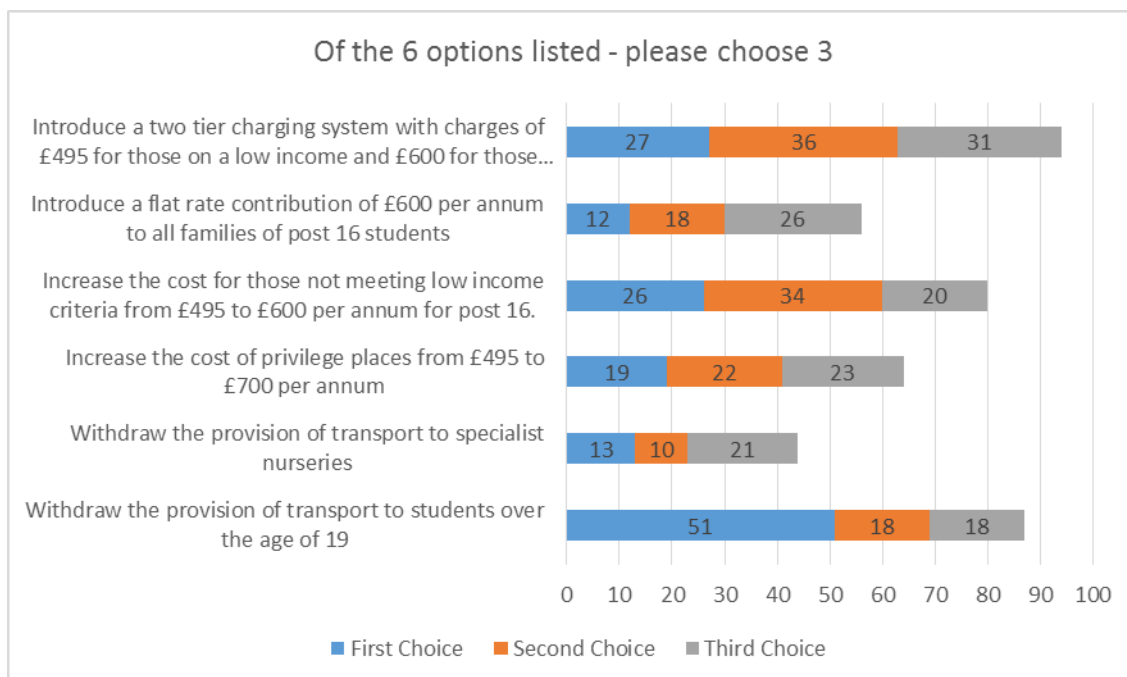
Of those that disagreed, there seemed to be a general feeling that a saving of £4000 did not warrant an increase to £750. Others commented that a raise of no more than £600 would be more acceptable.

Another interesting suggestion was the buddying up of children to share taxi/transport in order to help parents save money together:

"I feel that this is massively over priced as is almost the cost of an adult all-day bus ticket and more than a short taxi journey for 4 people!! Perhaps parents of children near to each other or at the same school could be persuaded to share a personal budget to pay for a taxi to transport their young people as this would appear much cheaper than your proposal."



When asked about the provision of post-16 transport, the most popular option of the three presented in the consultation, was the introduction of a two tier scheme, to allow those on lower incomes to be more supported, while allowing PCC to charge families with greater financial stability more to access transport.



The question above, was designed to demonstrate the difficult nature of the decisions currently needing to be taken within the Education team relating to home to school/college transport.

From comments made, respondents did acknowledge the difficult situation and although many would prefer not to change the system, they were able to indicate the ones they felt were more palatable than others.

The chart above can be read in a number of ways. But ideally one should look at the volume of responses for each of the three choices, as well as the combined total for all three choices.

When looking at combined totals the following choices are the most prominent:

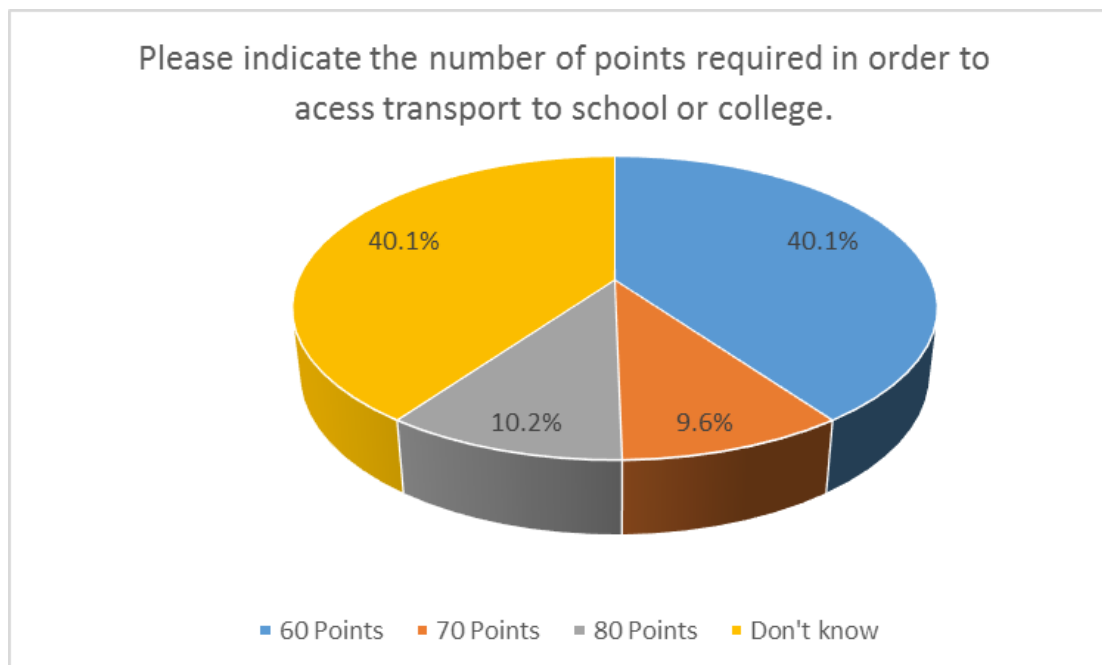
1. Introduce a two tier charging system with charged of £495 for those on low income and £600 for everyone else for those accessing post-16 transport.
2. Withdraw the provision of transport to students over the age of 19
3. Increase the cost for those not meeting low income criteria from £495 to £600 per annum post 16.

When looking at each choice as a volume the following choices are the most significant:

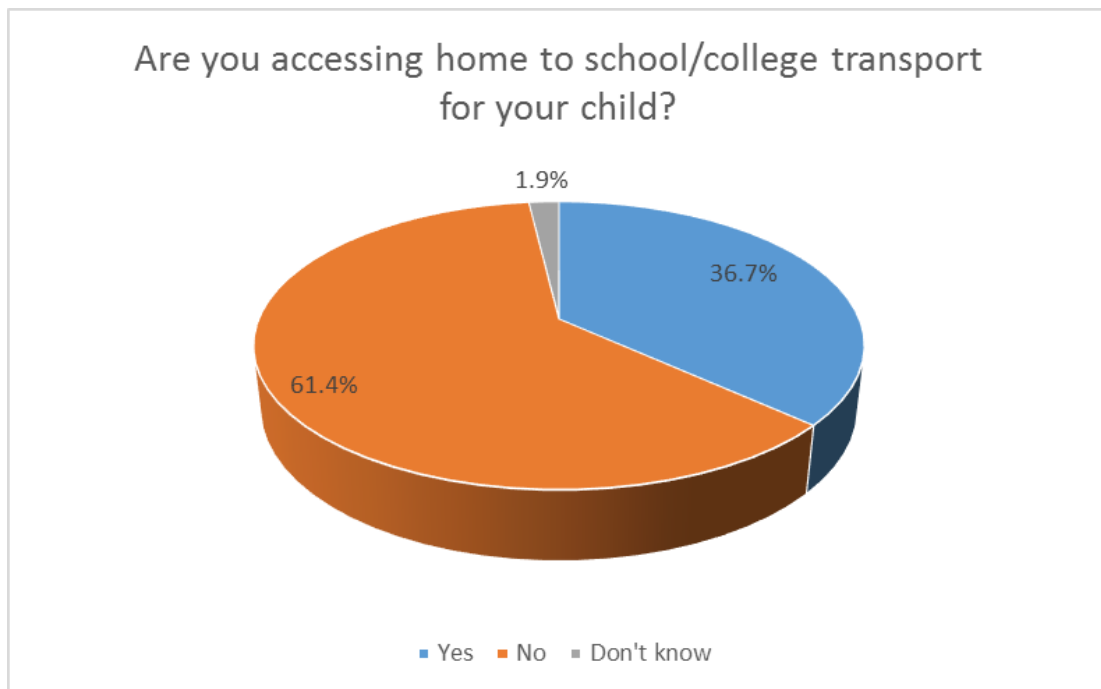
1. First choice with 51 - Withdraw the provision of transport to students over the age of 19.
2. Second choice with 36 - Introduce a two tier charging system with charges of £495 for those on low income and £600 for everyone else for post-16 education.
3. Third choice with 31 - Introduce a two tier charging system with charges of £495 for those on low income and £600 for everyone else for post-16 education.

