

Home to School Transport - Public Consultation

How we use your personal information

The information you provide will only be used for the purposes of this consultation. To learn more about how your information is used, please visit the Council's Consultation Privacy Notice and Data Protection Pages.

The Council is proposing to change the way it provides Home to School Transport (HTS) for children and young people (learners) in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The proposal sets out a new Home to School Transport Policy, which primarily maintains the generous discretionary transport and providing mainstream English, Welsh and Faith primary school, secondary school and college transport in line with relevant statutory distance criteria, which would be implemented from the start of the 2025/2026 academic year.

The consultation will close at 5pm on 8th February 2024

1. Are you...?

- A parent/carer of a young person/learner who uses or will use Home to School Transport?
- A young person/learner who uses or will use Home to School Transport?
- A person employed within the school transport industry?
- A person employed within a school setting or a school governor?
- None of the above?

2. If you are a parent/carer of, or a young person who uses/will use School Transport, are you:

	English	Welsh	Faith
At a School Nursery Setting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Infant School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Primary School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Secondary School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At Secondary School/college (Yr 12 - 13, post 16)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Postcode:

PROPOSAL

To continue to provide a generous discretionary Home to School Transport Provision for over 6000 learners and bring mainstream English, Welsh and Faith primary and secondary school and college transport in line with statutory distance criteria.

This option has the potential to deliver savings of approximately £2.5m in a full year.

Currently, the Council provides Home to School Transport to all pupils who live 1.5 miles away from their Primary School and 2 miles from their Secondary School. This is above the statutory legal requirement set out by Welsh Government.

In the current financial climate and to protect a significant element of the current discretionary provision, if the service change is approved, the Council will provide Home to School Transport to all pupils who live 2 miles or more away from their Primary School and 3 miles or more away from their Secondary School.

This service change would put the Council's transport policy in line with Welsh Government's statutory distance eligibility criteria and statutory walking distance policy, which 18 of the 22 Councils in Wales currently adopt.

Under this proposal, the Council will still continue to offer and protect large elements of the very generous discretionary service and provide transport over and above the statutory distances. This includes transport for pre compulsory school age pupils, post 16 pupils attending 6th forms or college, and for pupils attending Welsh Medium or Faith schools.

Transport eligibility for learners with Additional Learning Needs who attend special schools, pupil referral units and learning support classes will not change as a result of this proposal.

Approximately 6,000 learners will continue to benefit from this generous discretionary transport policy, at an estimated cost of £4.4m per year.

The following table outlines what the Council would continue to provide for all other areas of its discretionary transport provision in excess of the current minimum Welsh Government statutory requirement.

Service Provision	WG Statutory Policy	RCTCBC Proposed Policy
Primary School Distance > 1.5 miles	✗	✗
Secondary School Distance > 2 miles	✗	✗
Primary School Distance > 2 miles	✓	✓
Secondary School Distance > 3 miles	✓	✓
Pre-compulsory School Age < 5 years	✗	✓
Transport to nearest suitable Faith School (Primary and Secondary)	✗	✓
Transport to nearest suitable Welsh Medium School (Primary and Secondary)	✗	✓
Post 16 Education Transport (6 th form or College)	✗	✓

4. Do you agree with the preferred proposal?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

5. This proposal will maintain discretionary school transport provision for over 6,000 learners. Do you agree that this level of discretionary provision should be retained?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

6. This proposal will result in savings of approximately £2.5m which will help towards safeguarding changes to other discretionary elements of the school transport provision. Do you agree with this proposal if it helps to maintain future discretionary school transport provision?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

7. The Council considered other options prior to consultation but deemed that they were either unaffordable, i.e. do nothing and risk more significant impacts in future years, or that the impact on learners was too great, i.e. removing all discretionary provision. Do you agree that the proposal taken forward to consultation is the fairest option available to the Council?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Do you have any alternative options that you would like the Council to consider?

8. **COMMENTS**

Do you have any other comments that you would like us to consider as part of this proposal?

Equality Monitoring Questions

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council – Equality Monitoring Form

The Council is committed to the principle of equal opportunities and having a clear picture of the equality profile of our consultation respondents can help monitor the effectiveness of our equal opportunities policies and procedures. We conduct monitoring in order to identify gaps in access to our services, and make targeted changes where gaps are identified. Data is only used to improve services, and in reporting.

