

To: Tonbridge & Malling Joint Transportation Board
By: David Taylor, Interim Public Transport Head of Service
Date: 19 May 2014
Subject: Young Persons Travel Pass & 16+ Kent Freedom Pass
Classification: Information only

Summary:

This reports sets out the background and new arrangements for the new Young Persons Travel Pass & 16+ Kent Freedom Pass scheme

1. Background

1.1. On 24 April 2014, Kent County Council's Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee endorsed proposed changes to the Kent Freedom Pass and Kent 16+ Travel Card schemes.

1.2. In light of the need of the Council to make savings of £270million over the next three years aligned with a number of petitions and requests to extend the current Kent Freedom Pass for students remaining in further education a review was undertaken of the existing Kent Freedom Pass and Kent 16+ Travel Card schemes. In parallel, a public consultation on the proposed Young Person's Travel Pass took place (closing at the end of March).

1.3. The Kent Freedom Pass for 11-16 year olds was introduced in 2007 and has grown to 30,000 pass holders costing the Council in excess of £13 million. The Kent 16+ Travel Card was introduced five years later and with a membership of 4,500 at a cost of £2m to the Council.

2. The Schemes

A summary of the schemes

2.1. The Young Person's Travel Pass –

2.2. The Kent Freedom Pass for 11-16 year olds was introduced in 2007 and has grown so that there are now 30,000 pass holders, costing the Council in excess of £13 million per annum.

2.3. The new scheme, known as the Young Persons Travel Pass, will be introduced from the start of the new academic year in September 2014; it will assist secondary school age children to travel from home to school and will replace the current Kent Freedom Pass. The new Pass will provide unlimited weekday travel between 06:00 & 19:00 for 11-16 year olds at a cost of £200, previously £100. Payment, however, can be made over two equal instalments.

2.4. The pass will be available from the start of the academic year to the 31st of July for the full cost or if chosen to pay by instalment the pass is available from start of the academic year to 22nd February for the initial pass and from 23rd February to the 31st July for the second.

2.5. To ensure that the scheme continues to be accessible to those on lower incomes those receiving Free School Meals will be eligible for 50% discounts (£100), which can be paid in two £50 instalments, No charge will be made to Young Carers and Looked After Children.

2.6. Kent 16+ Travel Card –

2.7. The Kent 16+ Travel Card was introduced in 2012 and now has a membership of 4,500.

2.8. To provide greater equity between the Young Persons Travel Pass and the Kent 16+ Travel Card schemes while also responding to requests for a cheaper pass for students remaining in full time education or training, the cost of the Kent 16+ Travel Card is to be reduced from £520 to £400 to providers for a full year.

2.9. The scheme will continue to provide unlimited, all year round bus travel in Kent to enable access to college, apprenticeships, weekend education activities and work placements. Providers have the option to further discount the Pass to students.

3. Arrangements

3.1. Additional Capacity

3.2. As a result of the new scheme there will still be a need to provide additional capacity arrangements. These will be reviewed throughout the year especially in the light of the split payments, and the potential for a reduction in usage.

3.3. Applications

3.4. No applications for the Freedom pass will be received after 31st May, only applications for the new schemes will be taken as from Monday 2nd June. To guarantee pupils have their passes by the start of the academic year applications are required to be received by Friday 18th July.

3.5. Applications received after that will be continue to be processed but delivery by the beginning of term cannot be guaranteed.

3.6. Once the application has been received, it will be processed and a letter will be sent before the start of the academic year to confirm the pass will be available at the school/college for use at the start of term. The letter can be shown to the driver to allow you to make the first journey of the new term to school.

3.7. New resources and processes have been put in place to ensure that those applying can do so quicker and easier. For those that are renewing their passes, are in academic year 7-11, who do not qualify

for the reduced fees and whose details have not changed are able to do so on-line.

4. Communications

4.1.A communication strategy has been developed to ensure delivery of the new passes as follows:

Date	Action
From w/c 26 th May	New Web Pages published
By 30 th May	E-Shots to parents and schools
2 nd June	Publicity Distributed
2 nd June	Applications open
17 th June	E-Shots to parents and schools
18 th July	Applications received guarantee pass available by start of term
21 st July	E-Shots to parents and schools
Start of Academic Year	Schools return

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