

**REVIEW OF
HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT TO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
CONSULTATION**

31 January to 11 March 2022

Introduction

The Council currently provides funding to cover the cost of transport to enable children and young people attending one of five Area Special schools to stay on beyond the end of the school day and participate in after school activities. The Council also provides funding from its High Needs Block towards the cost of running that provision. This arrangement has been in place since 2011.

The Council's Children and Young People's Committee has taken the decision to launch this consultation to seek views and feedback on the current arrangements and possible changes to these.

This document has been produced with the purpose of explaining:

- Why the Council has taken the decision to undertake a review at this time.
- What alternative options to the current arrangements might be considered.
- What any changes to the current arrangements could mean for the families who use the After School provision.
- What any changes to the current arrangements could mean for the schools that run the After School provision.
- How you can let us know what you think about the current arrangements and the possible ways in which these might change.
- When decisions will be taken and by whom.

Consultation

The consultation period runs from 31 January 2022 to 11 March 2022.

We are conducting this consultation in accordance with guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE). Our aim is to:

- Consult widely with all interested parties
- To be clear about any proposed changes, who could be affected and our timescales
- To ensure our consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible

Any information provided by you in response to this consultation will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations, which allow public access to information held by public institutions. This does not necessarily mean that any response you choose to make can be made available on public request because there are exemptions to information provided in confidence and to which the UK General Data Protection Regulations apply.

If you are responding on a personal basis, you do not need to give your name and address unless you wish to do so. However, this would be useful in case we need to contact you for any clarification. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, it would be helpful for you to provide details of that organisation and the capacity in which you represent them. Please tell us if you want your response to remain confidential but do note that making such a request does not automatically exclude a right of public access.

SECTION 1 BACKGROUND

Following a pilot project undertaken in 2010 involving Granta Special School in Linton, South Cambridgeshire, the Council took the decision to fund the cost of transport to enable children and young people attending both this school and the five other Area Special schools in Cambridgeshire open at that time to stay on beyond the end of the school day and participate in after school activities.

Currently, free transport is provided to the following schools:

- Castle School in Cambridge
- Granta School in Linton
- Highfields Academy in Ely
- Samuel Pepys School in St Neots
- Spring Common Academy in Huntingdon

The Council previously funded and provided transport to the After School club run by Meadowgate Academy in Wisbech. Whilst the school continues to run an After School club it has not made a claim for the transport cost associated with this since the start of September 2018.

The funding provided by the Council is a discretionary arrangement. The Council is under no legal or statutory duty to fund or make arrangements for children and young people to attend either Before or After School clubs run by schools or other providers. Its legal duty is limited to supporting children and young people, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to get them to school for the start of the school teaching day and to get them home at the end of the school teaching day. Schools determine those start and end times to ensure that every child and young person receives the number of hours of education each week to which they are entitled.

The Council does not provide or fund similar arrangements for children and young people attending other special schools or those attending mainstream schools who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

SECTION 2 – WHY IS THERE A NEED TO REVIEW THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS?

In the time since the Council took the decision to provide free transport to the After School Clubs run by Cambridgeshire's Area Special Schools, two new Area Special schools have opened in Cambridgeshire. These are Highfield Academy in Littleport and the Martin Bacon Academy in Northstowe, South Cambridgeshire. A third new Area Special School, Prestley Wood is planned to open in September 2023 in Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon.

The current arrangements do not reflect these changes, nor do they take account of the three special schools in the County which provide education for children and young people with Social

Emotional & Mental Health Needs (SEMH). These are The Harbour School in Wilburton (East Cambridgeshire), The Centre School in Cottenham (South Cambridgeshire) and the Riverside Meadows Academy which has sites in St Neots and Wisbech.

Nor do they take account of the fact that there are a number of Enhanced Resource Units based at schools around the County which provide for children and young people with autism.

There are also many children and young people with SEND who have EHCPs who are being educated in mainstream schools.

Since 2011, the Council has had to make a number of changes to its home to school/college transport arrangements in response to significant financial pressures. It continues to face those pressures and needs to consider ways in which it can reduce these.

In the last three years in particular, the Council has seen the cost of home to school/college transport increase. This year, the Council forecast is that it will spend around £600,000 more on home to school/college transport for children and young people with SEND than it has in its budget. This is the result mainly of a greater number of children and young people with complex SEND requiring specialist provision, including transport.

Included within this overspend figure is the £93,686.34 it costs to provide transport to 54 children and young people who use one of the After School clubs run by the five Area Special schools named above. This breaks down to an average of £1,734.93 per child per annum.

SECTION 3 – WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS?

Option 1(a)

Continue to provide free transport to children and young people who attend Castle School, Granta School, Highfield Academy Ely, Samuel Pepys School and Spring Common Academy to enable them to access the After School Provision run by those schools.

