



Haverling

LONDON BOROUGH

PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE AGENDA

7.00 pm

Thursday
1 February 2024

Council Chamber -
Town Hall

Members 12: Quorum 4

COUNCILLORS:

Jason Frost (Chairman)
Frankie Walker (Vice-Chair)
Robert Benham
Patricia Brown

Laurance Garrard
Judith Holt
Jacqueline McArdle
Christine Smith

Bryan Vincent
Julie Wilkes
Vacancy x2

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Statutory Members representing the Churches

Jack How (Roman Catholic
Church)

Statutory Members representing parent governors

Julie Lamb, Special Schools

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ian Rusha (NUT)

For information about the meeting please contact:
Luke Phimister
01708 434619 luke.phimister@onesource.co.uk

Under the Committee Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution the Chairman of the meeting may exercise the powers conferred upon the Mayor in relation to the conduct of full Council meetings. As such, should any member of the public interrupt proceedings, the Chairman will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chairman will order their removal from the meeting room and may adjourn the meeting while this takes place.

Excessive noise and talking should also be kept to a minimum whilst the meeting is in progress in order that the scheduled business may proceed as planned.

Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements. Each overview and scrutiny sub-committee has its own remit as set out in the terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

The sub-committees have a number of key roles:

1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy and decision makers.
2. Driving improvement in public services.
3. Holding key local partners to account.
4. Enabling the voice and concerns to the public.

The sub-committees consider issues by receiving information from, and questioning, Cabinet Members, officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals, policy and practices. They can then develop recommendations that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations. These are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and if approved, submitted for a response to Council, Cabinet and other relevant bodies.

Sub-Committees will often establish Topic Groups to examine specific areas in much greater detail. These groups consist of a number of Members and the review period can last for anything from a few weeks to a year or more to allow the Members to comprehensively examine an issue through interviewing expert witnesses, conducting research or undertaking site visits. Once the topic group has finished its work it will send a report to the Sub-Committee that created it and will often suggest recommendations for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to pass to the Council's Executive.

Terms of Reference

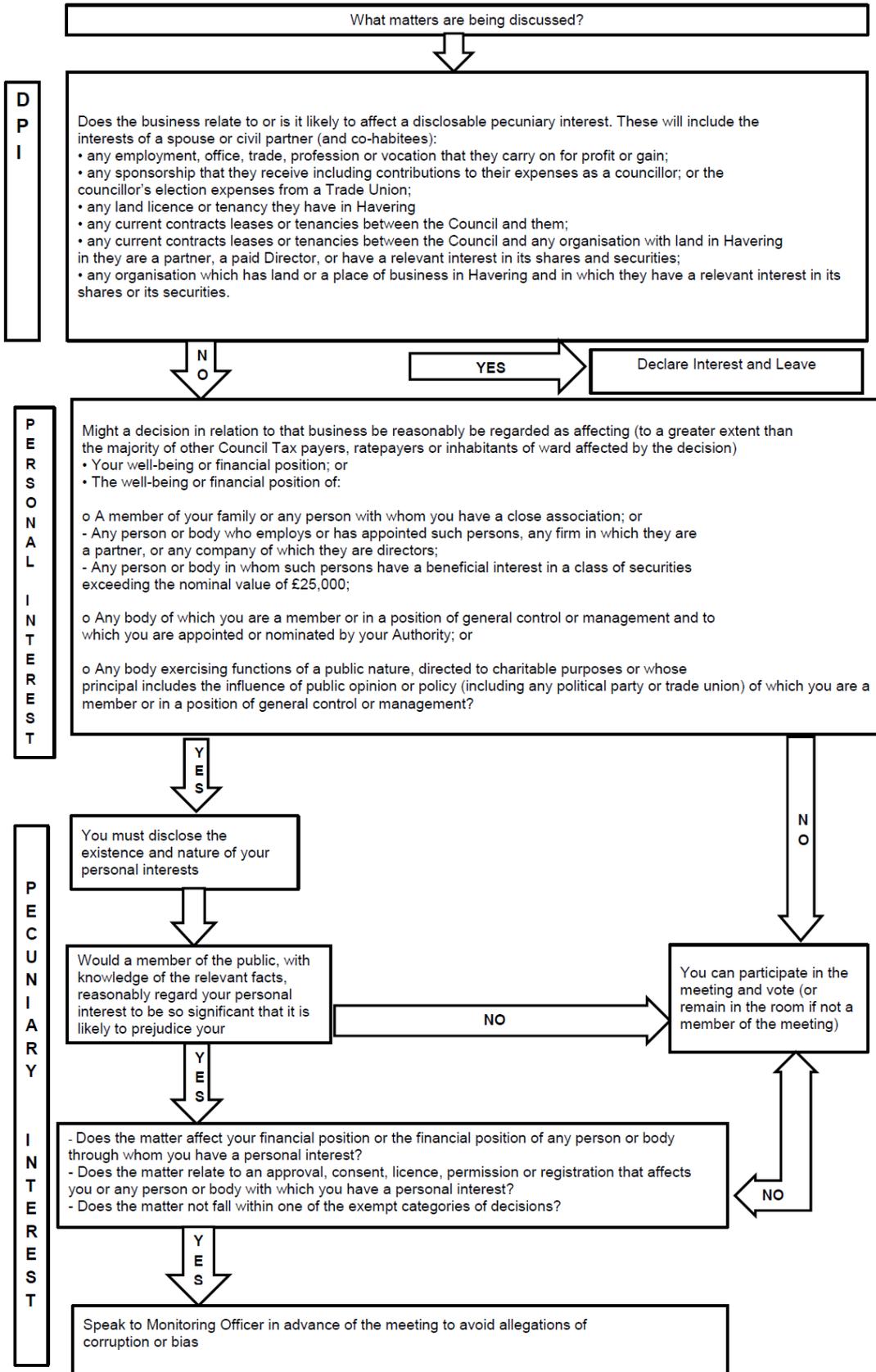
The areas scrutinised by the Committee are:

- Drug, Alcohol & sexual Services
- Health & Wellbeing
- Health O & Scrutiny
- Adult Care
- Learning and Physical Disabilities
- Employment & Skills
- Education
- Child Protection
- Youth Services

People Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee, 1 February 2024

- Fostering & Adoption Services
- Education Traded Services
- Early Years Services
- Looked after Children
- Media
- Communications
- Advertising
- Corporate Events
- Bereavement & Registration Services
- Crime & Disorder

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



AGENDA ITEMS

1 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

To receive (if any)

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are invited to disclose any interests in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting. Members may still declare an interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

4 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT (Pages 7 - 82)

Report attached

Zena Smith
Head of Committee and Election Services



PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1ST FEBRUARY 2024

Subject Heading:

Home To School Transport

SLT Lead:

Tara Geere

Report Author and contact details:

Trevor Cook, 01708 431250,
trevor.cook@[havering.gov.uk](mailto:trevor.cook@havering.gov.uk)

Policy context:

This is a change in the existing Home to School Transport Policy to offer alternative options to parents/carers to support getting their child to and from school.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, Havering in line with the considerable growth in its child population has experienced a significant and continued increase in the number of requests for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and the number of EHCPs subsequently being issued. The number of issued EHCP's has increased from 1,328 in 2017/18 to 2,189 in 2021/22, a cumulative increase of 861, or 62% based on 2017/18 levels. This increase is forecast to increase further, and we expect to have over 3,200 by 2025/26.

This increase in EHCPs has also resulted in a significant increase in demand for transport assistance, and currently over 730 children and young people aged up to 25 years old with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are supported with transport assistance.

The Department for Education (DfE) published new Home-to-school travel statutory [guidance](#) in 2023 which required the Local Authority to review its existing policy. The aim of the revised policy is to deliver a more personalised transport assistance service, and to meet the new statutory guidance from the DfE for the relevant age groups.

This People's OSSC report gives a high level summary of the quantitative responses received via a public consultation regarding Havering's Home to School Transport Policy. Ongoing work is being undertaken by the SEND service to analyse the qualitative responses received and aggregate into themes for consideration prior to the March Cabinet report and drafting of the new policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Whilst the Service is undertaking the consultation analysis of the qualitative responses of the public consultation, this report gives a high level summary of the quantitative responses

The committee is respectfully requested to consider the qualitative (free text) responses to the public consultation on the draft transport policy (attached as an appendix of the report) and make any relevant observations and recommendations for Cabinet to consider when determining the future statutory Home to School Transport policy in March 2024.

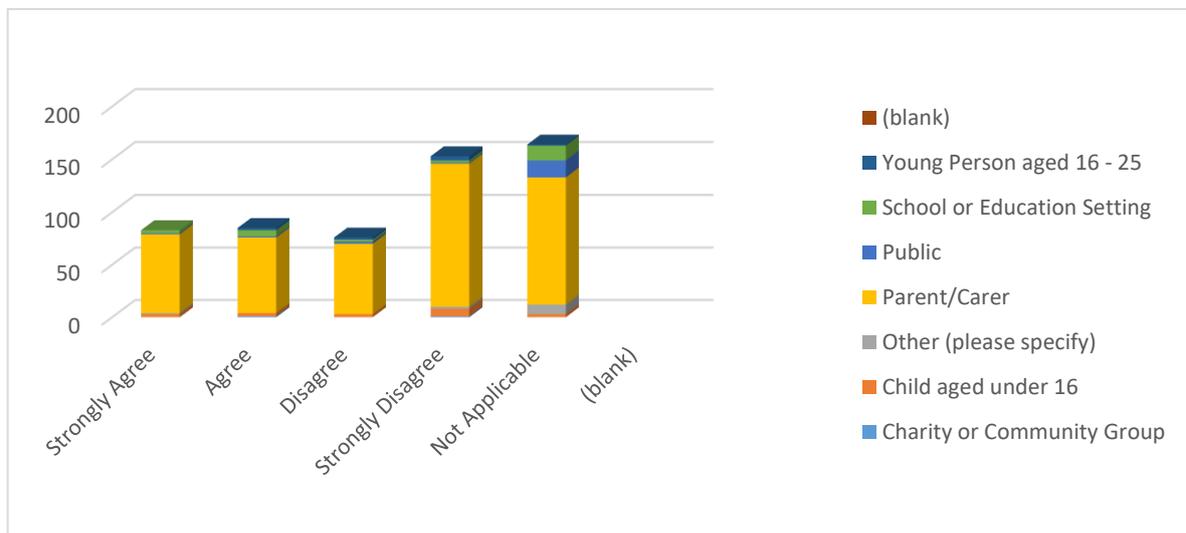
REPORT DETAIL

1. Havering Council currently offers advice, support and assistance to eligible children and young people travelling between home and school/college in accordance with the criteria set out in the existing [home to school travel assistance policy](#).
2. In recent years, Havering has experienced a significant and continued increase in the number of requests for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and the number of EHCPs being issued. The number of EHCPs issued has increased from 1,328 in 2017/18 to 2,189 in 2021/22, a cumulative increase of 861, or 62% based on 2017/18 levels. This increase is forecast to increase further, and we expect to have over 3,200 by 2025/26.
3. This increase in EHCPs has also resulted in a significant increase in demand for transport assistance, and currently around 730 children and young people aged up to 25 years old, with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are supported with transport assistance.

