

Hull City Council

Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2026 – 2027

Post-16 Transport Policy Statement - Academic Year 2026 – 2027

Transport policy statement for young people aged 16-18 in further education, continuing learners aged 19 and those young people aged 19 – 24 (inclusive) with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Department Responsible: Learning and Skills

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1. Introduction:

- 1.1 We would like as many young people as possible to be able to travel independently to and from their education provision. Travelling independently develops key life skills and leads to increased educational, social and employment opportunities in adulthood, as well as improving health outcomes and contributing to sustainable travel in the city.
- 1.2 Local authorities do not have to provide free or subsidised post 16 travel support but do have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or other support that the authority considers it necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.
- 1.3 All young people carrying on their education post 16 must reapply for travel support.
- 1.4 'Sixth form age' refers to those young people who are over 16 years of age but under 19 or continuing learners who started their programme of learning before their 19th birthday (years 12,13,14).
- 1.5 Local authorities also have a duty to encourage, enable and assist young people with learning difficulties / disabilities to participate in education and training, up to the age of 25.
- 1.6 This policy uses the term 'Post 16' to include both learners of sixth form age and those with learning difficulties / disabilities up to the age of 25.
- 1.7 This policy document specifies the support that Hull City Council (the council) considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of Post 16 learners receiving education or training.
- 1.8 Education or training refers to learning or training at a school, further education institution, a council maintained or assisted institution providing higher or further education, an establishment funded directly by the Education Skills Funding Agency, learning providers delivering accredited programmes of learning which lead to positive outcomes, for example, colleges, charities and independent learning providers.

2. General Concessionary transport and travel support:

2.1 Hull Card and KAT Card:

2.2 The **KAT Card** enables multi-operator travel using a single card, allowing travel across participating public transport operators within the city. The KAT Card provides **seven consecutive days of unlimited travel** and offers a cost-effective travel option for young people accessing education, training, or employment.

2.3 Hull City Council, Stagecoach East Midlands and East Yorkshire Buses agreed to share the cost of discounting a Hull Card for those who have not yet reached the age of 20.

2.4 The KAT Card is available for those under the age of 20. It offers the same benefits as the Hull Card. It includes unlimited travel across Hull and some surrounding areas, including -

- Wawne
- Cottingham
- Willerby
- Kirk Ella
- Anlaby
- Hessle

2.5 Disability Bus Pass:

2.6 Hull residents may be eligible to apply for a **Disability Bus Pass** where they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Are in receipt of **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** and have been awarded **eight or more points** in either:
 - Activity 7 – Communicating verbally
 - Activity 12 – Moving around
- Are in receipt of the **higher-rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**
- Have been refused a driving licence on medical grounds
- Are a **Blue Badge holder**
- Are in receipt of a **War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement**
- Are registered with social services and hold one of the following cards:
 - **Yellow** – Sight impaired or severely sight impaired
 - **White** – Profoundly or severely deaf
 - **Grey** – Without speech
 - **Blue** – Limbless or long-term loss of use of both arms (blue card or confirmation from an NHS limb centre)
 - **Pink** – Learning Disability

2.7 Further information and application details are available at www.hull.gov.uk.

2.8 **Disability +C Bus Pass.** A **Disability +C Bus Pass** may be issued to individuals who are unable to travel independently on public transport. The pass allows the holder to travel with a **companion free of charge**, provided the companion is **not accompanying the individual as part of paid employment**.

2.10 Further information is available at www.hull.gov.uk.

3. Support available from local post 16 colleges / sixth forms:

3.1 Please visit the following websites for details of respective transport support arrangements in place across our local post 16 education providers:

- Wkye College - [Travelling to Wyke](#)
- Wilberforce College - [Getting You Here - Wilberforce College](#)
- Hull College - [Financial Help for Students | Bursary | Hull College](#)
- East Riding College - [Transport - East Riding College](#)
- Bishop Burton College - [Getting Here | Bishop Burton College](#)
- St Marys Sixth Form School - [St Mary's College | Financial Support & Subsidised Transport](#)
- Sirius Academy Sixth Form School - [College – Sirius Academy West](#)
- Ron Dearing UTC - [Getting Here / Transport – Ron Dearing UTC](#)

3.2 Should you require additional information in relation to the above, please contact the respective institution direct.

3.3 The 16-19 Bursary Fund:

3.1 The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help young people overcome specific barriers to participation so they can remain in education.