9. You are entirely free to decide whether or not to complete this form and there are no consequences of failing to do so. We do not intend on capturing any personal identifiable information through this form. Please be mindful of this in the responses you provide within the free text areas. In the instance where you do provide us with information about yourself or others, RCTCBC will ensure it will be processed in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and only used for monitoring and reporting purposes.

I do not wish to provide any of the information requested on this form, proceed to Question 22

10. **Age**

- 15 or under
 16-24
 25-34
 35-44
 45-54
 55-64
 65-74
 75+
 Prefer not to say

11. **Sex**

Are you

- Female
 Male
 Prefer not to say

If you prefer your own term, please provide this here:

12. **Gender Identity**

Do you identify as

- Non-binary
- Trans
- N/A
- Prefer not to say

If you prefer your own term, please provide this here:

13. **Sexual Orientation**

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

- Bisexual
- Gay man
- Gay woman / Lesbian
- Heterosexual / Straight
- Prefer not to say

If you prefer to use your own term, please provide this here:

14. **National Identity**

How would you describe your national identity?

- British
- Cornish
- English
- Irish
- Northern Irish
- Scottish
- Welsh
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Please describe

15. **Ethnicity**

How would you describe your ethnic origin?

- Arab
- Asian: British
- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British: Chinese
- Asian: Cornish
- Asian: English
- Asian or Asian British: Indian
- Asian: Irish
- Asian: Northern Irish
- Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian: Scottish
- Asian or Asian British: Other East Asian
- Asian or Asian British: Other South Asian
- Asian: Welsh
- Asian or Asian British: Other (please describe):
- Black: British
- Black or Black British: African
- Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Black: Cornish
- Black: English
- Black: Irish
- Black: Northern Irish
- Black: Scottish
- Black: Welsh
- Black, Black British or Black African: Other (please describe):
- English Gypsy
- Irish Gypsy
- Irish Traveller
- Scottish Gypsy
- Scottish Traveller
- Welsh Gypsy
- Mixed/Multiple: African & Caribbean
- Mixed/Multiple: Black African & White
- Mixed/Multiple: Black British & White
- Mixed/Multiple: Black Caribbean & White
- Mixed/Multiple: East Asian & White
- Mixed/Multiple: South Asian & White
- Mixed/Multiple: Other (please describe):
- Roma
- Sinti
- White: British
- White: Cornish
- White: English

15. **Ethnicity**

How would you describe your ethnic origin?

- White: Gypsy
- White: Irish
- White: Irish Traveller
- White: Northern Irish
- White: Scottish
- White: Welsh
- White: Other (please describe):
- Prefer not to say

If other Ethnic Group or if you would prefer to use your own definition, please specify:

16. **Disability**

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

'The definition of disability as defined under the Equality Act (2010) is '*a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out day-to-day activities*'.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

17. **Religion or belief**

What is your religion or belief?

- Buddhist
- Christian (including Church of Wales, Catholic, Protestant and all other denominations)
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Non-religious (e.g. Atheist, Humanist etc.)
- Sikh
- Other
- Prefer not to say

If other Religion or Belief, or if you prefer to use your own definition, please provide this here:

18. **Caring Responsibilities**

Do you look after, or support family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either: a long term physical or mental condition/disability or problems related to old age?

- No
- Yes, 1-19 hours a week
- Yes, 20-49 hours a week
- Yes, 50 or more hours a week
- Prefer not to say

19. **Pregnancy and maternity**

Are you currently pregnant, or have you been pregnant within the last 12 months?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

20. **Have you taken (or are you currently taking) maternity leave in the last 12 months?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

21. **Veterans and Armed Forces**

Have you ever, or are you currently, serving in the Armed Forces?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

22. **Under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duties, the Council has a legal duty to look at how its decisions impact on people because they may have particular characteristics.**

How would the proposals affect you because of your:

1. Sex 2. Age 3. Ethnicity 4. Disability 5. Sexuality 6. Religion / Belief 7. Gender identity 8. Relationship status 9. Pregnancy 10. Preferred language

Please provide your reason/s:

23. As part of our Welsh Impact Assessment (WIA) process, the Council has identified that there are possible impacts on the Welsh Language. Please review the WIA and provide any comments if appropriate.

24. How do you feel the proposal could impact on opportunities for learners to use and promote the Welsh Language?

- Positively
 Negatively
 No impact
 Don't know

25. How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be decreased?

26. Does the proposal, in any way, treat the Welsh Language less favourably than the English Language?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Thank you for taking the time to complete the above consultation.

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