Havering Travel Assistance	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total Applications Received	449	428	495	175	690	840	780
Students Approved for Passenger Bus	303	347	373	348	366	358	438
Students Approved for Taxi/ Shared Taxi	79	97	133	158	175	199	189
Students Approved for Personal Transport Budget	22	14	45	17	43	68	99
Students Approved for Travel Training	19	11	25	11	13	29	8

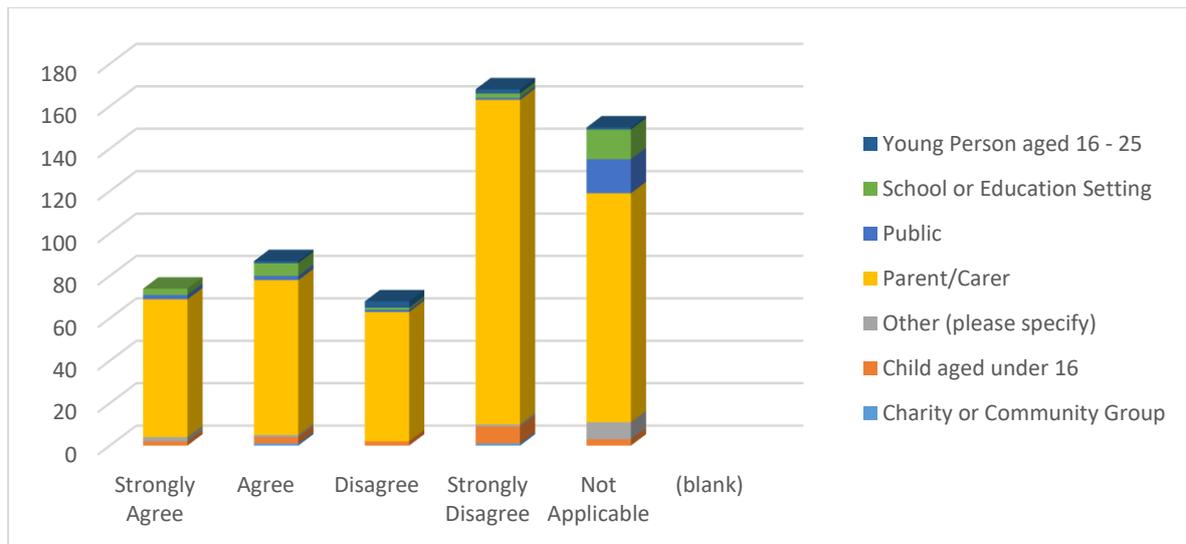
4. In June 2023, the DfE published new Home-to-school travel statutory guidance, which required the Local Authority to review its existing policy to ensure it remained legally compliant.
5. Officers reviewed the current policy during the summer, and on 13th September 2023, it was agreed by Cabinet to conduct a public consultation as part of the development of the new policy. The aim of the consultation was to seek the views of parents, carers, young people and wider stakeholders to ensure the policy review process was legally compliant and in keeping with current demand and need.
6. The public consultation was held between 12th October and 17th November 2023 and included a public meeting.
7. The consultation received a total of 568 responses, the vast majority were from parent/guardians who accounted for 84% of the overall response. This was followed by school or educational settings responses at 5%, the general public at 4% and children under 16 at 3%. Whilst it is good to see that children responded, we understand this may not be a true reflection given parents may have responded for their child rather than identifying themselves as a parent/guardian.
8. Eight quantitative questions were asked as part of the consultation covering the main areas of the revised policy. Consultees were also able to provide further qualitative responses through 'free text' boxes. The responses within the free text has been anonymised and attached to the report. The results recorded from each of the quantitative question are shown below:

a. ***How much do you agree with the following statements: - impact of personal budgets - "Positively impact on my own or my families' employment".***



For question one, there were 561 responses with 7 abstaining from answering. From the responses, 21.6% or 164 responders answered the question was not applicable to them leaving responses from 397 individuals on the impact. Of the people who gave a response on the impact of the policy on employment a total of 168 (42.3%) agreed or strongly agreed that the policy would positively impact on them or their families and 229 (57.7%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

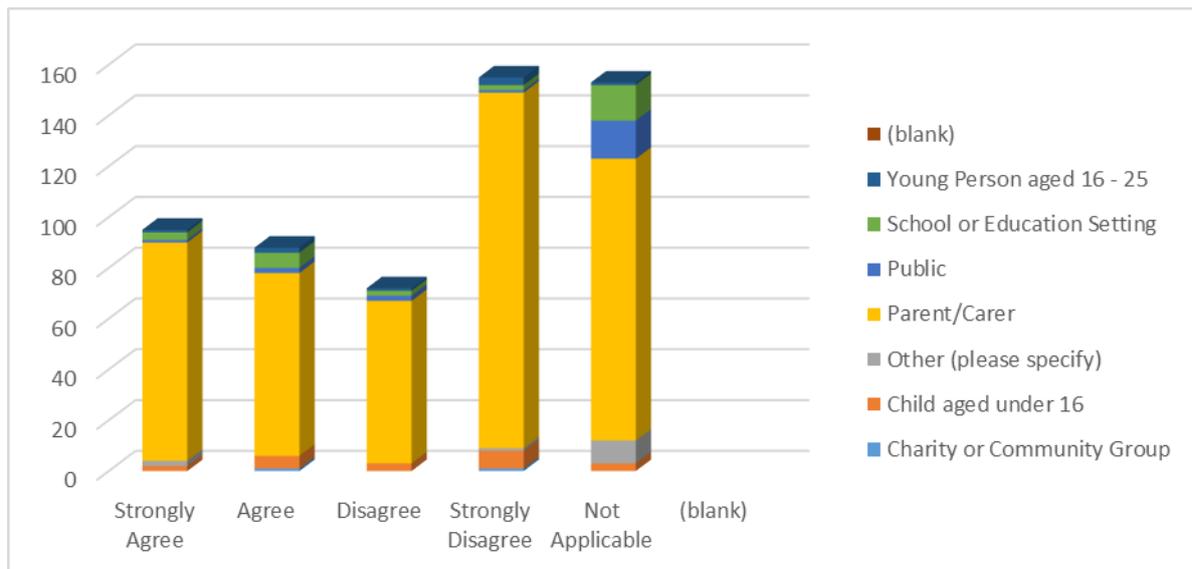
b. How much do you agree with the following statements: - impact of personal budgets - "Make our lives easier".



There were 547 responders to question two with 21 individuals abstaining from answering. 150 responders (27.4%) answered this statement was not applicable to them and 397 responders gave views on the impact of personal budgets. Of the 397 responses, 161 (40.6%) strongly agreed or agreed that the impact of personal budgets would make their lives easier. However, 236 respondents (59.4%) responded that they disagreed or strongly disagreed. The majority of responses who disagreed 214 (90.6%), were responses from parents/Guardians.

c. How much do you agree with the following statements: - impact of personal budgets - "Positively impact on my own or my child's mental health".

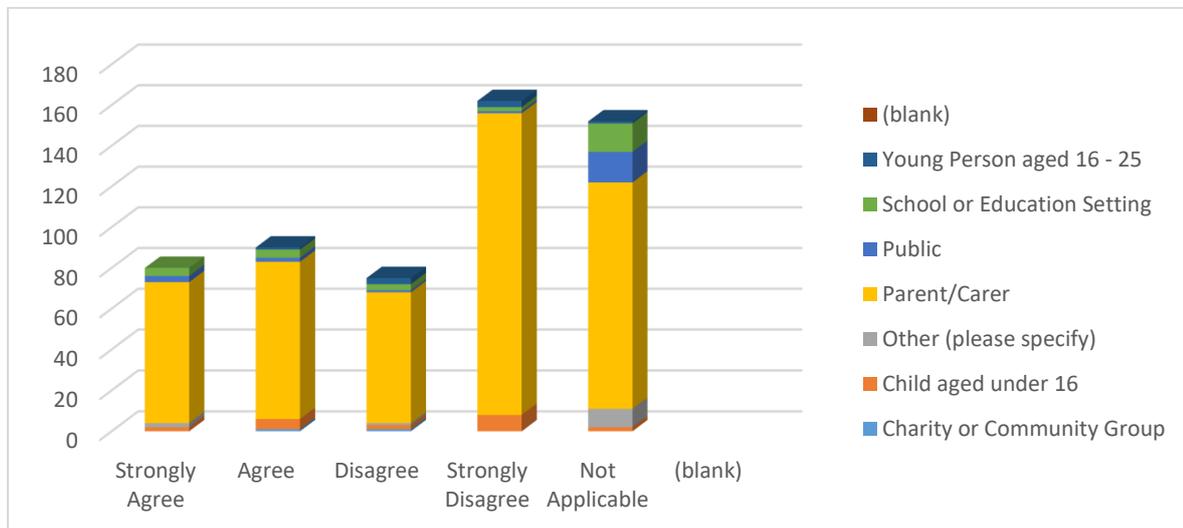
People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024



563 responded to question three with 5 abstaining. 153 (27.2%) responders felt it was not applicable to them.

Of the 410 responders, 227 (55.4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed the impact of Personal budgets would positively affect their or their child's mental health and 183 (44.6%) agreed or strongly agreed it would be a positive impact.

d. How much do you agree with the following statements: - impact of personal budgets - "Give us greater flexibility and financial independence".