3.2 There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

A. A vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 a year for young people in one of the defined vulnerable groups below:

- in care
- care leavers
- in receipt of Income Support, or Universal Credit in place of Income Support, in their own right
- in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit and Disability Living or Personal Independence Payments in their own right
- discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment

B. Discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment

3.3 To be eligible for the discretionary bursary young people must:

- be aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2026 or
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2026 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2026 and continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers')
- be studying a programme that is subject to inspection by a public body which assures quality (such as Ofsted), the provision must also be funded by either a Government funding agency or the local authority

3.4 Schools and colleges are responsible for managing both types of bursary. Young people who want to apply for support from the bursary fund should contact their chosen school or college to make an application.

3.5 Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/ search for post 16 bursaries.

3.6 Young parents / Care to Learn:

3.7 If you are a young parent under 20, Care to Learn can help pay for your childcare and related travel costs, up to £160 per child per week, while you're learning.

3.8 Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare 'taster' session (up to 5 days)
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to the childcare provider

3.9 Types of childcare:

3.10 The childcare provider must be Ofsted registered and can be a:

- childminder
- pre-school playgroup
- day nursery
- out of school club

3.11 If your child needs specialist childcare, the provider must also be on the Care Quality Commission's register for specialist provision.

3.12 If you want a relative to get Care to Learn for looking after your child they need to be both:

- providing registered childcare for children they're not related to
- living apart from you and your child

3.13 Payments:

3.14 Childcare payments go directly to your childcare provider. Before your childcare provider can be paid:

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- your childcare provider needs to confirm your child's attendance
- your school or college needs to confirm that you're attending your course

3.15 Payments for travel costs go to your school or college - they'll either pay you or arrange travel for you.

3.16 Attendance:

3.17 Payments will stop if:

- you stop attending your course
- you finish your course
- your child stops attending childcare

3.18 Eligibility:

3.19 You can get Care to Learn if:

- you're a parent under 20 at the start of your course
- you're the main carer for your child
- you live in England
- you're either a British citizen or a national of a [European Economic Area \(EEA\) country](#)
- your course is publicly funded (check with your school or college)
- your childcare provider is registered with Ofsted or the Care Quality Commission

3.20 Type of course:

3.21 Care to Learn is only available for courses in England that have some public funding. This includes courses that take place in:

- schools
- school sixth forms
- sixth form colleges
- other colleges and learning providers, including Foundation Learning
- your community at Children's Centres

3.22 Young parents are also entitled to apply for an Under 19 Bus Only Ticket or for those aged 19 and over can apply for the 19 – 25 card.

3.23 For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn/how-to-claim>

4. **The Local Authority Support Offer:**

- 4.1 **Local Authority support for young people without special educational needs or disabilities:**
- 4.2 There is no automatic entitlement to free or subsidised home to post 16 education transport once a student is over 16 and beyond statutory school age. Please see sections 2 and 3 for the support available from our local bus services and our local post 16 Colleges / Sixth Forms.
- 4.3 Those not in education, employment or training (NEET):
- 4.4 The Council has a statutory duty ([Participation of young people: education, employment and training - GOV.UK](#)) to support those young people in years 12 and 13 (and up to 25 for those with an Education, Health and Care Plan) who are Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET). The Council discharges these statutory responsibilities to its dedicated Connexions service. Further details about this service can be found here - [About us | Young People, Skills and Employability Service | Hull](#).
- 4.5 In addition to the services core offer, young people who are NEET are eligible to access a small discretionary barrier removal fund. This fund can help with travel costs which support the return to employment, education and training. Please contact the Connexions service direct for further details - connexions@hullcc.gov.uk
- 4.6 **Local Authority support for young people with special educational needs or a disability:**
- 4.7 Hull City Council support may include:
- Council-arranged transport (e.g., minibus or taxi).
 - Personal Transport Budgets (PTB).
 - Travel passes or mileage reimbursements.
- 4.8 Local schools, colleges and training providers provide support through various funds, including 16-19 bursaries funding, for travel. This could be in the form of subsidies, or travel cards. In the first instance learners should apply to their school, college or training provider for assistance with travel in the first instance.
- 4.9 Travel will typically only be provided at the beginning and end of the school/college day and a learner will normally be expected to share a vehicle with other students. The council's commissioned transport will **not** be provided:
- To access breakfast or after school clubs, including out of school activities
 - To and from work experience placements, taster or open days, or transition visits
 - To any provision off the school site organised by the school
 - To two or more addresses. Transport is provided to the main residence, typically where the young person is registered with a GP. This also applies to parents who have joint custody, single parents, parents with work commitments
 - For transfers between educational establishments during the school day
 - To and from medical, dental, psychiatric, speech therapy or similar appointments
 - Following detention, suspension or exclusion