As the introduction of a two tier system was the most significant second and third choice, does suggest that overall people are more open to this than other proposals.

When asked how much a reasonable contribution would be, many respondents did acknowledge that a contribution was a reasonable response to the problems being addressed. The amount was debatable and ranged from means testing through to a standard rate. All comments made were free text and can be found in the verbatim section at the end of the report.



The results relating to any change in points required to access transport is inconclusive, although 40.1% indicated that the current 60 point threshold should remain, however the same number also indicated that they didn't know - 40.1%. This could suggest that more information and explanation is needed to reach a considered decision on this subject.

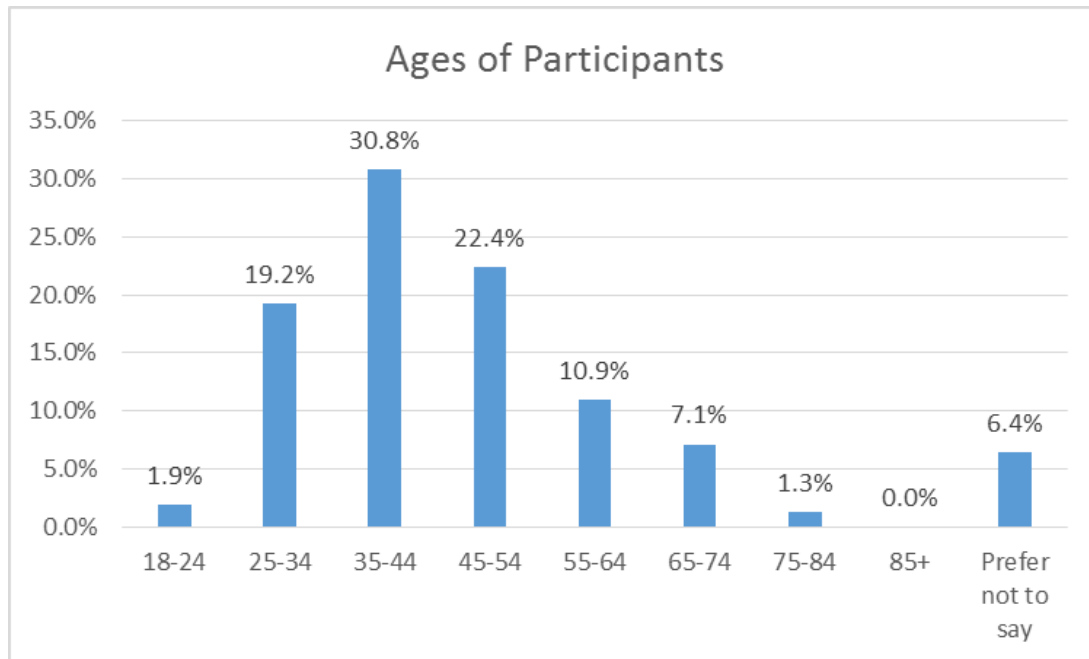


Interestingly, the majority of those responding did not currently access home to school/college transport with only 36.7% indicating that they did.

It should be noted that when looking at responses just from those currently accessing home to school/college transport, respondents from this group, as would be expected, predominantly (although not entirely) disagree with any changes to current provision.

Demographic Breakdown

Of the 210 respondents, 77.56% identified themselves as female, 19.87% as male and 2.56% preferred not to say. This follows usual patterns of consultation participation - women are more likely to complete such a questionnaire. Typically 60%-65% of respondents tend to be female - so response is perhaps more female biased than would be seen in other consultations.



Given that the consultation is in relation to school age children, the overall age spread corresponds with expected levels.

Of those who responded 20.13% indicated that they had a disability, with 11.04% preferring not to say, 2.60% indicating they did not know and 66.23% indicating that they did not have a disability. Again the numbers responding are within expected parameters.

Eighty-seven percent indicated that they were White British - this is representative of the city as a whole.

Verbatim Responses

Verbatim 1 - those who disagreed with the proposal to change the age from 25 to 19 for the consideration of exceptional and significant circumstances for students. Comments invited to provide suggestions to meet the £75K funding shortfall this would create if this change was not implemented.

1. I think every case is different no matter what age. Some older ones might need it more than 19years and under.
2. You cannot penalise those with special needs who have to rely on others for so much help. Reallocate budgets. Stop digging up commercial road and give that money to those who have enough hardship already!
3. Stop giving benefits to everyone who strolls into our country, and to those who can't be bothered to work
4. There's so many ways to fund this, crowdfunding, or actually, not digging up the roads 3 times that could be done in one job, our road has been dug up in the same places 3 times that must cost a fair bob.
5. A person with exceptional and significant circumstances will not make an instant recovery by 19 and will need support to 25. Parent may have to give up a job in order to transport, putting strain on benefits. If parents are working they should be supported. Alcoholics and drug addicts get loads of financial support drain benefits, don't work. Surely the money should go to people how are medically ill or disadvantaged. Not a person with a life style choice.
6. Not force parents to Tribunal and waste money on hiring barristers to defend its unlawful actions.
7. What would happen to the up to 25's how they would attend their courses. We cannot cut their travel
8. Currently my child accesses College Transport to Portsmouth College. We as parents make a contribution to this termly. Some families do not have a car due to financial restrictions and this would make it impossible to go to college, Taxis are expensive as are Buses and often it's not possible to access public transport due to the persons disability. In our case Autism - this restricts the family on a daily basis. The bus is a constant with the same driver/escort which helps us to reassure our son and to enable him to have some independence from us.
9. Parents who own suitable vehicles should transport their own children
10. Perhaps reduce the age by 1-2yrs. Not 6.
11. Rearranging local meetings to be allowed to rent out conference rooms for free within the civic offices, find a way to turn off the lights in the civic offices overnight, transfer funding from other areas that is wasted from budgets that are not always used in services people do not know they are entitled too.
12. Congestion charge. Parking tickets. Invest locally. Combine services.
13. manage the service better
14. Ask those who do not meet the low budget criteria to pay for the service
15. Reduce pay awards \ benefits such as company cars as per other industries.
16. Introduce charging for over 21s
17. Offer 1 statutory redundancy for those who are on band 18+.
18. Reduce CEO salary. Reduce funding for addict services. Reduce funding for community events such as the festivals.