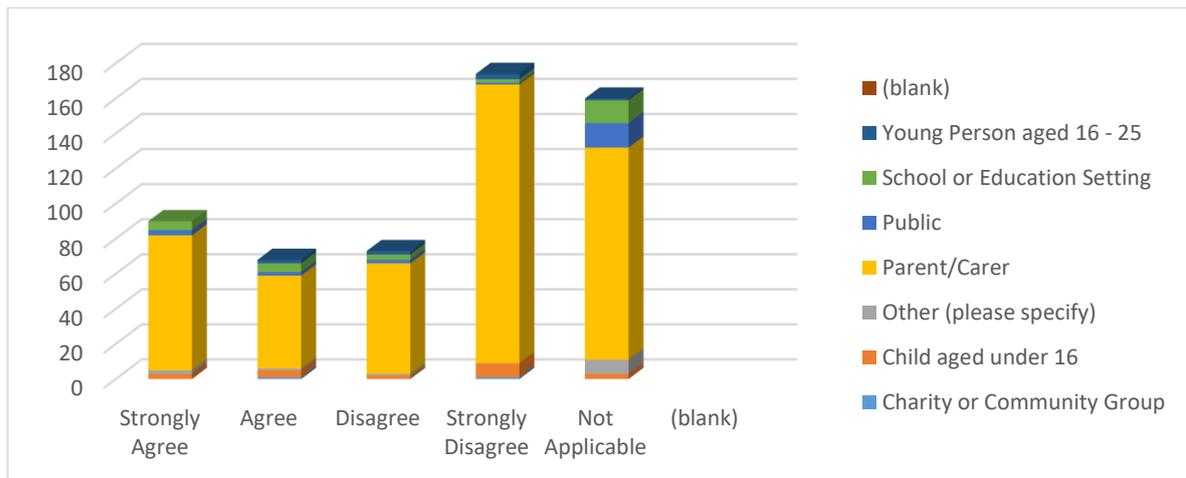


559 responded to question four with 9 abstaining. Of those 559, 152 (27.2%) felt it was not applicable to give a view.

Of the responders who gave a view 170 (41.8%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 237 (58.2%) disagreed or strongly disagreed it would give greater flexibility and financial independence.

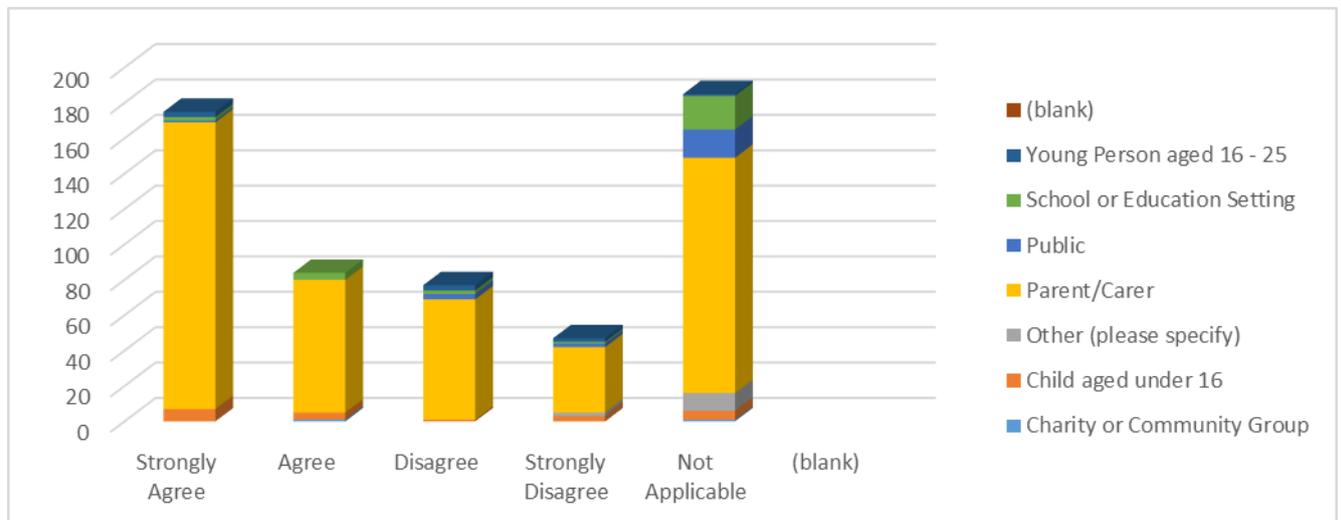
e. How much do you agree with the following statements: - impact of personal budgets - "Improve school attendance".

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024



A total of 565 people responded to question five with three abstaining. 160 respondents answered it was not applicable to them with 405 responding with a view to the question. 158 (39%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 247 (61%) disagreed or strongly disagreed that personal budgets would improve school attendance.

f. I am worried about managing a personal transport budget and the impact it would have on me or my child –

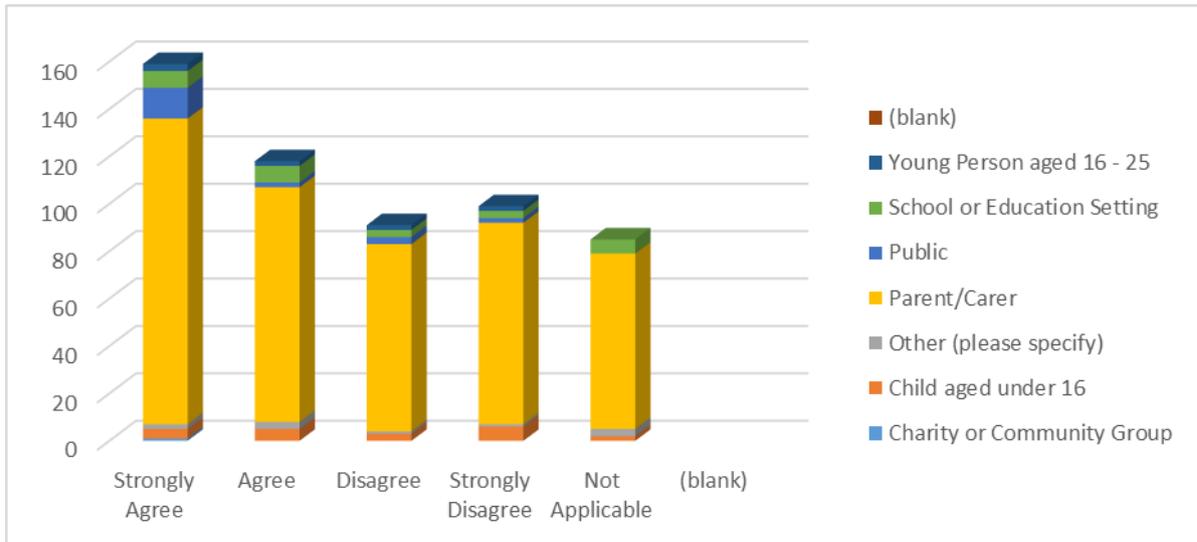


A total number of 568 (100%) of respondents answered question six. However, a large percentage 185 (32.6%) responded this was not relevant to them with 383 giving their views.

259 (67.6%) of respondents responding that they agreed or strongly agreed that were worried managing a personal budget would have an impact on them or their child and 124 (32.4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed they were worried that it would have an impact.

g. How much do you agree with the following statements: - Post 16 TA - "Capped at a maximum amount" –

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

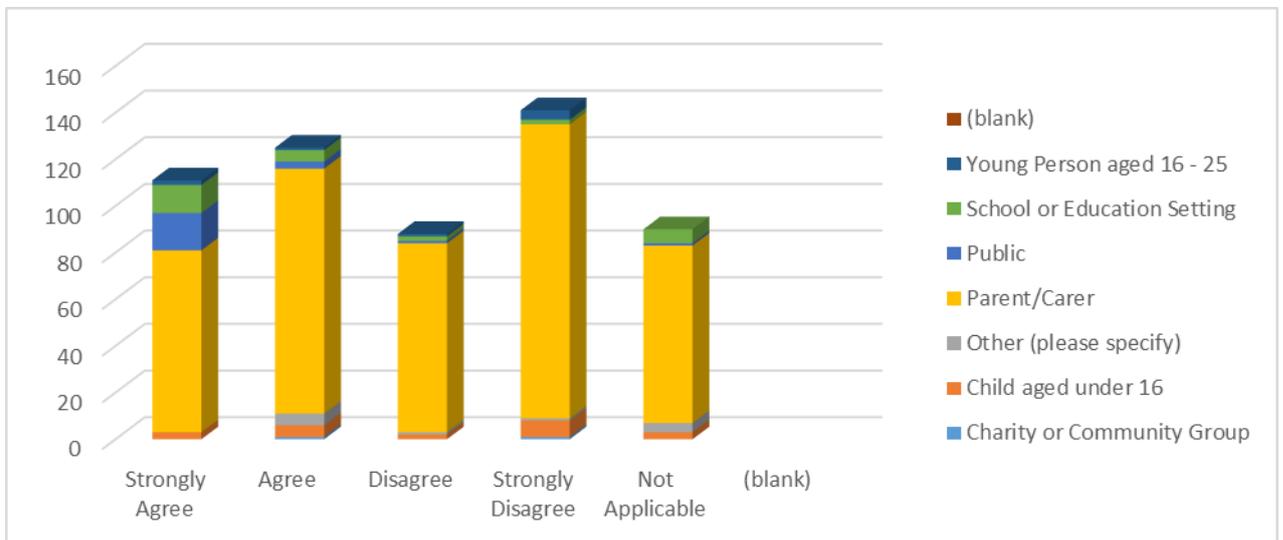


There were 552 who responded to question seven with 16 abstaining from answering.

85 (15.4%) felt it was not applicable for them to answer the question.

Of those who gave an opinion 277(59.3%) agreed to a Maximum cap.

h. How much do you agree with the following statements: - Post 16 TA - "Means tested" –



We had 555 responses to question eight, with 13 abstaining. 90 (16.2%) felt it was not applicable for them to answer.

Of the 465 who responded with a view the responses were the closest of any question with 51% agreeing or strongly agreeing and 49% disagreeing to means testing.

Summary

The local authority has a legal duty to review the transport policy to meet our statutory obligations and responsibilities. Overall it is positive that there has been a large response to the consultation from a wide range of stakeholders with a significant proportion (84%) of responses received from parents and guardians. However, it is noteworthy that only 37% of the parent responses currently receive existing transport assistance.