- At times to suit the convenience of family arrangements
- For late arrivals or early departures
- For pupils on exchange visits

4.10 **Eligibility:**

4.11 Transport assistance may be provided to young people who:

- Are aged between 16–25.
- Are resident with the City of Hull boundary.
- Are unable to travel independently due to their SEND.
- Are attending the nearest suitable educational setting offering the required course.
- Are enrolled in full-time education (15+ timetabled hours per week).
- Are not in paid employment, apprenticeships or Higher Education.
- Have been assessed to determine if transport is still required.

4.12 The Local Authority will endeavour to make transport arrangements for all young people who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to their post 16 education provider because of their mobility challenges or because of associated health and safety issues related to their special educational needs or disability even if they were accompanied by their parent.

4.13 Eligibility, for such young people should be assessed on an individual basis to identify their particular transport requirements. Usual transport requirements (e.g. the statutory walking distances) should not be considered when assessing the transport needs of young people eligible due to SEN and/or disability.

4.14 The Local Authority will endeavour to make transport arrangements for all young people who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to nearest suitable post 16 education provider because the nature of the route is deemed unsafe to walk even if they were accompanied by their parent.

4.15 If a young person chooses to change career direction or course, this may affect their eligibility for travel assistance.

4.16 The Local Authority reserves the right to discuss the length of the course, start date, and course code with the education provider.

4.17 **For young people who are continuing in an education setting,** a Care Act Assessment will be completed by Adult Social Care. Part of the eligibility criteria of the Care Act is to identify educational, training needs. Adult Social Care will identify what the young person's post 18 education plans will be and identify if support may be required. The assessment will consider options to support the young person to travel to and from the education setting as independently as possible.

5. Fees and charges:

- 5.1 A standard annual contribution is required for eligible learners receiving council-arranged transport.
- 5.2 Each eligible learner who qualifies for transport assistance will be required to make a contribution towards their travel. This will be £380.00 for the year 2026-27. This cost is reviewed annually with the rate increasing annually in line with inflation.
- 5.3 Previous academic years' contributions should be paid in full before a further year of transport will be approved.
- 5.4 Personal Transport Budget (PTB) payments for all post-16 pupils include a reduction of the annual contribution amount.
- 5.5 If a PTB is cancelled during the academic year (after the first term) and no alternative transport is arranged, the amount of outstanding annual contribution will still be considered outstanding.
- 5.6 **Payment options:**
- 5.7 Full payment or instalment plans.
- 5.8 Failure to pay may result in cancellation of transport.
- 5.9 Families experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to apply for bursaries through their educational provider.
- 5.10 For those aged 18 and over, the Hull City Council Charging and Financial Assessment for Adult Social Care and Support Services Policy applies. Financial support towards care costs, including transport, is determined through financial assessment rather than a fixed annual contribution. Further details can be found here - [NEW - PAYING FOR CARE HANDBOOK 2026-2027](#).

6. Refunds:

- 6.1 Should the learner's transport assistance cease before the end of the academic year, only within the first term will a percentage pro-rata reduction be refunded.
- 6.2 Refunds or reductions will not be made for students attending a reduced timetable or parttime; the contribution in full will be invoiced.

7. Independent Travel Training:

7.1 In line with statutory guidance, the local authority offers Independent Travel Training as a form of travel support to assist young people of sixth-form age, and eligible young adults, to develop the skills and confidence required to travel independently where this is appropriate.

7.2 Independent Travel Training is intended to:

- Support access to education and training by reducing reliance on specialist transport
- Develop the skills needed to make safe and effective journeys
- Promote independence and preparation for adulthood

7.3 Nature of the Support:

Where offered, Independent Travel Training may include:

- One-to-one or small group support
- Supported and supervised familiarisation journeys
- Journey planning, including the use of timetables, tickets, and travel applications
- Guidance on personal safety and road safety
- Supported walking journeys or “walking buses” as part of a graduated approach

Training is:

- Delivered through a structured, time-limited programme
- Personalised according to the young person’s needs and capabilities
- Developmental and supportive, not an assessment or test
- Reviewed and extended where appropriate, having regard to individual progress

7.4 Consideration and Eligibility:

- Is not an automatic entitlement
- Will be considered on an individual basis, taking account of the young person’s needs, circumstances, and ability to benefit from the support

7.5 Participation in Independent Travel Training does not in itself constitute a change to existing transport arrangements, which will continue to be determined in accordance with the authority’s published Post-16 Transport Policy Statement.