19. We cannot abandon these young people; the Adult Day Care is shrinking at an alarming rate as it is so cutting funding further in unthinkable. Raise further funds (Rates); as a society we must be prepared to support the most vulnerable members of that society.
20. Ask the Government for more money now that Brexit is on the horizon!
21. By holding SEN parents meetings at civic offices instead of using other facilities at a cost.
22. I'm not certain, but there are always ways that councils can make savings; but I don't think this is an area in which to do it.
23. I don't know
24. You need to save it from other sources, not disadvantage our most vulnerable people in the city
25. As a parent whose child uses this facility if you added just £1 to the 124,000 council tax bills from Portsmouth and surrounding areas this would easily cover the cost and who really is going to complain about a disabled young person needing transport for further education.
26. Same way as you are meeting it now. This cut is appalling
27. Firstly transport should be given to students up to the age of 25. If other arrangements can be made for instance if some costs can be covered by students above the age of 21, that should be looked at. It is extremely difficult for some families with these children and cancelling transport altogether may pose a greater tragedy than asking them to contribute towards it.
28. Ask families to pay a contribution.
29. From council tax
30. Stop giving all the people coming into our country money!
31. Stop free nursery / playschool placements for 2 year olds
32. Why is the education of children being compromised what will you be doing with this saving?
33. I think everyone should pay something towards transport costs, most children/students with additional needs get DLA/PIP which is for the extra expense of having a disability, I think there should be a set amount for people on a low income and the cost should increase for people who pay at the moment otherwise some post 19 students will be forced to leave College.
34. Cuts to senior management salaries. Cuts to drug and alcohol addiction therapies
35. Unsure as to full details of the rest of your budget so unable to comment.
36. Take a look at those that don't need the transport i.e. though living nearby. Parents that drive. You be surprised at the figures
37. But paying less to higher management levels
38. The question I would ask is how many of these students cannot attend college if this service is taken away. What then happens - do they stay at home and both they & their carers need other services instead?
39. By providing bigger vehicle to free up multiple use of taxis and minibuses and extend routes to accommodate.
40. Close your anti-social behaviour units and do and they hand anti-social behaviour which is now law back solely for neighbourhood policing to deal with it will save you a fortune!
41. Ask the government
42. Cut down on electricity usage in all council offices. Cut down all paper wastage. Reduce management tiers. Families with young people with disabilities need help and understanding!
43. Take away from funding given to alcoholics and drug addicts. This is a self-indulgent. Why should other more needs suffer

44. Is there an option of running more transport in house or offering a more accessible supported bus service across the city?
45. From other departments!!!!
46. More funding charity events
47. Negotiate better deals with transport contractors or bring the service in-house (PCC) to reduce the cost.
48. Look in other directions for cuts.
49. By cutting budgets for things that the council provide due to lifestyle choices such as alcohol abuse/drug abuse and smoking
50. CUT SOME OF THE JOBS WITHIN THE COUNCIL WHERE THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE DOING THE SAME JOB
51. Not sure

Verbatim 2 - Currently Portsmouth City Council consider exceptional and significant circumstances for nursery age pupils. It is proposed that going forward transport to specialist nurseries will no longer be provided and parents will have the option of attending their local pre-school setting or transporting their child to a specialist nursery themselves. Those who disagreed with this proposal were invited to provide alternatives to help make savings should the proposal not be carried out. The following comments were received.

1. Offer the transport at a nominal cost for those living closest to the nursery.
2. Make parents contribute to cost of transporting their child. If parents have several children at different schools they couldn't transport them.
3. Support in opening another specialist provision nursery in the south of the city to enable parents to walk to their closest instead of travelling across the city
4. Have any of you decision makers any idea what it is like to live with a disabled child 24/7? This is so wrong on every level!
5. Stop giving benefits to everyone who strolls into our country, and to those who can't be bothered to work
6. This is the first part of a child's educational career and if a child is deemed to need the help of a specialist nursery that despising on its own is great this service should carry on
7. I think parents should expect to provide transport to nursery and school at this young age. It would be something you would have to do and expect to do. Very small children with disabilities are easier to manage, control and keep safe, than a larger 19-25 year old.
8. unsure of the alternative but these are some of the city's most vulnerable children who are only able to attend due to transport if this was removed there would be a decline in the child's attendance which would impact on the child's development. I feel the money should either be saved through reducing spend in other areas of PCC or reduction in staff not cutting services for vulnerable children
9. As previous answer
10. Again a contribution from families could be charged if they are in a financial position to do so. Also the specialist nursery may be quite a long distance from their home so it needs to be taken into consideration
11. Ensuring that the children who receive transport have means testing and no other alternative method of transport.
12. Parents who own suitable vehicles should transport their own children
13. I wouldn't do anything but would increase council tax

14. I've no idea it isn't my job to save money for the council but it is to teach these SEN nursery children that would not attend without the transport
15. It would depend on the individual circumstances of each child and the family circumstances.
16. I do not know but specialist nursery provision is vital and if transport was not available some would miss out
17. This is a small amount that could be saved through pay or benefits reduction.
18. Charge a small, affordable fee for using transport to help towards costs. Or Make use of school minibuses, depending on how expensive the proper licencing required for this would be.
19. Review your excessive pay bands and look after the vulnerable.
20. Ask parents to. Make a contribution towards the fares.
21. Provide the transport but make it a chargeable item.
22. Bus pass for named carer?
23. Lower wages of MPs
24. Provide more SEN trained nursery staff at local pre-schools.
25. Ask for small contributions from families. Use minibus instead of taxis
26. Ask for contributions from parents to help fund transport. Use minibuses and not individual taxis
27. Some of the most vulnerable families in the City still should have transport. Savings could be made by looking at criteria for all age groups.
28. Parents/Carers could contribute towards some of the cost?
29. This should be done by family. Depending on how severe the needs are and the distance from the nearest specialist nursery.
30. Parental contribution towards cost. Sharing of taxis and other forms of transport.
31. We are not here to help you make savings. If you don't provide transport for the children who require very specialist provision including some with significant medical and health needs they will end up staying at home and not getting the support they need. You will reduce inclusion because they are realistically unlikely to be able to have their needs met locally and many families are unable to transport their child because they have other siblings to take to school and/.or do not have their own transport. The children cannot access public transport if they have severe autism and challenging behaviour or significant medical needs
32. Funding needs to continue to allow these children to develop to their full potential in a setting that is able to best meet their needs.
33. I really don't understand why you can't add such costs onto our council tax bills the same way you do with police and fire service plus there's just over 75,000 council tax bills in Portsmouth alone so surely adding a pound or two really wouldn't make that much difference, and actually this is appalling that once again the most vulnerable in our society are being punished.
34. No alternative should be necessary, but maybe you could stop wasting money on stupid art projects
35. You would be cutting access to valuable specialist care for these children and their parents. Many travel across Portsmouth to get to places like Willows and can't get their children there without help.
36. As Willows is adjacent to Cliffdale could transport be shared...some buses going into Cliffdale have spare seats.
37. Stop handing out money to people turning up in our country!
38. For many of these children the placement is vital to their growth and additional needs. Early intervention helps these children grow and makes their chances of joining mainstream

school more likely. Also they provide vital respite for parents. Without transport many parents would have no choice but to remove their children from the nursery. It may save money but the service these nurseries provide is priceless to the families.