Whilst there is still further work to do to analyse the qualitative responses into themes and trends, we can see from the free text boxes that we have received a significant range of responses both positive and negative to the questions in regards to the impact the changes might make to families. We have also seen responses from the quantitative questions that have demonstrated some fairly evenly balanced responses both negative and positive to the questions.

The anonymised free text responses that are currently being analysed are attached as an Appendix. All of these responses will be aggregated into themes prior to the full report going to Cabinet in March. We have noted a number of the responses have highlighted parents raising the need for the authority to allow greater flexibility regarding personal transport budgets which we will review as part of the new transport policy.

Comments and feedback from the Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be considered and incorporated as appropriate into the Cabinet report as we continue to develop the new transport policy to adhere to statutory guidance.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

Not approving a new policy and revised approach will put an unsustainable financial burden on the Council due to increasing costs associated with the provision of transport assistance. The approach is to obtain value for money in the efficient use of resources. By ensuring that the policy and approach are compliant with legislation and Government guidance, the Council will avoid costs associated with any potential legal challenge.

Legal implications and risks:

The Council has duties under education legislation to provide support and assistance with transport to eligible pupils.

The proposed policy seeks to ensure that when transport is provided there are clear processes, and expectations for staff administering this and for parents who will receive assistance. It also seeks to ensure that the Council achieves best value for money whenever it has to meet its statutory duties.

As this is a draft proposed policy it was appropriate to seek the views of stakeholders before implementing any new arrangements. No final decisions have yet been taken about the eventual content of the policy.

The comments of all consultees must be carefully considered by the ultimate decision maker, which in this case is Cabinet. This Committee's views should also be taken into consideration by Cabinet when making a final decision.

The Statutory Guidance (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/649af81eb4d6ef000c038fbf/Travel_to_school_for_children_of_compulsory_school_age.pdf) refers to the making of new policies and states:

“125. Local authorities should give careful consideration to:

- the impact proposed changes to their policy will have on parents' choice of school, particularly where travel arrangements have been made to support parents' preference for their children to attend a school with a designated religious character (some such arrangements are associated with long-standing local agreements about the siting of schools);*
- the financial impact the changes will have on affected families, paying particular attention to the potential impact of any changes on children from low-income families;*
- the impact the changes will have on people with protected characteristics – see annex 2 for further information about protected characteristics and the public sector equality duty.*

126. Wherever possible, local authorities should phase in changes so that children who begin attending a school under one set of travel arrangements continue to benefit from those arrangements until they leave that school.”

Human Resources implications and risks:

None directly resulting from this report, but a separate process will be required to identify the necessary resources to manage the home to school transport application process. Where changes in demand arise from increases in eligible child numbers or as a consequence of any policy change, these could impact on the take up of Council run transport and associated support.

Equalities implications and risks:

The EQIA shows an impact on age and disability areas through providing a wider choice and range of opportunities to get to and from school at the discretion of the parents or carers. It will give a greater flexibility than the menu of choices currently on offer as well as support to parents to make the best choices to achieve the desired outcomes for children and young people.

[EqHIA H0me to School.docx](#)

Environmental and climate change implications and risks;

Proposals set out in the draft Home to School policy aim to reduce the number of taxis being utilised on a daily basis. Increasing the take up of School Travel Training supports modal shift to more sustainable transport options. Where transport is provided, the Council's route planning systems are used to optimise journey times. These measures help to reduce total emissions and support cleaner air quality.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A: Home to School Transport Policy link below

<https://onesourceict.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/HTSTransportCoreProjectGroup/EcENc9FPDqFOIRFMPA2pwCMBvkCSHtCXfdoh-PqxEKXv8g?e=dfK2c8>

Appendix B: Consultations Feedback from free text opportunity

Direct Views of Policy by Groups –

Charity or Community Group
it should be cost effective and not just expected - this is a difficult situation and very emotive but running high transport costs when a more cheaper option is available should be explored especially if families can afford to do it themselves.
Means testing is unfair and not the answer Possible small contribution at most Transparent is necessary
Child aged under 16
Employ more trained personnel
I believe transport should be provided for school aged children needing support. So school is not effected. in gaining independence post 16 would be a good time to introduce travel training because this would no longer impact schooling and the person is more mature to be able to deal will the problems that can occur with public transport and help become a independent adult.
I feel the transport assistance I'd running fine. My daughter has been getting transport from the borough for 8 years now. She has thoroughly enjoyed going to school by bus and now taxi and has built up a great relationship with the Assistants who have been with her. They make her feel safe whilst travelling to and from school. Without this service XXXXX would not have been able to attend the schools she has and get all the professional help that she needs.