Option 1(b)

Continue to provide free transport to the children and young people currently on roll at the schools named in Option 1, but not to any children and young people who are placed at those schools after the start of the 2022/23 academic year.

Option 2

Change from providing free transport to those children and young people who attend the schools named in Option 1, to providing subsidised transport with parents/carers meeting part of the cost.

Option 3

Change from providing free transport to those children and young people who attend the schools named in Option 1, to providing subsidised transport with parents/carers meeting part of the cost, with the subsidy phased out over 3 years at the end of which parents/carers would meet the full cost.

Option 4

Change from providing free transport to those children and young people who attend the schools named in Option 1 to providing free transport only to those families who qualify for financial support on grounds of low income* and offer subsidised transport for other children with parents/carers meeting part of the cost.

Option 5

Cease providing free transport to those children and young people who attend the schools named in Option 1 with effect from the start of term in September 2022. This would mean that parents/carers would need to meet the full cost of transport themselves, should they wish their children to continue to attend one of those clubs from the start of September 2022.

** be entitled to [Free school meals](#) or be from a family receiving the maximum level of Working Families Tax Credit (with no reduction due to income).*

Due to the significant on-going financial pressures which the Council continues to face it is not able to consider options for extending the current arrangements to provide support to those children and young people with SEND attending other schools.

SECTION 4 – POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

The Council is very appreciative of the fact that the current arrangements provide the parents/carers and families of those children and young people who attend an After School Club run by one of the five Area Special Schools named above, with both short break respite and greater flexibility around childcare arrangements. We are also aware of the benefits that the children and young people themselves gain from participating in After School provision. We know, therefore, that any changes to the current arrangements will directly affect those children, young people and their families. We also know that many families have their own financial challenges and that these could have increased as a result of the Covid pandemic.

Any changes to the current arrangements could also have a direct impact on school staff. If there are fewer children and young people attending the After School Clubs, fewer staff would need to be employed to support or supervise them.

The purpose of this consultation is to better understand how children, young people, their families and the schools would be affected should any of the alternative options identified above be approved by the Council's Children and Young People's Committee for implementation.

Therefore, we would very much like to receive your views and feedback both on the current arrangements and the alternative options we have outlined. We would also like to hear any alternative suggestions you might have. There are a number of ways you can respond. These are detailed on the last page of this document.

The closing date for receipt of comments is **11 March 2022**.

SECTION 5 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IN THE PROCESS?

Once all the responses have been collated and analysed, this information will be presented to the Council's Children's and Young People's Committee at their meeting on 17 May 2022 together with a recommendation on which option should be taken forward and implemented. The earliest any changes would come into effect would be for the start of the academic year 2022/23.

Parents affected by the proposed changes are welcome to address the Committee by prior arrangement.

The parents/carers, families, children and young people and the schools affected will be informed of the outcome of the Committee meeting as soon as practically possible. There is no right of appeal against the Committee's decision.

Consultees

Parents/carers of children using the After School clubs run by one of the following schools: Castle School, Granta School, Highfield Ely, Samuel Pepys and Spring Common.

Staff employed by one of the five schools named above.
Governors of one of the above five schools named above.

Union representatives

Local County Councillors

Local MPs

PinPoint

SENDIASS (Cambridgeshire)

Head teachers, staff, governors and parents/carers of children and young people of the following Cambridgeshire special schools;

- Meadowgate Academy, Wisbech.
- Martin Bacon Academy, Northstowe.
- Highfield Littleport Academy.
- The Harbour School, Wilburton.
- The Centre School, Cottenham.
- The Riverside Meadows Academy, St Neots and Wisbech.

Head teachers, staff, governors and parents/carers of children and young people attending the Enhanced Resource Bases at the following Cambridgeshire mainstream schools;

- Comberton Village College, The Cabin.
- Gamlingay Village Primary School, The Cabin.
- Melbourn Village College, The Cabin.
- St Peter's School, Huntingdon, The Cabin.
- Colville Speech & Language Centre, Cambridge.
- Cottenham Village College, Hearing Support Centre.
- Ernulf Academy, St Neots, The Cabin.
- Impington Village College, Specialist Post-16 Provision.
- Impington Village College, The Pavilion.
- Mayfield Primary School, Hearing Impaired Unit, Cambridge
- Sir Harry Smith Community College, Whittlesey Enhanced Provision Centre.
- Spring Meadow Infant Assessment Unit, Ely
- Thomas Clarkson Academy, Wisbech, The Cooper Centre.
- Trumpington Community College, Cambridge, The Cabin.
- Witchford Village College, The Cabin.