39. This is beyond disgusting, children with specialist needs will never be able to access the help that will make all the difference in their development in a mainstream school. This cut would be totally unreasonable. Children with specialist needs should be able to access free transport to and from school no questions asked. It is important these children get the best possible chance. Denying our futures the chance to their full potentials wouldn't benefit whatsoever, not now, not ever
40. Bus passes for parents who have no transport to allow their children to attend special needs nurseries
41. I don't have an alternative but I find it preposterous that you think a child with additional needs should be made to attend a nursery unable to care for and provide for them in order to save money
42. My son cannot attend a "normal" nursery setting, will you provide more support for children with special needs?
43. I currently have a little boy at the willows and have been turned down for transport as I didn't get enough points I think this is silly every child and parent should be given the opportunity of attending these specialist nurseries as for transport I think it should be given to parents who genuinely need it I currently am on maternity leave but when I do go back I'm going to have to cut my hours back drastically to be able to pick both children up as they both finish at the same time good job we are a 2 parent family also you do realise that if you stop transport majority of the children who attend will not be able to attend which will surely run a risk of the nursery closing down and it benefits so many special needs nursery age children in the city my little boy and other parents who take their children on public transport or their own transport will be penalised which is so silly
44. Most parents don't have the possibility of helping as there are poor
45. Strongly disagree with this proposal for statemented and disabled children, getting the best early years education setting is crucial to access appropriate support, teaching strategies, etc. Instead of withdrawing the service, consider parental donations or similar part funding to make savings without impacting parents and vulnerable children so severely.
46. Although this would save money on transport, if children with significant special needs were expected to be accommodated in mainstream nurseries this would surely mean more expenditure to the education budget. Savings in one area would mean more expense in others. In SEN nurseries staff are trained in a range of skills e.g. Trachy changing, peg feeding, catheterisation, oxygen, epipen. All nurseries would need to be trained in all of these skills to accommodate the range of children in SEN nurseries. Money spent on early intervention saves money further down the line. I do agree that families who can transport their children should do but transporting children on buses for a three hour session is difficult and impacts on a child's attendance. If a child is in receipt of DLA or a Motability car then I don't agree they should also have free transport.
47. I do believe more checks should be made as some people drive and say they don't. So people live close and could cycle.
48. As previously stated
49. Means test those families who need transport for valid reasons. Early intervention is key in helping children with additional needs. Taking away transport could mean those that are unable to get their children to nursery will be disadvantaged in their whole future.

50. What would happen to the SEN children whose parents cannot transport their children to other nurseries?
51. Attendance is important for children with SEN for the child's education and wellbeing. Some parents are unable to take their child to nursery for financial reasons, lack of transport many of the families have siblings also with SEN and it is impossible to get the other children to school. Children's attendance is important to monitor as some of the children are at risk of harm and it is a consistent, safe place for the children to come while also providing respite for parents. Some parents could contribute to the cost of the transport. You say that children can go to the local nursery but some of the needs of these children are complexed and other nurseries have not got the experienced staff to deal with some of the children's needs, and often nurseries are saying they cannot accept children with SEN. This makes the parents and children feel very isolated.
52. Send more pupils on one bus to make less traffic
53. Lots of the families that access this would not be able to get their child with disabilities to nursery & the long term impact that this could have on the child would be far more expensive on resources/services in the future. Also not all local nurseries could accommodate the children & then there's the 1:1 cost implication. Training cost, building adjustments etc. Could the empty seats be offered at a weekly cost to other families with children who have a pupil place? This may recoup some funds or could the service be shared between willows & Clifdale to ensure all seats used to reduce number of vehicles.
54. Ask parents to contribute to costs
55. What about the Mum's who can't then get their children nursery school as they don't drive or have access to a car? It's so difficult to get a place in a specialist nursery that they must need to be there. You'd be making the already difficult task so much more difficult for these parents.
56. Well going to local schools nurseries isn't an option if they are not equipped so either equip them better to take special children to reduce the need to transport elsewhere or again rather than lots of little vehicles and routes condense to larger vehicle i.e. Coach and Increase route size to cover bigger area than multiple little routes and cars .
57. Make a cut anywhere but do not put any more pressure on parents of disabled children with complex care needs...they are at breaking point already taking a preschool child with a trachey or on a ventilator is not easy those parents need your help I would review the policy as to who you provide this for.
58. Perhaps offer a one way service instead so it would at least shoulder some of the burden for parents and local authorities as placing some of these children in a normal nursery setting would result in needing more staff as many need one to one care.
59. Apply for grants outside of PCC.
60. This is terrible. Why should Sen children suffer, and the parents really need the break nursery gives, without the stress of getting them there.
61. As above. Money should never be diverted away from special needs!
62. I disagree with this. As a carer of a child with autism I know first-hand that my child's nursery struggled with her needs
63. Parents with no means of transport should have the option of contributing to costs. Personal circumstances and children's significant needs should be taken into account.
64. Would local pre-school settings be able to provide for the exceptional and significant circumstances?
65. Make the parents that have a car take their children

66. If the children being transported are exceptions and have significant circumstances then the numbers of these must be low, in which case the potential savings must be minimal. If they have been assessed as being in exceptional circumstances then they need this service. Perhaps the assessment system needs tightening up if numbers are too high?
67. These children need this specialist support!
68. Spend money wisely
69. Still provide the service but charge parents accordingly. This would still enable children to access much needed specialist provision and help parents who have children at other settings.
70. Charge for the service
71. As previous question
72. For people who are claiming this support and are students, could travel not be claimed through the Care to Learn programme? I suspect this is a small cohort of students, but at least some of the expenditure could be offset by "Care to learn". Do the specialist nurseries not offer financial support? I am assuming they draw government funding somehow that would help subsidize the transport expenditure?
73. Ask for a small donation from each family/carer

Verbatim 3 - Currently the Local Authority sell spare seats on minibus/taxi transport known as privilege places for £495 per annum. It is proposed to increase this to £750. This is the same as paying £3.94 per school day for a return trip. This would help reduce the overspend by over £4,000. For those who disagreed with the proposal made the following comments.

1. Perhaps have a pass similar to buses which can be purchased by parents on a termly/annual basis. Similar cost as a bus pass?
2. Do you understand the extra expenses incurred in caring for children with special needs? Have you ever had to scrape by on a low income?
3. This is an outrageous amount of money at £495. With a child/ adult with a severe disability one parent would usually have to give up their job in order to be a full time carer. Carers allowance is £60 a week, you are expecting and already stretched budget to be stretched again, and no one understand the challenges and difficulties of the families struggling with financing this tough situation. Err x2 month carers allowance, £495, 12 1/2 weeks £750.00. These families are being squeezed to death. Life's hard as it is. This is terrible.
4. Not sure how.
5. If there are families who can fund these places themselves that is a good way to save the money although not for families without a decent income.
6. £4,000 is too small a saving to justify the financial pain to some families.
7. I feel that this is massively over priced as is almost the cost of an adult all-day bus ticket and more than a short taxi journey for 4 people!! Perhaps parent of children near to each other or at the same school could be persuaded to share a personal budget to pay for a taxi to transport their young people as this would appear much cheaper than your proposal.
8. Increase the amount to no more than £600. Not as much savings, but also not a nearly £250 increase to people paying for it.
9. Each family is unique and it would depend on their financial situation. If a family could afford this option they would probably choose a privilege place to encourage independence and social skills
10. Don't understand the background to this question

11. The increase is too high and not inflation linked.
12. Not sure but the increase is too great.
13. None, a vital service on which parents have already taken into account when placing children
14. It's a small amount to save but a 50% increase to the small number of people using this service 16 people put pressure on the taxi firms to reduce cost instead if they want to keep the contract
15. If the previous savings are made this wouldn't be required. You don't want to out price parents using the service
16. This is a relatively small amount to the council but a large amount to individual families, most of whom will be financially disadvantaged if they have children with SEND
17. £3.94 a little too much to expect everyone to afford in my opinion.
18. I already pay for one child for a privileged place as one of my other children with send is not in her "catchment" school as the criteria currently penalises for other send children even with an ECHp for attending the best school for them.
19. means test all pupils receiving the service
20. Again a small amount to subsidise a valued Service.
21. To charge a smaller fee for every seat
22. But not at the risk of a vital user.
23. I don't understand who these spare seats are sold to so cannot answer this question
24. Negotiate a better deal with minibus providers or use council services instead. Most parents who use this service are on benefits!!
25. I have disagreed as currently this sum has to be paid in large amounts. Again this is a disadvantage to the poorest families
26. This is a huge increase for families who currently pay for a place. Perhaps the cost could be increased more gradually or means tested somehow.
27. With the levels of deprivation in Portsmouth you're trying to save money from one pot and then you'll increase the spending in another e.g. social care
28. Do not put up the price so much, increase it a little, slowly to allow parents to budget effectively for this rise.
29. Yes in theory if they could make instalments of a reasonable amount
30. Even though I agree to an increase in price, this rise is a lot of money. I only hope that families will be able to afford this. Otherwise the council could lose a source of income if parents look for alternatives outside the council's provisions.
31. Stop handing out money to those turning up in our country!
32. Every child on the school transport service should be treated the same and given all the same opportunities. Expecting parents not receiving benefits and trying to get on in life without financial help to pay out for a service other children already receive for free is outrageous. Why do you think so many people just don't work? It's really not worth it for some people and it's not surprising!
33. I don't but some families do not have the money to pay this. So therefore their child should be disclosed??
34. Where do you expect parents to find this money?
35. I currently transport our son to Willows nursery it is 4.20 for a day ticket for myself my son is free but there is no way we would get to and from the nursery on 3.94 we was considering paying the 500 pound but no way would we pay 750 that's extortionate money especially for parents on low income

