

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

24 September 2012

Report of the Director of Kent Highways and Transportation

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 KENT 16+ TRAVEL CARD SCHEME

Summary

This report introduces and provides a status update on Kent County Council's Kent 16+ Travel Card Scheme.

- 1.1.1 The Kent 16+ Travel Card (16+TC) has been introduced from September 2012 as part of KCC's revised Post 16 Education Transport policy. The policy and the scheme have been established and will be paid for by the Education Learning and Skills Directorate.
- 1.1.2 The revised policy has been established against a backdrop of the need to fulfil the authority's responsibility to ensure Full Participation for all 18 year olds by 2015, the removal of the Education Maintenance Allowance and of the coalition government's new 16-19 Bursary scheme. This has essentially transferred funding from KCC to Schools and Colleges.
- 1.1.3 The 16+TC replaces the existing arranged transport provision for post 16 students, which currently provides bus, rail or hired transport (whichever is most appropriate) for a cost of £490 per student per academic year. Although the 16+TC delivers similar benefits to the Kent Freedom Pass and is similarly coordinated as a Concessionary Travel Scheme, its agenda is very different which is reflected in the administration of the scheme and in the cost of the card.
- 1.1.4 The 16+TC is available to Kent residents in full time education in years 12, 13 and year 14 students completing their 14-19 studies. The card is applied for by students through their School or College who subsequently place an order with KCC's Transport Integration Department and in doing so verify the eligibility of the student.
- 1.1.5 The cost of the card to Schools and Colleges is £520 for a full academic year with pro rata cost reductions following terms 1, 2, 3 and so on. Although there is no obligation on Schools and Colleges to offer further subsidies to students, KCC has issued guidance on reduced costs for learners from households with lower levels of income.

- 1.1.6 Like Kent Freedom Pass, the 16+TC provides unlimited access to Kent's bus network at all times, including evenings and weekends. The policy and the card make no provision for travel on rail or on hired (by KCC for entitled to free home to school transport students) vehicles. Where space permits, access to the latter can be available through the Vacant Seat Payment Scheme.
- 1.1.7 To date, 1,600 applications have been received from 78 Schools and Colleges. More information regarding the scheme is available at; www.kent.gov.uk/post16travel

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 None.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 As covered in the report.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 Not required.

Background papers:

Nil

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