

Harrow Council Consultation on the Post-16 Transport Statement 2012-2013

The Background to this Consultation

The [Post 16 Transport Policy Statement](#) details the transport arrangements and financial assistance with transport costs that the Local Authority considers necessary to ensure access to education or training for learners of sixth form age. For the majority of young people in Harrow, London Transport's [arrangements for post 16 students](#) provides for their transport needs. The link highlighted above will take you to the statement for 2011-2012. In particular, the Local Authority seeks to consider the needs of those who are at risk of not being in education, employment or training (NEET) at the age of 16 or 17.

The grant from central government that provided transport costs for students without a special educational need or disability through a locally determined scheme ceased on 31 March 2011. Harrow Council, like other local authorities, has not received any grant funding since that date. However, Harrow Council continued to fund the Post-16 Transport Statement and the policy was renewed for 2011-2012.

Following the development of the Harrow Collegiate, schools, Academies and Colleges in Harrow offer a very full range of courses and we do not expect much demand for courses outside the borough's boundaries. However, there are a small number of students who need additional support each year. The Local Authority seeks to support these young people of sixth form age by providing them with support for transport costs where there may be a need in order to ensure their continued participation in learning.

The guidance requires local authorities to prepare and publish a Transport Policy Statement for young people aged 19-24 with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (SEND). There are no plans to change the current eligibility criteria for these students.

The Content and Timing of this Consultation

In this consultation Harrow Council is seeking views on how support for transport costs should be allocated for students with other needs. Many urban authorities provide no funds for such students but Harrow has continued to do so and intends to do so for 2012-2013.

The Council wishes to consult on proposed changes to the way funds are allocated. The Council intends to target its funds more effectively and, in particular, to bring it into line with the typical funding mechanisms of educational institutions. The government now permits schools, Academies and colleges to use discretionary allowances to support transport costs for students and Harrow Council wishes to target its support to those most in need.

The overall intention of the Local Authority's 16-19 transport statement is to continue to ensure that learners of sixth form age who most need additional support are able to access the education and training of their choice. This consultation closes on **2 April 2012**.

The Proposed Changes 2012-2013

Harrow is proposing a change to the criteria found in the current [Post 16 Transport Policy Statement](#) as a basis for future funding. To be eligible for a grant from September 2012 the Council is proposing the following criteria.

- The course you are studying is not available in a school, Academy or College within the Harrow boundary AND
- You must have been in receipt of, or have been eligible for, free schools meals (FSM) while a Year 11 student in a secondary school or Academy AND
- You must be a resident of Harrow at the time you seek funding; AND
- The place of study must be a minimum of three miles from the student's home and within 1 hour and 15 minutes travel time from home by public transport.

You may respond to this consultation through the consultations section of the website or in writing to:

Post-16 Transport Statement Consultation
Education Strategy and School Organisation
Harrow Teachers' Centre
Tudor Road
Harrow
HA3 5PQ

This consultation closes on **2 April 2012**.