Home to School Transport for After School Clubs Proposal

Consultation Response Form

1. Please provide your first name and surname name below (you may also remain anonymous):

2. Please provide your email address (optional):

3. Please provide your home address and post code (optional):

4. Please select the appropriate box to indicate if you are:

- ☐ A parent/carer of a child or young person who uses an After School Club run by Castle School, Granta School, Highfield Ely Academy, Samuel Pepys School or Spring Common Academy
- ☐ A parent/carer of a child or young person with SEND and an EHCP who uses an After School Club run by another school
- ☐ A parent/carer of a child or young person with SEND and an EHCP who attends an Enhanced Recourse Base at a Cambridgeshire mainstream school.
- ☐ A child or young person who uses an After School Club run by Castle School, Granta School, Highfield Ely Academy, Samuel Pepys School or Spring Common Academy
- ☐ A child or young person who has an EHCP who uses an After School Club run by another school
- ☐ A member of staff at Castle School, Granta School, Highfield Ely Academy, Samuel Pepys School or Spring Common Academy
- ☐ A member of staff at one of the other Cambridgeshire special schools or a mainstream Enhanced Resource Base.
- ☐ A governor or Trust member of Castle School, Granta School, Highfield Ely Academy, Samuel Pepys School or Spring Common Academy

- ☐ A governor or Trust member of one of the other Cambridgeshire special schools or a mainstream Enhanced Resource Base.
- ☐ A Professional Association / Trade Union representative
- ☐ A representative of another Partner Organisation / Education Provider

5. Please select which After School Club your child uses:

- ☐ Castle School
- ☐ Granta School
- ☐ Highfield Ely Academy
- ☐ Samuel Pepys School
- ☐ Spring Common Academy
- ☐ Do not currently attend a Club
- ☐ Other, please name in the box below

6. If you have selected “other” please provide details below:

7. If your child does not attend an After School Club, what are reasons for this?

- ☐ No club available
- ☐ No transport available
- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Other

8. If you have answered “Other” please provide details.

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9. Current Arrangements and Alternative Options

Please tick a box if you have a clear preference for one of the options listed:

- ☐ **Option 1 (a)** – *“Continue to provide free transport to children and young people who attend Castle School, Granta School, Highfield Academy Ely, Samuel Pepys School and Spring Common Academy to enable them to access the After School Provision run by those schools”.*
- ☐ **Option 1 (b)** - *“Change from providing free transport to those children and young people who attend the schools named in Option 1, to providing subsidised transport with parents/carers meeting part of the cost”.*
- ☐ **Option 2** – *“Change from providing free transport to those children and young people who attend the schools named in Option 1, to providing subsidised transport with parents/carers meeting part of the cost”.*
- ☐ **Option 3** – *“Change from providing free transport to those children and young people who attend the schools named in Option 1, to providing subsidised transport with parents/carers meeting part of the cost, with the subsidy phased out over 3 years at the end of which parents/carers would meet the full cost”.*
- ☐ **Option 4** – *“Change from providing free transport to those children and young people who attend the schools named in Option 1 to providing free transport only to those families who qualify for financial support on grounds of low income* and offer subsidised transport for other children with parents/carers meeting part of the cost.”*
- ☐ **Option 5** - *“Cease providing free transport to those children and young people who attend the schools named in Option 1 with effect from the start of term in September 2022. This would mean that parents/carers would need to meet the full cost of transport themselves, should they wish their children to continue to attend one of those clubs from the start of September 2022”.*

10. If you have ticked Option 2, please use the boxes below to indicate the level of subsidy you think the Council should provide:

- ☐ 75% of the cost
- ☐ 50% of the cost

- ☐ 25% of the cost
- ☐ Other

11. If you have selected “Other” please specify the amount below.

12. If you have selected Option 3, please use the box below to let us know how you think the Council should phase out the subsidy over a three year period.

13. Please tick the box below if you do not have a clear preference or a strong view on any of the above options.

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14. If you have any alternative suggestions, please use the box below to let us know what they are.

15. If your child currently attends one of the After School Clubs run by one of the 5 Area Special schools, would they continue to be able to access their existing After School Club if the decision was taken to implement Option 5 (cease providing free transport).

Yes ☐

No ☐

16. If you have selected “Yes”, how would they travel to the club?

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17. If you would like to make an additional comment, please use the box below and continue onto a separate sheet if necessary.

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Ways to respond:

The deadline for receipt of comments is **11 March 2022** and you can respond in a number of ways;

Online - The quickest and easiest way to contact us is to complete the Smart Survey online to give your comments. This can be found using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/8mdZaDrBZi>



In person- You can hand in your completed questionnaire to any of the schools, who will then send them on to us.

By email - You can email the questionnaire directly to:

transportconsultation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

By Post - You can post your questionnaire to: Transport to After School Clubs Consultation
Cambridgeshire County Council
BOX ALC2606
New Shire Hall
Alconbury Weald
PE28 4YE