36. There is always the way of resolving this by calling people and parents contributing a small amount.
37. A fifty per cent increase could negatively affect the family budget of a household with vulnerable children. The savings to the council seem insufficient to warrant the financial hardship that some families could face. Instead of increasing the cost unilaterally, increase the offer of privilege seating to more children by changing your parameters. Instead consider how many spare seats are routinely vacant on your mini buses, higher income families could contribute to the cost of transport across the board but in a framework of progressive steps. For example the current point system does not take into account different income levels, children who meet say a criteria of being statemented with walking difficulties other than physical or motor skills I.e. Autism and in receipt of certain benefits, or of an agreed family income could contribute to transport at incremented levels.
38. A drop in the ocean but parents should be able to pay monthly. That amount in one go would be too much for most families.
39. It is only £4.10 for an all-day ticket however transport is a lot less stressful.
40. See previous answers
41. Too big a percentage increase. Need to be more realistic and again a parent's contribution for privilege should be means tested.
42. A child year bus pass is £430 & can be used on all Hampshire routes. So why do they need to have a place on a mini bus? When this is better financial since to pay
43. A lot of parents just don't have money unless of course the government would like to pay!!!
44. I agree in principle but a 50% increase in one go seems rather harsh.
My children paid around £2.30pd for a return ticket on their school bus to their secondary school 4miles away - could the charges for the 'privileged seats' be per mile and a little more expensive than the usual school or public bus as you're paying for a secure, nearly door-to-door, service
45. For some families not all spends on family income.
46. Find other areas within the council to cut
47. As long as you are not making the parents worse off - that it quite a price hike
48. Not all families can afford this and is means tested to access funding already which will increase number of home schooling in affect costing more so shouldn't be put solely onto the parents.
49. Most families like ourselves are on tax credits or benefits, obtaining this amount on top of other cuts is unrealistic. This is also nowhere near the rate of inflation, it's over 50%??? It seems like reducing the spend by 4000 is a drop in the ocean for the council however creates a huge financial burden for parents who simply cannot afford the proposed amounts.
50. I don't understand who gets a privilege place?
51. With the proviso that easy payment plans are implemented.
52. This would depend upon the children already occupying the taxi or minibus and the effect this would have on them. I would think this could be an option but considered on an individual basis.
53. Think it's too much for people to pay, we already spend extra bring up special needs kids
54. THATS A LOT OF MONEY FOR A PEARENT TO HAVE TO FIND
55. Would it be worthwhile for anyone to take up a privilege place if it was increased as proposed? Need analysis as it may be counterproductive solution.
56. This is a very large increase which I am sure some parents would struggle to meet. It is also, I believe, a higher cost than a child's return bus ticket on a local route.

Verbatim 4 - Comments regarding proposals around the introduction of contributions to home to school transport for those in post-16 education.

1. If students get high rate dla a contributions should be made as that money if for transporting costs but rarely is it spent for travel
2. I think specialist nursery education is vital for a lot of special need children. It makes so much difference to how they settle into full time school.
3. It all depends if your making people pay for it in one go. I know I couldn't afford it, most carers are one wage and struggling.
4. None take this money from somewhere else.
5. Vital for younger children to be funded adequately for nursery education.
6. I feel less people will take up college places more NEETS. Something must be done about this. Unsure of what to suggest
7. You give no details above about the savings which would be made in each case so in my opinion our preferred options will be skewed.
8. I think that the criteria should be more about the young person's ability to access other means of transport than home to school transport, weather they are able to do so safely and any disabilities they or their parents have which might make this more difficult. I know several families who have a car provided by Motability/ mobility element of dla but access home to school transport because they are on a low income however my daughter who have no road safety sense and no sense of danger is deemed able to travel on public transport because I work.
9. Please don't penalise those on low incomes - it is difficult enough to be a parent of a disabled child - especially if you are a single parent family. 80% of families with a disabled child divorce. This is a fact and often due to the immense stress they face with looking after a disabled child
10. Introduce a 2 tier system with a much wider differential between standard and low income - £105 differential is a bit insulting to low income families
11. I like the two their system but think the charge of £495 for low income families might be too high and I would suggest a cap of £3 per day.
12. Parents who own suitable vehicles should transport their own children.
13. No
14. Cuts for send children should not be made in any retrospective way, we are the only local council that are supposed to be proud for looking after our children and supporting their needs to 25 years old, it has been a service that has been put in place in recent years and the council should not be looking to cut services to those they previously promised to children that may become sceptic of any future promises from our government, our future youth will not be one that trusts any future government if this continues!!!!
15. There should always be a place for students so that they can get to the most suitable school. A letter explaining the situation could go out to all parents first to give people the chance to voluntarily contribute to the service.
16. Define low income for parents with SEN children...it is not the same as other benefits.
17. My only concern is that some of the fees would be too much for some families to afford per annum unless the monies could be paid quarterly.
18. Offer families above the threshold, fuel allowance or lower council tax band to support those who contribute.
19. It's important that families can afford the transport

20. I think that when people pay for a service, they are less likely to take it seriously and pay more attention to using it. They will cancel it when they don't need it as it is a financial consideration - they will pay more attention to it and treat it with more respect. Unfortunately, it seem that people need to pay for something in order to value it better.
21. I think that if transport is made either unavailable or unaffordable then pupils/students might struggle to arrive at school on time if there are other siblings attending different schools given Portsmouth traffic issues and the distances involved.
22. Those on low incomes receive more benefits than those of us on moderate wages, and we end up worse off because we pay all of our bills in full. Any fee should be consistent across the board.
23. I don't understand why you are proposing to increase the costs for college pupils to £600, yet for school pupils to £750?
24. I like the 2 tier idea but I think £495 is a little high for those on low income. £350 would be better.
25. The young people all get DLA/PIP and this money could be used to fund their transport
26. Your approach is short sighted, hardnosed and morally suspect
27. Just would like to reiterate how utterly appalling this survey is, these poor families who probably have more to deal with than the average family once again have the worry this support will be taken from them
28. Stop charging altogether, this should be a free service. I am disgusted that you would even consider an increase.
29. A two tier system seems the fairest option.
30. No comment
31. I do not believe that children attending a specialised school who require transportation to and from school should not have to pay if under the age of 18 years of age.
32. Stop using private companies, provide schools with the means to transport their own pupils to and from school for free!
33. I don't but I find it shocking families are being penalised for having a child with an additional need that will stay with them throughout their life
34. Disgusting.
35. I feel you need to cut back on other things not education and children's transport this will surely have a bad effect on their education if this happens as parents won't send their kids to school
36. What's the contribution of the government as parents contributing with taxes
37. The two tier system seems reasonable if the alternative is no transport! The paradigm of tiered costing could be applied to nursery and under 16 education but I would urge the council to consider a multi-tier funding strategy depending on similar point's framework currently in place. For example having 4 or 5 income thresholds and not losing sight of the fact that the council is providing a valued service for many families with vulnerable children.
38. My son is severely disabled he receives enhanced PIP care and enhanced PIP mobility. He attends College and is transported at the cost of £495 per year. He meets the criteria for the transport but I work part time so am required to pay. Please do not take his transport away as it will mean I will have to give my job up as his College start and finish times would make it impossible for me to work, also he doesn't live on a direct bus route so would need to get on a bus from Paulsgrove to Fareham bus station then another bus to his college which he wouldn't be able to cope with which could mean ultimately he might have to leave College as the stress would be too much. I would be willing to pay more if he could carry on with the transport, I don't receive any outside help with my son, I don't have respite or us any other

