



9th July 2014

Dear Parent or Carer

Doing nothing may cost you £1,173

As you may be aware Herts County Council have launched a consultation process on the future of transport for Young People who remain in Education. The Consultation ends on 21 July 2014.

In summary there are five proposals affecting those 16-19 year olds in full time education or training:

- the first two proposals cover the provision of financial support for travel costs to families on low income, if certain strict criteria are met
- the third, which will affect most at Lonsdale post 16 and in education beyond that, requires a contribution towards the transport costs of up to £1,173 per annum from each family
- students must normally attend the closest establishment providing a suitable course
- and finally, transport would only be provided at the beginning and end of the school day

Some brief observations:

- We understand that this will ultimately affect most students at Lonsdale; going into Post 16 after KS4 is viewed as a new course hence these provisions would kick in even though it's the same school
- there is unlikely to be any additional funding to meet this cost – it will have to be met from your existing resources
- HCC consider it a 'done deal' and Justin Donovan, Director of Education has said "...the consultation will be considered by the Enterprise, Education & Skills Panel in the autumn. The panel will make recommendations to Cabinet, who will determine the future 16-18 transport policy at their meeting on 13 October 2014. Following this decision, it is expected that a new policy will be published, for implementation from September 2015."

We have intentionally kept this note brief – further information can be found on the HCC website – links are given at the end of this letter and are repeated on the school website

We urge you to:

- review the proposals and background information
- and more importantly we ask that you respond to the consultation, either online at:

<https://www.hertsdirect.org/websurveys/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.cgi?29HANJ>

or by writing to HCC (details below).

- Note that you and the young person involved can respond separately – the Consultation Committee emphasised that they wanted to hear from the people affected



- contact your local councillor and/or MP to make them aware the process and perhaps canvass on your behalf. A 'who is your councillor' link is given below. It is ultimately the County Councillors who will vote on this proposal

Lots of different letters to a councillor explaining how each individual will be affected is much more powerful than a signed petition

- make others who may be affected by these proposals aware of the process and get them to respond – it is only a relatively small number of people that will be affected by this process but the more who get involved the better – if the proposal is rejected it could save you money!

Don't forget that the closing date for the consultation is **Monday 21st July**. If you cannot access the internet or need copies of any of the documentation please contact Julie Paget at the school

Nick Latham and Jackie Gates
Lonsdale School, Parent Governors



Consultation on Post-16 Transport arrangements:

Internet links

Set out below are some links relevant to the consultation process on the HCC website as well as references to the relevant panel discussing the process in March this year.

Consultation On 16-18* Transport Policy For 2015-16

The links in the next two sections have come from this HCC website

<https://consult.hertsdirect.org/16to18travel/>

To have your say about this consultation go to one of the links noted on the right

(The surveys are also available in Easy Read – see the links on the website)

[please take this online survey.](#)

link in full:

<https://www.hertsdirect.org/websurveys/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.cgi?29HANJ>

Related Information:

Background information provided by HCC:

- the full proposal document
- a five page summary
- an FAQ sheet

[Full Consultation Document](#)

[Young Person Consultation summary](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Enterprise Education & Skills Cabinet Panel - March 2014

(a link to the original panel discussing the process and these proposals, including the background notes (Item 5) and the final Minutes of the meeting)

http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/enterpriseedskills/17941110/

Find your local councillor and MP

gives details of who your local councillor and MP is based on your postcode – follow the links to contact them

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/councillors/>