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>I wholly disagree that Transport Training will be an advantage for my child, as she will never have the capability to learn how to travel to school by herself, not only would this affect her mental health, she is unable to be in crowded places, due to anxiety attacks. I also worry for her safety in a bus full of kids, who could potentially abuse her with anti social behaviour from other children. She needs to have her routine, and she requires a specific way to be transported to school, where similar children are treated the same and the staff totally understand her needs.</p>
<p>My XXX would also not be able to self transport with an arranged budget, as you call, as for the same reason, she would not be able to travel on her own, via taxi, due to her disability.</p>
<p>Therefore I can't accept that this service should be allowed to cease.</p>
<p>it is good and convenient for us now</p>
<p>My son is severe disabled and need the transport assistance mandatory.if the transport assistance is not there he will not be able to go to school</p>
<p>Need 2 escorts for both school runs</p>
<p>Need to be more available for parents to ciew</p>
<p>Stop school kids getting on regular busses (especially when they only go one stop, the lazy little toe rags) just get school busses for them!!</p>
<p>The travel assistance is great . The staff are very helpful and put my mind at ease . The special school has had a positive impact on my. Daughter. Traveling with the other children. Has helped before she was not social with anyone especially children.</p>
<p>We are happy with the service knowing that our son is safe the driver and escort XXXXX and XXXXX really understand our child's needs.</p>
<p>Other (please specify)</p>
<p>Ensure that where a Motability car has been provided for the child that it is used to provide transport for the child and not for parents work trips instead.</p>
<p>Keep services as currently provided.</p>
<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Parents may welcome personal transport budgets</p>
<p>See above</p>
<p>The draft policy I thought was only going to be decided once this so called consultation is complete so at this time, this question is rather pointless. Or does this mean you have already decided on the policy is going to be which makes any consultation meaningless.</p>
<p>The policy will need to work on a case by case basis as there is no one size fits all.</p>
<p>The transport service would be improved if the drivers had the knowledge that the council would continue to give long term contract security.</p>
<p>The transport system should be alleviated completely - make the parents take their own child under their own expense as hundred of responsible parents have done now and in the past. Just because a child cannot walk due to disability, that is the parent's</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>responsibility to ensure their child gets to school not the council's - what do these parents want? why have a child if you are not going to take responsibility for it. Parenting is hard, very hard - but I don't know why these parents are being lazy and not taking the responsibility and financial strain themselves? It baffles me ?</p>
<p>we need to keep costs down. Children should be encouraged (by parents) to walk more where possible to save costs in using Council buses.</p>
<p>We would be prepared to contribute to the "collect from home" transport service. I should have thought the majority of parents/Guardians would.</p>
<p>Parent/Carer</p>
<p>A bus going straight from Hornchurch station to upminster</p>
<p>A person to monitor the passengers whilst the driver is driving would be a good idea specially when teenagers travel by bus during rush hour</p>
<p>Add more buses so a child doesn't have to sit on a bus for two hours before school! And be picked up at 7am! That is absolutely ridiculous. Children fall asleep in class because of these arrangements.</p>
<p>Alot of families will need the support with the money needed to pay for special education.</p>
<p>Another bus</p>
<p>Another thing to worry about</p>
<p>Any consideration of this policy including using the budget to purchase the services of a driver to drive young people who have motability vehicles but cannot drive it themselves</p>
<p>Any help benefits children well being</p>
<p>arrange a bus that picks up on a route - no need for taxis</p>
<p>As a under 16 school bus user I think the current systems works well.</p>
<p>As more children are diagnosed every year with autism and other non visible disabilities. The demand for school transport will increase and Havering like any other London borough needs to make sure there are adequate provisions available for a reliable school transport. This is NOT a luxury but a must have facility for children and adults with non visible disabilities such as autism where non existent school bus service will mean these children and adults would NOT be able to attend school or college of their choice.</p>
<p>As outlined above, we need to keep the community buses running. If it comes to it, then ask families who use the bus service to contribute towards the costs. We need to keep the cost effective transport running indefinitely and we need to stop the cases whereby it is costing the Borough thousands and thousands of pounds per child to transport them either out of the borough or because the child needs assistance. There is already assistance on the community buses, so why does a child "need" two assistants? The parents should be given a choice of either using the community buses or they are responsible to transport their child themselves. I appreciate this is brutal but this is a very sensitive issue to families who only require the basic transport.</p>
<p>At the present time I am very happy with our child's transport to and from school. The only thing that could be improved is the route the driver has to take is sometimes</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>strange. IE a driver will have to go 15 min out of his way to collect a child that another bus is closer to.</p>
<p>Base it with a reliable company that knows how to deal with children with certain needs, IE there use to be a transport company called Fox transport whom are trained for children with certain difficulties and parents that couldn't escort there children.</p>
<p>Build a new school, put on transport for those who need it in that school which won't be as navy so your costs will be reduced.</p>
<p>Buses could arrive in a timely manner and bus conductors should be present during school travel times to ensure safety.</p>
<p>By maybe running a bus at certain times for everyone from 1 pick up and drop off point that is central to people living in that area eg romford Station</p>
<p>Can you stop trying to cut services to our vulnerable. It's shockingly disturbing how they are always the first service to look to for a saving</p>
<p>Can't say now</p>
<p>Car sharing might be an option But not everyone owns a car Designated pick up points would be ok for those that could travels short distance independently If you have a contract with taxi firms challenge them as Uber is cheaper. Coaches barter for school contracts but do taxi companies? Ensure if there is a pick up booked - if it is not cancelled and the car arrives needlessly - charge the household. There is too much waste in nhs by people not turning up for appointments . I have heard of people with disabilities moving to Havering from Redbridge as we are a softer touch- just saying! This is a very difficult situation for you, good luck with your decision making</p>
<p>Children should attend schools most local to them where possible</p>
<p>Confusing</p>
<p>Contributions (means tested or not) are relatively sensible. People are saving money on petrol and vehicles anyway.</p>
<p>Car pooling is harder. Disabled children often have complex needs, are vulnerable and may have difficulty communicating. Are we going to DBS check everybody?</p>
<p>Current policy works for my child i.e. seat on a bus outside dwelling</p>
<p>Current transport service is great so continue</p>
<p>Currently, we are very happy with the transport services that take our child from home to school and bring her back. She is settled and happy while on the bus. The staff are very friendly and supportive. We prefer that any changes won't be made simply for the sake of change. If changes are considered, they need to be assessed based on the needs of all families with children who have special education needs and disabilities.</p>
<p>Cut down on individuals travelling on their own; encourage them to travel on transport buses which should be the main way to travel. Cut down on the use of taxis and Uber, these are very expensive and users should be asked to travel on transport buses. The buses are very efficient and cost effective. Do not charge to use these, as if a</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>child was in full time education, then public transport is free, so these buses should remain free for those in full time education, a crucial cornerstone in human rights.</p>
<p>Direct school buses for the individual schools</p>
<p>Dobule decker busses, more busses, school buses, bike to school scheme for children.</p>
<p>Due to my son going out of the Borough for school the transport he is receiving is the best in my eyes and does not need changing.</p>
<p>Each child is an individual who all deserve the best, they deserve access and equality and this looks different for every family. I think you should work towards making everything more accessible not putting more barriers to children with disabilities and thier families</p>
<p>Efficiency needs to be balanced with practicality, not just drafted on paper - but drafted based on the real world situation.</p>
<p>Employees of transport services should allow all children students to travel free especially if they see they are in school uniform . Bus drivers should be more caring when they see children standing at a bus stop or approaching to catch the bus rather than driving by them or not letting them on cause they have lost their card , leaving them stranded and not able to get home safely . Seen on many occasions</p>
<p>Every child has a right to school and an education, funding the transport in getting children to school should be a high priority, if attendance drops the council fine the family, but if there is no mode of transport suitable to get the child to school how is that fair? There needs to be steps in place to allow families to ensure their children receive the education they need and also allow for families to carry on working and living a normal life around them with your help!</p>
<p>Everyone should accept this</p>
<p>Families with SEN children / young adults need support that's easily accessible and not added administrative burdens & stress that managing transport budgets would create. Having to re apply every year is enough of a burden on top of highly stressful life with a SEN child / young person.</p>
<p>Firstly the legality of it - the law surrounding Home to School Transport has not changed and local policy cannot trump law, so Havering will waste money in legal fees and lose because they are acting unlawfully and that will</p>
<p>cost Havering residents even more than before - legal fees + taxis and school buses. Secondly, the Direct Payments team cannot keep account of existing monies going in and out. A thorough forensic audit of this department would identify hundreds of thousands of "missing" pounds judging by the experience of anyone who has ever had to liaise with that Department. The only thing it will succeed in doing is ensuring a lot more lost school days because payments have not been made by the Direct Payments team - this is a common problem already.</p>
<p>Thirdly, the parents of these children already have to jump through many hoops to qualify for transport so there really is no fat to trim here.</p>
<p>Fourthly, many of these children are non verbal, require medication, suffer from seizures etc. The safeguarding issues alone are endless. And is it realistic to expect an Uber driver to not only notice and recognise a myriad of different types of seizures, but then to pull over on the A12 or wherever and administer potentially life saving medication?</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>Its as ridiculous as it is inhumane</p>
<p>Focus your energy in consulting parents on how to improve SEN services</p>
<p>There are no schools or services</p>
<p>So many SEN children don't use the transports</p>
<p>It's the minority and those are the ones you are targeting</p>
<p>You are setting off a time bomb for short term gain</p>
<p>Other areas such as Social care, Hospitals, mental health are going to feel the impact of this</p>
<p>Think Longterm</p>
<p>For a lot of families they rely on the current transport service as it provides a secure and safe option for transport. For us personally, the transport service has made it much more easier for both parents to work, as the schools my children attend are at different ends of the Borough to have to take both children to school would be very difficult as one would have to be running late often. Even with breakfast club this is costly and would not be a suitable option for a regular service.</p>
<p>As the personal travel budget is based on attendance from the previous month this would seem a little unfair if my child's regular hospital appointments were to be in one month and impacting the next month with payments being smaller with no appointments.</p>
<p>For it not to be taken away from such valuable children and young adults</p>
<p>Free travel for all and designated buses for SEN pupils. Travel safety and run through from school/ outside agency ideal....</p>
<p>Have more mobility buses available to reduce cost of the need of a taxi service.</p>
<p>Having less children on each bus and buses working correctly including air con for in summer months</p>
<p>Help independence</p>
<p>How about doing better checks when parents apply, for example: are parents at home, is there a car sat idle on the driveway, do parents work</p>
<p>However, the change in policy needs to take a whole-family approach and individualised support planning as 'no one size fits all'. This should include family friendly policies across all levels and organisations.</p>
<p>The transport assistant service could run efficiently by perhaps (1) reviewing eligibility for these services every few years (2) being firm but fair with the families that may have a sense of entitlement towards the proposed change (3) drawing from the experience of other local authorities home and abroad to create a bigger picture of the opportunities and pitfalls on this subject (4) be creative, don't think about the here and now, think sustainable travel that is applicable long-term.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>I agree if a young person's family don't work or they live near the school or college they should be taking them. But for us that both work it is unacceptable.</p>
<p>I am happy with the school bus transport that my child has at the moment.</p>
<p>I am happy with the transport he receives and he is happy with the travel he gets now</p>
<p>I am pleased with the service provided by the borough for my sons transport. It can be more efficient by not cutting it at all and by not stressing parents and Guardians and children and young people by doing so.</p>
<p>I am very happy with the current transport but feel the routes could be looked at to make it easier for drivers for example they may have to drive 15 mins out of their way for one child when another bus also passes their pick up point.</p>
<p>I appreciate that havering needs to cut costs, but it needs to be looked at on a child by child bases, and not a blanket programme which could effect people's lives significantly</p>
<p>I believe that there are parents who can transport their children to school but just take advantage of the fact that transport is available .</p>
<p>I met a lady whose daughter I taken to school by transport, goes for breakfast club, stays for after school club, has tea at school, is given transport home and then bath and bed. This is not parenting and absolves the parents of responsibility.</p>
<p>Transport needs to be properly assessed and re assessed to see whether parents truly need it. I drove my child to school in XXX every single day. Spending time with him the car, chatting was great for our relationship</p>
<p>I believe the service is already run efficiently</p>
<p>I believe the transport assistance service is excellent, and does not require any adjustments</p>
<p>I believe the transport assistant should take into consideration pupil needs...it should be needs tested..we have children that cannot cope in confinement with other children because of the noise shouting and screaming. I think the transport should speak with family and find out what works for their loved ones..</p>
<p>I can't use it so I don't know</p>
<p>I cannot comment as I have not used the service so far.</p>
<p>I do not have enough knowledge on this area to give any comments</p>
<p>I do understand why mobility and severe SEND is rightfully supported by Council Transport services; but any extension or use of this service by lower needs SEND children would be a mistake. What happens when these children turn 18 and need to take up employment with the council? Will you lay on transport for them then? Or....Will they have been robbed of the last 5 to 10 years of gaining familiarity with self sufficiency? Any thoughts on pupils without SEND receiving free transport?</p>
<p>I don't have any experience of transport assistance</p>
<p>I feel that the council should have managed their finances better and thus be able to fund a child's right to an education in a setting that supports their needs. There is very</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>little information on post 16 and the council are making the lives of the most vulnerable people in society worse with the proposed changes.</p>
<p>I feel that there could be an easier way to claim back fuel payment. Having to send emails and attachments every month or term is a lot of times spent by parents that don't have spare time so maybe some sort of portal could be set up so u could just log on and add proof of petrol receipts to it each month etc.</p>
<p>I feel the main agenda here is to save the council money, but why pick on the most vulnerable in the community to achieve this? Because its thought their voices wont' be heard as loud? Never under-estimate the SEN community</p>
<p>As a parent of a post-16 student, I am particularly angered by the suggestion that they should pay for assistance - why? This effectively wipes out the whole concept of providing assistance in the first place.</p>
<p>I found it very strange that you were resorting to private hire taxi's as a solution - they are inherently expensive.</p>
<p>I believe those children in year 9 upwards if they can, should have travel buddies to assist them with transitioning from the school bus to public transport. This of course is subject to TfL bus options for the individuals.</p>
<p>I have always been satisfied with the bus service Havering has provided my son and hope that it continues because of-course changes will also cause unnecessary stress due to XXXXX Autism</p>
<p>I have no experience so cannot provide feedback</p>
<p>I note from the initial email sent on this subject highlighted that in one case the taxi fare is £200 oer day.</p>
<p>I think it should be looked into why that is the case. Logically, the rationale for that suggests to me that the person being transported has to go a considerable distance to get to their provision. Why is that? The answer is possibly suitable provision for that person is not available within Havering and such provision is outside the borough.</p>
<p>If that is the case I think for each individual case should explored a lot deeper.</p>
<p>This transport assistance is provided to some of the most vulnerable people in the borough. Should time and energy be spent on saving money with respect to this group?</p>
<p>I question how Taxi drivers can have responsibly for SEN children, many of which have unpredictable behaviours or medical needs when their sole focus is to drive rather than care for the child?</p>
<p>On the busses there is a driver and an additional carer to specifically look after the children.</p>
<p>I think a blanket free public transport for all children in full time education needs to be implemented. Times are hard enough for children, free public transport I feel is essential for them. Children will then use public transport more and get used to it. They will then adopt the mentality of using public transport in their adult life and realise how easy it is, rather than drive. This will not only help reduce pollution but also reduce accidents on the road.</p>
<p>I think Havering should lose the ulez cameras and use that budget for children with special educational needs and their transport</p>
<p>I think having a half day afternoon service or more times would be more efficient</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>I think in my opinion that instead of the havering transport bus going to individual destination stops that are costly and longer journeys how about all passengers meeting at one destination where the bus will be waiting then driving straight to the school saving money and time .</p>
<p>i think it would be helpful to do a pickup spot near the house as we are unable to take XXXXX to a far away spot</p>
<p>I think it's better already but charges should be lower</p>
<p>I think offering any children including sen children a bus to school is a terrible waste of tax payers money. Firstly, every school offers sen support now so there should be no need for parents to send their sen kids miles away to school. Secondly, since when did it become the government's (and tax payers) responsibility to pick these kids up from home and take them to school!? That should be a parents responsibility especially as most of them dont work as they get Guardians allowance. And thirdly, these kids get DLA which is to help any costs associated their disability. If the parent chooses to send their child to a school not close by then that DLA should be given to the local authority to help pay towards the coat of the bus.</p>
<p>I think that this is terrible. Children and Adults with additional needs deserve compassion, love, respect and dignity. You are taking this way and making the most vulnerable of society even more isolated. You should be ashamed even considering this policy. Everyone deserves an education</p>
<p>I think the idea of taking the school transport away is totally unacceptable. You'd be putting lots of vuneralble children in unsafe situations.</p>
<p>I think the personal budget is very helpful as some children may not be able to travel on public transport alone - it could be used to cover the cost of a parent / carer travelling with them, or go towards petrol or taxis.</p>
<p>i think this policy is appalling. the impact it will have on disabled child and their family's lives will be huge. As if SEN parents don't already have enough problems. I am very worried and upset about the policy and the massive negative impact it'll have on our lives.</p>
<p>I think we need more buses</p>
<p>I understand that money needs to be saved, but I feel that cutting transport for disabled & vulnerable children is going to cause no end of problems for families, & extreme distress & upset, I really don't understand why havering council are targeting disabled & vulnerable children.</p>
<p>I understand the budget pressures Havering face, however it cannot be allowed to negatively impact our most vulnerable sections of society, including those with significant disability.</p>
<p>I would be prepared to pay £50 per month for school transport. And I think it's ridiculous that Havering Council has never asked before!!</p>
<p>However just because Havering Council has recently got itself in a financial mess I think it's disgraceful that you expect disabled children to dig you out of this hole by losing school buses. SHAME ON YOU!!! Perhaps you could get rid of some of your so called "managers" earning over £100,000 a</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>year. No one working for any council, anywhere in this country should be getting that. Nor head teachers. It is council tax payers money. You are paid way too much.</p>
<p>I would never allow my 10 year old son with communication issues in an Uber taxi where the driver potentially changes daily and I as a full time working single mum as expected to arrange this myself daily.</p>
<p>My son would not be able to use a mobile phone if he was in danger and I am essentially sending him off with strangers in an Uber each day.</p>
<p>I'm over the moon with the transport service provided for my son which I'm totally reliant on to get him to attend school each day. We have a driver called XXXXX and the assistant is called XXXXX who are totally amazing and Understand the needs of the children which is vital. I'd like to say a huge thank you to this service it's very much appreciated.</p>
<p>I'm glad your asking for parents views that helps we often feel unheard and we are the ones exhausted from no sleep and then having a fight to get our child dressed and to a pick up point or to school or on a taxi. So listening helps but each child is different and needs different things dependent on the family also</p>
<p>Ideas about car pooling are flawed.</p>
<p>What happens if another child causes damage to my car? Who is going to pay for the repairs.</p>
<p>What is the logic of replacing 1 bus in the road with upwards of 5 cars.</p>
<p>If Havering education authority/transport assistance service makes better use of its school bus facility this would reduce the need for taxi services & escort personnel. I.e taking children to school could also transport children to Warren.</p>
<p>If it's cheaper to send children by taxi then do so</p>
<p>I'm sure the taxi service could run more efficiently.</p>
<p>We feel the bus service is very efficient as many students take the bus which in turn saves money! In our case, there are not enough kids to take them on a bus apparently (XXXXX school). Not sure what can be done but we need something we can count on. I have no overview on the situation at our school. If I was left to take my child to school, I would worry about my backup, who I could turn to in an emergency??</p>
<p>Include more buses</p>
<p>Increased provision of specialist school places within the borough would reduce the need for lengthy journeys out of borough in order to meet the needs of Havering residents. The transport assistance service would then have less demand.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