- council services or receive direct payments, if my son had to leave College and I had to give up work then it might become necessary to get outside help as my work is my time off from my caring duties and gives me the break from caring that I need.
39. All transports offered to children with additional needs should be means tested. It should be offered free to children with considerable educational needs to families on low incomes. There should be very fair specific criteria which could be points rated.
 40. If they are paying towards transport provided why can't they buy a business pass?
 41. Home to school transport should not be made available to pupils whose parents are provided with a car due to their child's disability.
 42. If an YP is able to use public transport safely and reliably but entitled to free transport, could a free bus pass be issued instead?
 43. Why hit those with a disability?
 44. I think any child with disabilities should be catered for
 45. I pay for a privilege place at present I think it's disgusting that I am in effect paying for the fact I have a disabled child that lives outside walking distance to be able to attend the only school in the city that can meet her needs
 46. I'm hoping that these payments would be spread out on a monthly basis?
 47. If too much is cut and taken away from transport making access difficult as some of us have multiple children in multiple schools this will increase home schooling numbers which in effect is more expensive or will result in a lot of special needs children remaining in unequipped mainstream schools resulting in poor results, more health issues i.e. Mental health and basically neglected of their needs as so many are already.
 48. I think before cutting anything where it will effect families of children with complex care disabilities you should reconsider these families are at breaking point already and pushing this sector of people further will end with these children going into residential care because their families cannot cope either be more specific in your criteria or implement a cut elsewhere. Allotments are not a necessity care and transport for disabled children is!
 49. Lesser of two evils but still unfair
 50. I think it's sad that the opportunity to acquire qualifications for disabled young people over 19 could be affected by the loss of such transport schemes.
 51. PCC should apply for grants so no financial impact hits teenagers who must finish their education after age 16.
 52. This is terrible. By law children must stay at school till 19. Again as child has Sen, parents are being, in my eyes, fined. If he didn't have Sen I would send him to local school which he could walk to hence no cost involved. He can't even use his bus pass as it would take 5 hours by bus.
 53. Children and young people with significant needs should be able to access the school/college that best meets their needs and this should not be prejudiced by income or other family circumstances no matter what their age. It would be less discriminatory for transport to be means led altogether.
 54. Recycling is a good idea on any equipment
 55. YES , I THINK THIS SERVICE SHOULD BE FREE , IM SURE THIS MONEY CAN BE FOUND FROM ANOTHER SOURCE
 56. Can PCC negotiate with the bus companies to allow those eligible to use their bus passes before 9:30am and the cost can be shared with colleges. Currently there is duplication-PCC pays for a bus pass that starts at 9:30am, yet most college courses start at 9:00am so colleges have to buy yet another bus pass. In effect, those who are students receive 2 bus

passes. We should be able to have just one, and the cost can be split by PCC and the local colleges. Would be a win-win for all parties.

57. I did not feel able to comment on the first two questions as there would always be individual cases that a blanket policy might not be suitable for. There will be some families who desperately need the transport and are unable to fund this themselves.

Verbatim 5 - How much is a reasonable contribution to make towards transport costs? And why?

1. Depends on how much dla or pip is awarded
2. Up to £800 per annum for those that do not meet low income as this is still much cheaper than private taxi's and allows children to be at schools that suit their needs.
3. £800
4. £4.20 a day - the same as a First Portsmouth Day ticket.
5. I believe for post 16 a cost of a bus fare would be appropriate as this is in line with peers of their age wouldn't have to pay should they wish to travel to a local college within the city
6. £2.50 per day. As if there has to be a charge, make it fair as out children don't choose to be disabled nor choose to have to go to specialist schools
7. £2 per day, you're looking at young vulnerable people, who do not always have the capacity to work or earn money from a decent wage...
8. We pay £360.00 for a bus pass for my daughter this is more than enough. We actually get a £60 refund if good attendance is achieved. So £300 is more than enough.
9. Do not know
10. Post 16 - perhaps a little less than public bus cost.
11. I think some parents should pay something towards transport. The better off can afford it. I think parents should be approached. I am sure some parents would be willing.
12. It depends on the families' income if the child is in receipt of DLA etc. some of this could be used to fund transport. £2.00 per day = £10 per week should be affordable for most families to contribute.
13. Depends on individual financial circumstances. These need to be taken into account.
14. £300 to £500 this is because I feel colleges are going to lose students because families cannot afford this outlay
15. It should be no more expensive than a child attending their nearest mainstream school by bus.
16. I think the maximum any family should be asked to pay is 50%. Some families would be unable to get their young person with SEND to school without this support and I feel that the LA should be as equally responsible for ensuring that this happens as the parents/guardians are.
17. No more than £600 a year
18. £4.00 per day
19. £800, transport running costs and staff and door to door
20. Cost on a par with local bus fares / cab costs. Transport shouldn't be free to families that can afford to pay
21. £3 per day payable monthly/quarterly this giving extra money to families at holiday times.
22. In many cases parents are in receipt of huge medical negligence pay-outs, have good incomes. I suggest consideration for parents using their "Motability" type vehicles to transport the children or pay a contribution.
23. £5 a week during term time is not too onerous if charging is the last resort

24. £200
25. £10 per week equates to £480 per year this seems fair it's the cost of a coffee these days
26. This depends on the age of the student and the families' financial situation, I do not believe there is a one price fits all. You need to take into consideration how much a child return bus fare is for those under 16 to see if you come in line and the same for those over 16
27. I don't think the local authority should provide transport to anyone apart from people with physical/ mental issues. All others pay full cost.
28. Unsure
29. It isn't Portsmouth had one of the largest population of low income families and an increased number of Sen Children than other areas in the country. This should be looked at higher rather than county to get setting the same rules.
30. It depends on personal circumstances. A comparable figure might be the equivalent of the bus fare as paid by the rest of the population.
31. Means tested, £2 per day possibly?
32. 50-70 per cent
33. It completely depends of each family even family on a low income may decide that they would like to make a contribution.
34. £2 a day, for every family, only pay for the days transport is used.
35. £350
36. Full Price everybody should have to get their children to school the same with no exemptions.
37. £600 sounds excessive but costs have to be met for transport and Transport Assistants. For example if one child is being transported per vehicle these outlays are not being met.
38. £1040 this only equates to £4.00 a day over the year.
39. Depends on the income of the family
40. 4 pounds a day as that is the cost of an average taxi journey. I think it would be better if you could do pay as you go though as it seems ridiculous that you should pay for every day when you may not need every day as you have managed to make alternative arrangements.
41. £2.50 a day
42. Significantly less than a taxi price
43. For families who are eligible for high levels of DLA and have Motability vehicles it should be expected that they pay full costs for transport to school whatever their age. The poorest families or those most vulnerable must be considered differently.
44. Charges should be based on income, including DLA. Also families who are in receipt of Motability and receive a car. The same rules should be in place across the board from nursery through to post 16 - these are the most vulnerable families and children. The child's needs are no less pre or post school age.
45. It should be the same as a normal return bus fare for typical buses around Portsmouth
46. £600. Students who have disabilities are usually in receipt of DLA/PIP and this should be used for transport to college. The majority of parents who have children with disabilities also receive DLA and again this should be used for helping the children with these types of problems but the majority of parent's do not believe it should be used for this purpose.
47. This is an impossible question to answer as we do not know how many children use this facility and where they live and attend school. For instance the bracket for transport is 3 miles from home to school so you could charge the same way that a company would charge for mileage.