7.6 Further Information:

Information about Independent Travel Training can be obtained from:

Independent Travel Trainer

Email: independenttraveltraining@hullcc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01482 613087

8. Applying for Local Authority transport support:

- 8.1 Where a young person has an identified Special Educational Need (SEN), or where transport support is assessed as necessary through the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessment or review process, parents or carers must complete a Special Transport Needs for Students application.
- 8.2 Transport support is considered on an individual basis, taking account of the young person's needs. Where appropriate, shared transport arrangements will be used to support best value.
- 8.3 Transport provision will be reviewed at each EHCP Annual Review and may be introduced, amended, or withdrawn where it is determined that:
- A transport need has been identified
 - A previously identified need has changed
 - Transport support is no longer required
- 8.4 **Application Process:**
- 8.5 Applications must be submitted annually. Details of the application process will be issued from April to parents and carers of young people currently in receipt of transport support. All applications must be made via an electronic application form which is available at - [SEND transport - 16 to 19 years old - About this form - myAccount | Hull City Council](#)
- 8.6 **Timescales:**
- 8.7 To enable planning for a September start, applications should be received by **1 June each year**.
- 8.8 Transport arrangements for the September start date **are not guaranteed** if the application form is received after this date. Late applications may result in delayed, amended, or alternative arrangements.
- 8.9 **Decision and Notification:**
- 8.10 An acknowledgement letter will be issued within 10–15 school days of receipt of the application, advising whether the application has met the eligibility criteria. Applicants will also be notified where the eligibility criteria have not been met.
- 8.11 Where eligibility is confirmed, a further letter will be issued between July and August confirming transport arrangements.
- 8.12 Transport support may change in line with best value considerations and provider availability. Any award made as a result of fraud or misrepresentation will be withdrawn and may result in further action.

9. **Appeals:**

- 9.1 Any parent/carer will have the right to appeal any decision taken by the Local Authority about the provision of transport assistance to a post 16 provider.
- 9.2 The parent/carer will be requested to submit a stage 1 letter of appeal within 20 working days of the decision together with supporting evidence if applicable outlining the grounds for appeal. The appeal should be based on:
- Entitlement / eligibility
 - Distance measurement
 - Route safety
 - Consideration of exceptional circumstances
- 9.3 Review requests must be in writing and marked "School/College Transport Review Request" and sent to SENtransport@hullcc.gov.uk or by post to the address including within the letter you have received from the Local Authority.
- 9.4 Upon receipt of a written letter of appeal explaining the exceptional circumstances as to why the Authority should consider providing assistance with transport outside of policy (together with any supporting evidence), the matter will be presented to a more senior officer not involved with the original decision.
- 9.5 The senior officer will review the decision and respond to the parent/carer within 20 working days of receipt of the appeal. If the appeal is rejected at this stage a response will be provided explaining the reasons for the rejection.
- 9.6 If the applicant remains unsatisfied, there can be a stage 2 appeal to an independent panel to determine whether support will be provided. This appeal must be submitted within 20 working days of receipt of the stage 1 rejection letter. An appeals form can be requested by email – SENtransport@hullcc.gov.uk or in writing to the address including within the letter you have received from the Local Authority.
- 9.7 The documentation including the reasons for the original refusal and any further information will be presented to an independent panel that will consist of Local Authority officers who have had no involvement in the decision making so far. The review will take place within 40 days of the stage 2 appeal being received.
- 9.8 The parent will be advised of their right to attend a stage 2 appeal hearing virtually or in person to present their case.
- 9.9 The decision will be either to uphold the original decision and not to provide travel assistance, or to reverse the original decision and provide travel assistance will be sent within 5 working days of the panel meeting.
- 9.10 Anyone who remains dissatisfied with the process of an appeal and believes that proper procedures have not been followed can ask the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) to investigate. Any additional information that the applicant feels should be taken into account may be provided at this time. Complaint to the LGO must relate to the administration of an appeal rather than the appeal decision. The LGO can be contacted in three ways:
1. LGO advice line: 0300 061 0614
 2. Website: [Welcome to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#)
 3. Young people or their families may also complain to the Secretary of State