Individual taxis at consumer pricing is surely not the way! Worse from a cost and safety perspective.
Introduce more buses.
It is working very well right now
It could be efficient if we have volunteers on the bus
It has good service
It is running fine already.
It runs perfectly as it is for my family
It should be looked at on a personal basis of the person but then again I would have thought that people who need it would have no way of being able to get there without help and in that case can't work or anything like that. This borough should be looking at what they can do to provide equity, diversity and most importantly stability to those that want to have a life and help with supporting them in a manner that will help with independence.
It should be made affordable for everyone.
It should be open to children not only with an EHCP but also IEP
It would be helpful to be able to "track transport" - so you can ensure you're ready for the pick up & drop off - saving wasted "waiting time"
It would keep children safe
It would be great for it to be added as per of ehcp so they can have it until 25 for severely disabled children
It's already at the bare bones of operating. It takes an hour for my son to get home a distance just over a mile away.
He's already on a coach that cannot fit down most residential roads... which is unsafe for many of the children that use the service.
I've never had a problem with Havering Transport. I rely on this service so much each day my daughter couldn't go to XXX without it.
Keep families updated with changes as soon as possible. Do not implement changes to a child's transport without reason. This makes families feel ignored and devalued. Working towards a reasonable standard of life for our children means challenging services and behaviours. We expect more from the local authority.
Keep it as it is and stop using the SEN children's money on other departments
Also my child only able to walk short distances
Do you expect a Uber driver to pick him up off the floor from a meltdown to get him into school?
My child's school attendance would drop due to anxiety of a different driver twice a day
Also if a Uber driver was to take my child to do how can you guarantee my child's safety in the back of a car alone or the driver to understand his needs?

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>Do you really expect me to put my child in a Uber with different strangers, twice a day, 5 times a week?</p>
<p>This whole thing is ridiculous</p>
<p>The problem is not ensuring enough appropriate SEND provision</p>
<p>Taking away transportation means taking away my child's school and forcing him into mainstream which is what</p>
<p>the whole mess of this unlawful delivering better value is all about</p>
<p>Keep it up</p>
<p>Keep us upto date with your thoughts and opinions with new plans of this service</p>
<p>Make sure Havering transport to to and from schools and holiday clubs remain well staffed and high quality. Nothing else needed.</p>
<p>Maybe children that live within a mile of their school can look at other ways to travel there. Those that live further out are in an impossible situation.</p>
<p>Maybe have more support staff to help some individuals use public transport</p>
<p>Maybe the pick points. Not not out of reach ones. That way maybe bigger busses could be used and every child is also collected around the same time on that route and get to school on time. The one my son goes on he only just makes it each day. So it isn't just about money but it is all about the service being more efficient.</p>
<p>More buses more flexible and that buses run on time the 651 leaves bus stop to early at children finish school 2:55pm and the 1 and only bus leaves at 3:00pm plus same in the morning it's not fair that students are late due to lack of transportation</p>
<p>More funding in general and less cut backs for children with sen. Sen children are equally as important as more typical children and deserve the same opportunities!</p>
<p>More funding should be put in the assisted transport because those our children with disabilities life depend on it</p>
<p>More money should be used for this as is imperative for children with disabilities (physically and mentally) to have free access to Education</p>
<p>more school buses</p>
<p>More staff are needed on the buses in order for them to run every day, as there are days when buses are having to be cancelled due to staff shortages, meaning children are missing out on their education.</p>
<p>My child cannot be left alone never mind make his own way to school. School cannot cope with all parents dropping and collecting kids. Due to high staff children ratio car parks at sen schools are full without parents cars.</p>
<p>My child does not use or need a transport system to attend school.</p>
<p>My child has recently started travelling to school in a havering bus (the last 3 yrs it was a taxi) this has worked really well and must be more cost effective.</p>
<p>My son currently gets bus train to school. Reduced travel on trains would be appreciated or more school buses available.</p>
<p>The route from rainham to Upminster is 1 bus and doesn't arrive in time.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>Additional buses in the morning would help to reduce the over packed buses in the local area which are XXXXXX.</p>
<p>Often kids are getting on the bus for 1/2 stops because they do not want to walk 5 minutes, often for a commuter not being able to board My son gets the XXXXX bus and it's helped me immensely without it I would be lost and my son wouldn't be able to go to school. XXXXX and XXXXX are brilliant</p>
<p>My sons bus is efficient</p>
<p>On my perspective, the transport people should have the basic training to support children with special needs and every year a refresher training program should be organised for them. They would be able to understand better and support these children with special needs.</p>
<p>On time</p>
<p>Parents could be charged for school transport. Of course it should be reasonable and manageable amount.</p>
<p>Parents of SEND/EHCP children are already under strain from reduced public services such as CAMHS and we have to adapt our lives around our children more than those with non SEND children. This is expensive as it limits working hours. Please do not impose further costs or challenges on us and our families at this time.</p>
<p>Payment to be made more quickly or on a daily / weekly basis via a set up with the schools to see when the child attended rather than us having to fill forms in and waiting weeks for the money.</p>
<p>People need to stop taking liberties</p>
<p>Perhaps an 'oyster' type card where it is scanned and monies taken directly without having to file receipts etc.</p>
<p>Physically disabled students like my son with a brain injury cannot take part in travel training and use public transport. School transport is his independence and ONLY independence!!! He should not have to travel to college with his Mum!! This bus provides Inclusion and socialisation that he needs !!</p>
<p>Please note these question about the policy from an open letter to the Cllr in charge: What follows are important questions in response to what I'm sorry to say feels like an unimaginative, uncreative reaction to financial pressure, with ableist implications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The council is facing a section 114 notice – bankruptcy – which must be inordinately burdensome. Cuts need to be made, and I appreciate that. But why target a necessary service for a marginalised group of only 600 children and young people out of over 77,500 in the borough?
<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. As governor at XXX School, XXX rightly pointed out to you recently that this fragmented approach to essential school transport 'could have some serious safeguarding issues'. To what extent do you acknowledge the safeguarding concerns that accompany disabled children travelling in Ubers, for example?3. You responded to XXX interest in 'the exact implications to our pupils and their families' – given the disruptive impact on children this will have, and 'the distress this would cause to our parents and Guardians' – with an out of date report that was published in 2019(https://www.local.gov.uk/understanding-drivers-rising-demand-and-associated-costs-home-school-transport). What reasons do we have to suppose this report is fit for purpose currently, and will do justice to our children and what