48. Nothing. This service should be free. The council has plenty of money to waste on unnecessary services so there is no need to charge for this when you can save from elsewhere.
49. £600 yearly seems reasonable.
50. Those on low income can manage to pay at least £5 per week. Those who have a higher income should be able to provide for over 16's.
51. £5.00 per day as not only are pupils getting transport the majority have an escort looking after them as well
52. A contribution that covers up to 75% of the total cost.
53. £10 a week which is cheaper than public transport for adults and children
54. No comment
55. I personally think that a cost of even £2 per day paid by every family needing transport provided for their child would help benefit.
56. We don't choose to have disabled children. And unfortunately cannot help having to choose a school that would meet their needs
57. £20 a week
58. Even those on low income could manage to pay £5 per week towards transport costs.
59. £0 it is not acceptable to take away the only means some children have into getting the special education needed. Education and specialist extras speech & language etc. etc. are crucial to development and will make all the difference for the future
60. There is not one because families who earn more money don't necessarily have more to spend
61. None unless you want my child to grow up without a decent education in a setting that HE NEEDS and is ENTITLED TO.
62. Well I don't think this should be increased at all like I said you should cut back elsewhere
63. Two pounds a week
64. It needs to be calculated by income. Why: because a number of parents will not send their children to school if they cannot afford it. This will leave school aged children socially withdrawn, isolated and not educated.
65. I believe school transport for statemented and disabled children should be free. I don't think families should have to pay. In forcing families to pay nearly £20 per week for their child to be able attend school is fundamentally penalising that child for a condition over which they have no control and penalising parents who already incur additional costs in ensuring their disabled child is able to access therapy, by reducing their family budget. If costs to the parent and cuts to funding are inevitable the council should consider a £1 per trip donation across the board for all service users.
66. £600, I think this is reasonable as the cost of petrol and wages for drivers and escorts has risen so I would expect the cost of transport to increase too, but I think it should be payable in longer instalments.
67. Means test
68. £2
69. Depends on the circumstances and income of the families concerned.
70. £500
71. At least half of the total cost.
72. The difference between a bus fare and the actual transport cost for a pupil.
73. Depends on distance from home to school/college and how much public transport or taxi would cost. Maybe ask the parent to pay the equivalent cost to the catchment

school/college which they would have to pay if their child did not have SEN and the LA pays the rest above that

74. ?
75. £400. It produces more income so will create more spaces on buses
76. Nothing
77. I would be happy to pay £10 per week, while my daughter is entitled to a free school lunch as I don't expect my daughter to be fed by the school for free but it's a government initiative. However, I would not be happy to pay for both, especially my daughter needs to be at the school she attends because of her disabilities
78. £10 per week
79. I can only choose one the others should not be considered to any child or family with a child with complex care needs family income should not come into it we already know that these families pay out way more than DLA or benefits can ever cover!
80. SEN children should use part of the dla to fund getting their child to school
81. A difficult question when circumstances are so different for everyone. £10 per week is unmanageable for some but not for others. But would be my suggestion but would be term based I assume? £2 per day
82. Grant money should be applied for.
83. I am angered that if this is taken away from my child he/she will no longer be able to access the setting in which he attends as firstly I cannot drive and even if I did I couldn't get there in time to pick my eldest from school. My son cannot attend another nursery as they do not provide the correct care which my son requires at this special setting for his SEN needs. Also we are above the threshold just for any financial support but absolutely cannot afford to pay the amount you propose in transport costs. The people on low incomes seem to get more financial support and therefore can actually probably afford the higher rate of your proposing than I can. I'm really upset and angered by this and taking away this will mean my son cannot go to nursery to help him with his needs.
84. I think it depends on the family, it should be means tested and needs tested.
85. £600 on high income
86. £0.... Or be able to provide for pupils with profound SEND at the child's local school so the family can walk.
87. Should be able to pay weekly
88. £15 per week
89. IT SHOULD BE FREE
90. £2.57 (based on a weekly bus pass ticket within Portsmouth)
91. It depends on how much a family can afford to pay.
92. Same as public transport would cost daily, the whole point of being giving dla/ care allowance is to help the child/children so why not ask for a contribution from this money

Verbatim 6 - Final general thoughts and comments regarding the funding and provision of home to school/college transport.

1. It's a good service to provide residents and significantly benefits the children in turn.
2. I think that parents should either have a mobility car or have free transport but not both. Parents that I know of, only use their mobility car for their leisure or work and only use it to take their child to the doctors - that cannot be right.

3. In the past some children have had transport where parents could have used public transport.
4. My son goes to Highbury college (2nd he) he has special needs and I have to pay £4.50 per day for his return bus ticket because he doesn't feel comfortable using the transport that would be provided. In his first year we qualified for a bus pass, this year we didn't as my partner earned a higher wage! I can apply for a disabled bus pass from the council although I am aware that that cannot be used on buses until 9.30 which is pointless as he needs to be at college at this time . I think it's wrong that we didn't qualify this year as he is entitled to an education and therefore I think he and many others should be eligible for a bus pass to get him there without spending hundreds of pounds per year to get him there
5. I think it is totally wrong to think of cutting this budget at all. I'm sure there is much money wasted unnecessarily within the city that could be diverted to support this service. It is so important to those who rely on it. Please, please reconsider.
6. We should be looking after our most needy people in society strikes me that we are punishing them for this instead. I'm disgusted that our most disabled people are not being allowed to be supported. Funding budgets, money, this is about a quality of life, a safe option. If a person needs it should be provided that's why the workers' pay tax national insurance etc.
7. You must provide transport for all students with an EHCP
8. I do appreciate this is a very difficult area but transport being cut could have a massive knock on effect for colleges
9. As someone who does not access this service at the moment it would have been much better to be informed more fully of the current system of funding criteria.
10. It is important not to penalise families with disabled children they need all the support they can get and the welfare of the whole family needs to be taken into consideration as well as the child's own special needs
11. Walk to school
12. Transport should only be provided in exceptional circumstances: severe disability / remote location where other transport is not available. Families not on low income should provide / pay for their own transport
13. My replies have been based on the assumption that children with severe special needs will have transport to a special school as this is more economic than providing the necessary support in all schools.
14. Not sure , see my previous comment in section 10
15. All school children/students should live within walking distance of a school, if their parents choose otherwise they should pay for it, Children with special needs should attend schools with appropriate transport in place.
16. Its necessary for the community who have problems
17. Parents should be responsible for getting children to school. Students over 16 and certainly those above 25 or 19 who are physically fit should be able to get themselves to college. After all Portsmouth is not exactly an enormous city!!so distance shouldn't be an issue
18. People who genuinely need these services should have the chance to use it. I would hope these services 'stay within reach' of the people who need it most.
19. I think it is currently restrictive to those who truly need it and the points system is not effective.
20. These pupils and their families are living with constant struggle, education is the only option for some these children and their families at a 'normal' life, respite and support. Taking away

transport will limit the opportunities and the rights these children have to be taught and to learn