they need?
4. I'm curious as to what makes you think we need 'flexibility'? From my perspective, what parents and Guardians need for the children in our care is not flexibility, but rather stability and consistency; a robust, reliable, joined-up system in which continuity of care is delivered with appropriate training, and our children's safety and wellbeing is protected.
5. How much will the 'assessment process' cost, who's doing the assessing and what qualities make them suitable for such a task?
6. Is this a move to outsource the current contract to private companies? If so – and if the primary aim of this move is to cut costs – we simply will not get the current level of integrated assurance we need that care is being provided to the high standards we expect and deserve. Regardless of what might be being recorded on paper by private companies, we have seen examples of systemic failure in refugee services, mental health services and more, putting marginalised people at greater risk of stigmatisation and harm.
7. You suggest carpooling, and offer 'trusted friends' as a possible way around this disruption to trusted provision. In addition to the glaring safeguarding concern, a lot of assumptions are being made here: What makes you think that people have trusted friends at all? Not least those who aren't struggling with their own families during a cost of living crisis? But more to the point, why are disabled children expected to car-share, but non-disabled children are not? At present, regular car-sharing would represent a sizable cultural shift that would make this a much bigger request than is implied. The expectation on parents and Guardians to depend on the good will of others in more privileged situations is deeply disempowering and unjust.
8. Have you considered that more vehicles on the road could lead to more pollution and parking needs?
9. There will be a consultation about this, but how meaningful will it actually be? When you think about it, it is unlikely that exhausted parents and Guardians giving 24 hour care to their loved ones will easily be able to access the time or energy for such a meeting, especially given the level of anxiety this is causing in so many of us already. We need nondisabled people to understand that disruption to care services has a knock-on effect: to parents' ability to work and to pay taxes; and to health, wellbeing and the subsequent pressures on the NHS. It takes loving attentiveness, openness, responsiveness, creativity and more to care for people. Investment in time, money, and training are some of the more basic conditions that are necessary to create integrated support networks for disabled children that can even begin to safeguard their rights and opportunities.

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>Ultimately, care is always primarily about people, not revenue. Disabled children are already systemically oppressed at all levels of society, including travel and education; at the very least we must mindfully refrain from actively disadvantaging marginalised children and families further.</p>
<p>Please test budget and verify who really need the assistance. However length or arduous the process because a lot of people claim such benefits when there's no need for it. Taking money from families who do really need it.</p>
<p>Pooling system can work well. In pooling you only need one escort for more than one children. More ARP in the borough so that they don't need to travel far and save the cost. School buses on different routes.</p>
<p>Provide more school buses. A bus linking Brentwood to Upminster would be helpful. Or an organised car-pool service to opt in to lifts.</p>
<p>Provide the correct support and education in borough for all children that travel outside the borough to gain an education. More specialist schools/provisions are greatly needed. You will then save on outer borough taxi/bus contracts.</p>
<p>Reliable, Working, Communication, keeping commitments, responsibility, relationship management, and what is the responsibility.</p>
<p>School buses I believe are cost-effective because they are used by several people.</p>
<p>See above for my comment!</p>
<p>Shorter transport times would encourage people to use transport</p>
<p>Should be able to help specially children who have additional needs and who need lots of support. They have no awareness of safety or dangers.</p>
<p>Should be efficient, mostly cost-effective, and frequent.</p>
<p>So far the pick up and drop off is all running smoothly .</p>
<p>So many people rely on transport. Even the older ones that are not safe travelling on public transport or have anxiety and it's too busy and noisy it just wouldn't work and would definitely have an impact on attendance</p>
<p>Sorry, I can't comment on something that I was only made aware of today.</p>
<p>Stay as it is</p>
<p>Thank you for the initiative, May consider how school transportation is arranged in other boroughs or developing countries..</p>
<p>That makes life easy The Borough appears to have sought to apply a cookie-cutter view of a child with an EHCP - whether that child attends a special needs school, ARP or mainstream environment.</p>
<p>Indeed one councillor has commented openly and unwisely that their child with an EHCP attends a mainstream school and doesn't require transport; therefore child X with an EHCP shouldn't require transport either.</p>
<p>This is not acceptable and is frankly archaic.</p>

<p>The needs are very different, every child's needs are different - and what support each parent/carer requires to help their child attend and access the education they are entitled to, are different.</p>
<p>Perhaps LBH should have considered building more SEN provision in-borough when it noticed diagnosis and request for EHCP assessments rising; and the cost of providing transport would have been lower. Whilst *that* failing is not necessarily the fault of the current administration; the punitive policy it now purports to implement under the guise of flexibility and efficiency is nothing short of cruelty to those who are the most vulnerable in society.</p>
<p>Your impending bankruptcy may come, but you need to find some other wastage to hack at.</p>
<p>The Council should be looking to provide increased suitable local places if they want to reduce transport costs.</p>
<p>The draft policy shows a clear lack of understanding of the needs of SEN children.</p>
<p>And because the consultation has failed to start with assessing the need, it has failed to meet the requirements set out by government, and therefore is unlawful.</p>
<p>There may be one or two children who could perhaps go to school on a bus, or perhaps do travel training, but the vast majority have been assessed as already travelling using the most suitable transport arrangements. This is a completely pointless exercise for the majority, and it has stirred up huge anxiety for parent Guardians, who are already under-supported and pushed to their limits. The worry caused by the council in the way this has been done is inexcusable and shows just how little understanding the author of this exercise has of SEN children and their needs.</p>
<p>I have a needs assessment that sets out exactly why my son travels in a taxi. The assessment is done. There is nothing to do be changed. Any proposed changes will result in me going straight to see a solicitor and challenging the council on legal grounds. And don't even get me started on the proposed changes to 16-18 transport. I absolutely will not hesitate to fight for my son's legal right to access education, and many , many parents feel the same.</p>
<p>This exercise is a gross folly that ultimately will result in increased costs to the council by having every single child assessed in person, and yet the majority are already being provided the most cost-effective transportation option, and so the savings will be minimal.</p> <p>Council should instead do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Properly assess the transport needs of the children- Do a full cost/benefit analysis of whether transport can be brought fully in-house, so you are not needlessly paying for a private firm to make a profit (although I have found the taxi firm to be extremely reliable and professional, and i have no complaints.) <p>Current Guardians should be TUPE'd across to the council so that there is no detriment to the children.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>- In-house taxi could be an asset for the council in other ways - for example, in between school runs, the driver and car could be supporting others in the community for whom transport must be provided.</p> <p>- Prevent the most vulnerable children in our society from being abandoned by the service that is supposed to support them - instead get together with other councils countrywide, and take central government to court for</p>
<p>year on year reducing funding for local government.</p>
<p>Children should not be made to pay for the mistakes of central government, and anyone with a basic sense of right and wrong can tell this.</p>
<p>The new style buses that have been bought in are now too big to get down most of the roads and so the service isn't home to school and back again</p>
<p>The only suggestion I can give would be to change the routes so that the coaches and buses do not end up travelling from one end of the borough to the other just to pick up children. Keep all the children in close proximity on the same buses. Working out the most efficient route so that the travel distance and fuel used would be the least amount alternatively invest in electric buses/coaches.</p>
<p>The option to opt out of any changes to existing policies should be available to any individual/their family who currently receives the service, and if this is the case it must be mandatory that their initial service remains as it was.</p>
<p>The policy also needs to look at the school of attendance and whether the school can accommodate the changes in transport whilst adhering to a full school day attendance, for instance there may be a need to hire more staff at the school to account for the staggered starts and the staff having to take the children to and from the class from the car at the start and end of each day. Would this with the cost of adding more admin staff at the council to process the personal budgets really make a huge saving overall? Have these factors been considered?</p> <p>Routes and bus sizes could be re-evaluated to see if they are the most effective routes. Is advertisement an option on school buses to help fund the transport costs?</p>
<p>The PTS service works and is environmentally friendly but there is a shortage of vehicles and staff because they are on 0 hours contracts for staff.</p>
<p>It also provides jobs in the community rather than to UBER.</p>
<p>Personal Budget assessment will add unnecessary delays many users have a blue badge and will have already had a rigorous assessment.</p>
<p>The shortbreaks service is a great example of how DP doesn't work ridiculous assessment times and complex process.</p>
<p>There is a current stigma around using PTS service. If you offer money to parents instead of the bus. There will be many parents that will likely qualify increasing the amount of users take up of the service in the long term and have the opposite effect on the budget.</p>

<p>The taxi service and the bus services last year are/were exceptional. The staff have all treated my son extremely well, with dignity and respect at all times. They have got him to school on time every day and I think he really enjoys the journeys. It offers him some independence away from us as his parents and Guardians, which we think he enjoys and is giving him a bit of freedom. Losing this service will be a real shame and will directly impact my sons education and freedoms.</p>
<p>The training would work for some children but it is not suitable for all children. We do not want a budget to manage in order for our child to get to school via a taxi or another route, she would not be able to travel via taxi, she would not be safe enough. Our child does attend XXX School via the bus and we cannot express enough how brilliant the service is! If necessary and if it came to it, we would help towards the cost of the bus. For example, if funds are so short, can we not ask parents to put forward and contribute a certain amount each month or year to keep the bus service please? By all means, look at extreme cases where travelling costs are so excessive eg: £45,000 per year, as stated above but please do not take away the core bus service, we should not be penalised as a family for this because other people in the borough are costing too much! We pay so many taxes, it is unfair to take away this service, it is vital to families. It is a safe, efficient and cost effective way for</p>
<p>special needs children to travel to and from school and the staff who are on the bus are second to none! If you need more information, please contact me on XXXXX. Thank you very much!</p>
<p>The transport assistance service should run more efficiently.</p>
<p>The transport assistance service support the morale and challenges that children and families face in meeting attendance and punctuality targets</p>
<p>The transport service of school buses is run well. The taxi service is not always reliable and safe. However, there have also been 'near miss' safety incidents due to 1-2-1 support when boarding being reduced. As I do not work for the SEND transport team I would not be in a position to comment on how it should be run. However, if the council are unable to think of ways to manage the funding, then perhaps they should consider passing it to someone who can and understands the needs of SEND families in Havering.</p>
<p>The transport which is in place now doesn't need to be changed as it's used for children with additional needs and gives them enough freedom and independence to get to and from school</p>
<p>the use of taxis at £200 per day is ridiculous. for that money you could fund the purchase of a fleet of vehicles and drivers. £1000 a week to get 1 child to and from school does not make sense in any situation. The schools are always looking for donations of pens and paper for the majority when the minority are taking all the funds. Council tax is extortionate as it is but still you can't balance the books and with spending like that i can see why. This is not good financial management.</p>
<p>The use of taxis was not our preference or expectation when our child moved settings as we would of been happy for them to continue using a school bus. To us, this seems like both the more cost effective and environmentally friendly option as it would significantly reduce the cost of multiple taxis and reduce the number of journeys required as it would be a single bus on one route.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