21. Some students may benefit from (and enjoy) being escorted to school / college by bus, on foot or by bike. This will be more 'inclusive' and reduce the dependency on taxis.
22. Generally I think below the age of 11 is parents responsibility to get their child to school, this would be the same as any other family. If a child is unable to get themselves to school due to disability after the age of 11 then help should be given.
23. If possible transport 2 plus children at a time
24. These places are a vital lifeline to the children and families involved. Make it easier for families needing support not harder.
25. This has to be looked at sensibly. Are the parents working? Perhaps if so, even on a low income, they could meet some contribution towards the transport. Even a contribution of as little as £150-£200 per annum for each child/teenager would help.
26. If the parents have a Motability car to full fill the needs of the child then this should be used first. School transport should only be available to parents who don't drive and live out of a 3 mile distance.
27. Many families rely on the transport service because of time constraints i.e.; work commitments, their other children's school drops, etc. In these cases the service is essential.
28. Why are we taking children to school when their parents/carers take them and pick them up from the stops in cars!
29. Parents need to be observed as it does not require both non-working parents to collect a child. The other parent could collect another of their children.
30. Please review excessive wage bands, i.e. band 18 upwards, reduce cost of catering for excessive board meetings, reviewing the impact of these insensitive draconian decision making processes. A few things to consider; increased volume of traffic, complaints of local residents near Schools, underperforming schools with inadequate resources to cater for SEN children and young adults with SEN.
31. Without provision of home to school/college transport many children with special educational needs would be unable to attend the best educational setting for them. To withdraw funding would make it an impossibility for even more of those children to reach their full potential.
32. I know that buses travel about empty sometimes due to no shows of students but also schools not communicating effectively. There should be a three strike and sanction system in process for example for persistent offenders.
33. Many parents need this help getting children to school if they live a distance away. Especially if they have other children and a low income.
34. I feel that the council is targeting the wrong services, there are multiple areas that further cuts could be made to without cutting back Special Needs services. With the changes to Council Tax you are making, you must be recouping some of the money for the cuts you are making. Don't understand why you feel the need to take from vulnerable families and families on a low income.
35. Currently suits purpose and supports difficult circumstances. Risk of lower attendance rates, safeguarding concerns if non-school attending
36. Not many schools in Portsmouth have sufficient parking along busy roads. The safety and environmental impact of an increase in the number of families using their own transport to get children to school, nursery, college needs to be considered. At all ages a families circumstances must be a deciding factor.

37. This service is essential for all of our children no matter what their age. The service should be provided to all families who need it, based upon all of the factors mentioned above and more as well as the nature of the child's special educational need.
38. Families should bring their children to school whilst they are under 11yrs as that would be the same for a mainstream child. Transport should only be offered for 'senior' school pupils who would normally be expected to be able to get themselves to school.
39. This should be on a person by person assessment. Every disabled young person and their family is different, with different needs. It should be a holistic approach.
40. I think overall this is a false economy
41. As the council do not have a statutory duty to provide transport to nursery aged children it should be withdrawn, as this will go a long way to make the savings required. If parent's really feel their child would benefit from attending a specialist nursery they should be able to get them there themselves. This is the same for Post-19 students. You would nearly make all of your savings by cutting both of these services.
42. Already stated throughout survey how appalling this is
43. Transport should be free. Education for our children is compulsory and therefore it is the responsibility of the council to ensure every child attends
44. I feel it is important that transport be overseen by the council even if students have to pay for it. The council does not just provide a vehicle to get the children to and from school but also deals with the safeguarding of these children. This ensures the privilege of continuing with education and doing so in a safe environment. As the council is dealing vulnerable students, it has an obligation to protect them regardless of costs.
45. I think it disgusting this is even being in question. I think the council should look to ease their shortfall elsewhere!
46. Schools/Academies and Nurseries should consider providing the transport themselves as most have minibuses parked up.
47. It is an essential service for many families so I think it should be retained but the families need to pay more.
48. Some children who attend Willows have complex needs as well as Social needs and their parents won't be able to get them to Willows and their needs won't be met in a mainstream nursery...what will happen to these vulnerable children!
49. It's help parents who don't have cars to take their children to school
50. I need my son to have home to nursery transport as it is too far for me to get him there myself and especially with another younger child as well and with my older son having a special need as well it becomes a bit of a challenge for me to do this.
51. We need this funding , as having multiple children, that cannot attend the same school, yet have the same school times, means it's impossible to be in two/three places at once
52. People could car share/be assessed in nursery/school etc. not just on paper which is give wrong impressions.
53. I think it disgusting that children and families are being targeted in this manner. Yet the council see fit to spend thousands on a facelift for commercial road.
54. NO CUTS SHOULD BE MADE FOR TRANSPORT.WHY DONT YOU MAKE CUTS CLOSER TO HOME!
55. I think any child with an additional need should be allowed the funding if their family needs it
56. Disgusting I'm penalised because I work receive no benefits and have no other children yet my son still NEEDS to go to this nursery.

57. It's not the children's fault they have disabilities and by cutting there transport it's going to be them that suffer also if I was to put out autistic soon into a mainstream nursery /school surely it would cost the council more in finding him adequate staff to help him for his particular needs
58. We don't have much funding or provision of home to schools
59. The priority for the council is to identify those who need help with transport the most. Those children who will not be able to afford to go to school without it should be identified and supported, those with a family income to support them getting to school should not be entitled to funding.
60. Bitterly disappointed that yet more cuts are imminent, once again the most vulnerable children will be negatively affected.
61. Look at sharing transport between schools close to each other.
62. I think students with special educational needs and disabilities who cannot attend their local school because it doesn't meet their needs should receive transport as this is not the choice of the parent as I'm sure a parent would prefer their child wasn't disabled and could attend a local school with their non-disabled peers. Life is very difficult when you have a disability without adding more stress and worry about getting to school/college onto. I would have had to home school my son without transport as he is severely Autistic so getting on packed buses with lots of noise would have been a terrible ordeal for him and could have compromised his safety. I think the charge should be raised rather than the criteria changed then people can have the choice to pay and use the service rather than the service be withdrawn from them and they are left with no choice.
63. The withdrawal of transport could make it impossible for some pupils to be able to attend the most suitable provision for their needs. This would be immoral.
64. Early intervention is key and a family in dire straits could be badly affected if they are not helped when their child is in the first few years of their life.
65. Can colleges and/or schools run transport themselves?
66. Minibuses/taxi should always be full whenever possible reducing the need for additional vehicles and escorts.
67. A child/YP has to attend an education setting whether they have SEN or not. It is the parents' responsibility to get their child to that school etc. which in some circumstances involves a cost. If parents of children with SEN are asked to pay the equivalent cost of getting to their catchment school then they are being treated as all other parents. However, I do think that the LA should pay above that because it isn't right for a parent to be penalised financially for having a child with SEN. Parents on low income need to be exempt from this payment
68. It is very important for nursery children in SEN settings
69. It should be there for all children with disabilities
70. Anyone in receipt of high rate mobility and having a car under the scheme should not have access to transport. The object of the car is to transport the child and school should be the number one priority
71. I'm pleased it's not means tested. As a parent of a disabled child - we have to pay for so many additional extras as it is.
72. I don't think it should become a further hardship of families just to send a child to school especially those on low income or like us who are in middle neither rich enough or poor for help as those children should receive access to schooling like any other child. I know if it comes to it and I can't afford transport I would home school.

73. I understand the cuts but changing the criteria for those most in need is essential medically not based on income
74. There has been such a massive change in our little girl since she has been in a specialist nursery. She attended mainstream nursery first and simply couldn't cope and was very much left to her own devices. The transport provision has made it possible for us to be able to continue sending her to the willows which is more important than you could understand. The staff on board are amazing.
75. My daughter goes to Mary Rose Academy and in practical terms I just can't imagine how that many children, a large amount with physical difficulties and mobility aids, could be safely delivered to school by their parents.
76. It would be a travesty to limit disabled young people's ability to transportation.
77. I'm not happy with any of this survey and the way it's presented forces people to make the difficult choices based on their own circumstances at the present moment. I also don't know the full facts, there is no breakdown of the costs involved.
78. This service is essential for many of the families of pupils at my school. Most of them have other children to transport to other schools. It is not physically possible to be in two places at once. It could impact negatively on the education and wellbeing of more children across the city.
79. Don't penalise families for having a child with special needs.
80. I fully understand that cuts have to be made somewhere, but our children and young adults are very vulnerable, the home to school /college transport provides a safe and secure service which I feel they truly deserve and need.
81. Understand a lot is spent, but feel it's a very important part of the child's daily routine and feel people would rather pay towards keeping it
82. That all parents/carers should provide the same if a charge is to be introduced, for many working families this would impact more than a 'low income' benefit family
83. THIS SHOULD BE FREE
84. We should encourage families to have reasonable expectation when planning their education whatever their aspirations.
85. I think it's a great service, I'm currently entitled to use service but don't as I drive my children, but this isn't the option for every parent