I would give consideration to the legality of removing/adjusting access to transport to an educational setting for SEN children as I believe this is a protected right.
there is a shortage of provision of SEND provision and pupils will have to travel and they should be supported and provided free of charge
There is no one size fits all in transportation in our case single use taxi would be more beneficial and would be more cost effective to the council than current provision
There needs to be 2 bus service in place of current 1 bus service
They could have a photo card pass, ensure it is available to all so no one misses out
This is not the place for the council to cut costs. Attend drop off and pick up at XXX school and see how even with busses it is hectic.
This should be capped so that parents aren't using the most expensive means. Maybe by having an account with a particular taxi firm could keep costing down, with agreed tariffs set in advance.
To have a few routes so that all catchment area is covered and not only rely on 1 route.
To run more effectively - stop the taxis for long distances - I do agree with this and cannot believe the amount that costs. Pay the parents to use Uber etc. Any children that have been travel training at school and it has been successful look into them utilising that training. Any children that live less than a mile from a school within walking distance take them off the bus and seek alternative. Physically disabled should be able to remain on the Havering Buses !
Transport assistance it's a great and it's safe
transport picks my child up in her wheel chair and takes her to school and drops her of in her wheel chair when school finishes
Transport SHOULDK be focused on each individual basis. Each family and child have DIFFERENT needs that need to be listened to and supported
Transport should depend on the needs of the child and if there is no suitable school for them
Unreasonable change and demands, children with sen often need to have continuous support with little change or disruption, families need the support of others for independence.
Most children it's the transition into school that becomes difficult by asking the parents to step back in the transition from home to school becomes stressful/ dangerous
Kids are on the waiting list now for transport so the need is there
With ulez in place now if a family doesn't have a car already then they certainly won't get one for this at any reasonable price Unsure
Up to date Ulez efficient reliable buses to collect children. Just because the council is in financial ruin does not excuse the responsibility the borough has to support it's disabled young people and their families.
Use Council vehicles and staff
Vehicles to be less broken down.
More supports given to most vulnerable child on buses.

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>More understanding to the parents/Guardians as sometimes dealing with disable child is stressful enough, the extra pressure from the transport people on parents when there is a delaying, is the last thing the parents want.</p>
<p>We all need to care for vulnerable and my son is 1 of them. Both me and my partner work full time but are not in high paying jobs it's a struggle. But we rely on this service he is in a routine and chaperone ensures his safety and others , he has violent outbursts which if he travelled otherwise would lead to bad situations ie someone being violent to him, taking advantage of his naivety and innocence as he is young in his way. People will react and without protection of current system ie know com p any are safeguarded and where he is also chaperone assistance we know he is safe. Take this away your taking away his rights , what he knows works fir him and all the vulnerable kids. Please do not change current system it's tough enough with kids with needs as my son has adhd without additional worry of them arriving safe at school.</p>
<p>We are not current users of the transport service so cannot comment on how efficiently (or inefficiently) it is run.</p>
<p>However, I do not agree with the over 16 service being charged for at all - this will be penalising parents/Guardians of young adults that have medical/emotional/educational issues of some kind, through no fault of their own, and no-one that will be using this service will be using it by choice or where there are other realistic options. I realise the council is under pressure to save funds and make cuts due to increasing social care costs, but all this will do is affect parents already under financial pressure and will ultimately lead to fewer young adults with additional needs being able to continue into further education to maximise their potential.</p>
<p>We could stop voting for local politicians who do not support the most vulnerable in our community, or we could get rid of senior officers who make recommendations without any real understanding of the issues</p>
<p>We get a great school bus service. I don't see how it could be improved.</p>
<p>We have had almost no issues with our current transport service in three years and would like it to stay the same.</p>
<p>We have not had any issues with the service over the years, it has been very good for us, but if you are looking at cutting this service you would be punishing the people that need it most.</p>
<p>We have only been using the service since September when my daughter started year 7. It has been such a blessing and help in knowing that my child is safe in getting to school, it would be impossible for her at this point to use public transport. And as her school is a considerable distance away, because it was the only school available to meet her needs locally, the bus service has been invaluable and we are truly grateful for it. I honestly can't imagine coping at this point without it. Please consider cutbacks elsewhere, away from the children, young people and vulnerable adults who have the greatest needs.</p>
<p>Who knows, I'm guessing you have been as efficient as possible?</p>
<p>You cannot use these children as a cost cutting except use, they are entitled to an education, many in a special provision and it is the councils job to get them there in a safe and supported manner.</p>
<p>Public</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>A maximum amount of funding per child per day is the only way forward. Havering should never be paying figures of £200 per day for transport of any child.</p>
<p>Budgets should be realistic and no over spend. As other school children have to pay to travel to school a fee should be applied to help with the cost. Taxis if used should have more than one person to average the charge.</p>
<p>Coaches and mini busses run by council drivers, or even volunteers.</p>
<p>I think the proposed review could be very helpful in avoiding such a wasteful system as at present.</p>
<p>It is unreasonable to expect the council and tax payers to provide this provision.</p>
<p>means test all families and if their income falls below a certain threshold then assist if really needed. Many people can make their own arrangements and have been too long in receiving transport even though they have their own means of travel.</p>
<p>My godson is a blind disabled child who has to travel from XX to XX any change in his routine affects him greatly also his mum is a single mum who has another child she has to get to school in XXXX. I've personally had to get this kind of transport to my own health needs. They need to provide transport for children with special needs children should not have to suffer.</p>
<p>Not on transport but who is scrutinising Adults expenditure and their processes. Why are adult and children's services allowed to overspend again why haven't they been more proactive and frugal with finances. An approach to their governing body or consulting other authorities to consider joint procurement and commissioning should have taken place years ago. It's not too late start now. Get some of those accountants and improvement managers into these directorates and don't let them hide behind the risks to children and adults if spending stops. Get the skills in the right place.</p>
<p>Providing a school time bus or coach to do pickup and drop offs, instead of using black cab and all other viable taxi services, would save the budget.</p>
<p>Most of the time I have heard from parents it saves them having to go out. Parents who do not work can - as has been in the past - have always been able to get their child / children to school. There are breakfast clubs, after school clubs and so on.</p>
<p>All children are vulnerable, and all children can be affected by social media.</p>
<p>Should stay the same if it's not broken then don't fix it.</p>
<p>Stop your drivers tooting their horns before 8 am every morning whilst waiting outside homes and disturbing all their neighbours.</p>
<p>There are only a limited number of special needs schools within the borough. Surely a bus with assistants on board could collect children within a radius of that school and drop them off. This may mean that the children have longer travelling times, but would be substantially cheaper than individual taxis. The staff on the bus could over time work out a rotation to avoid collecting the same child first and dropping them off last. I used to be the assistant on a mini bus run by XXX club to take and drop off children attending summer activities at XXXs. ie I would ring the house and wait for the child, whilst the driver would drop the wheelchair ramp, other children would walk to the bus and I would ensure the seat belt was on - before setting off again. The kids on the bus became friendly and would sing songs and tell jokes. They could often tell if a child arrived anxious, upset or sad before we did.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>If a parent chooses to send child a long distance, when available schooling is closer - surely they should contribute to the additional cost</p> <p>When changing the Fleet choose Smaller people carriers and insure their used more than a couple of hours a day 5 days a week, Hire them out to Residential Homes School Clubs at a nominal charge (as once the Gatwick Flyer did)</p>
<p>School or Education Setting</p>
<p>At the moment, we have children at our school having transport to school who, I believe, do not need transport. Their parents are able to drop them off, but it is more convenient to have transport, so they take advantage of this, just because their child has an EHCP, rather than because of the need. More consideration needs to be in place for distance and setting, as I believe it is wasteful at the moment.</p>
<p>Buses into schools are key to a transport service which is climate responsible and accessible for all.</p> <p>Buses should be used to transport students into school and driving should be minimalised/discouraged</p>
<p>I feel this is a broader topic ie government funding for building schools .</p> <p>One possibility is for the La to give schools funding to provide transport.</p>
<p>I think personal budgets and parental contributions based on a means tested system could work well.</p>
<p>Personal budget would give children the opportunity to be brought and collected from school by people they know. Parents would be able to have more flexibility when getting transport, if some class friends are going to the park with parents or an after school PTA activity they could go and get transport home after allowing children to have that social input they miss when rigged transport times are applied. Cannot stress the importance of teachers/ TA's being able to hand over a child to someone who is able to report back to the parent with enthusiasm or is a loved one for the child at the end of the day. The mental health and behavior of children could benefit from this. The relationship between school and home is extremely important and sadly lacking for some children who are transported in. Children with ASD or Social Communication issues are missing out on valuable</p>
<p>socialising experiences by being placed on a bus at the end of the day and not being included in parties, trips to the park and even a little bit of play in the playground while parents chat.</p>
<p>The existing service needs more reliable busses and standby drivers</p>
<p>Use current LA transport more effectively/efficiently. Avoid outsourcing provision to provate companies.</p>
<p>Working in a SEN setting for children with severe needs, I feel that individuals should be assessed.</p> <p>There are parents that claim a disability vehicle for their child, who doesn't work yet expect PTS to collect their child on a daily basis, and then use the car for their other children or for personal use.</p>
<p>However there are some families who do rely on transport.</p> <p>Think havering should be flexible for families so this allows them to be able to drive all their children to different settings and not be penalised for being late.</p>
<p>Young Person aged 16 - 25</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

Better communication/ planned absence delays
Disagree
I feel they parent/Guardians should have more of a say and recommendations be considered as we know first hand what our young person/persons need and more options that suit our situation and most importantly our family members needs
I personally feel that the buses work well. We have minimal time on them meaning that she's not tired when she gets to college
I do though feel that SOME of the taxi's need looking at. Some need them whereas others, with training, could be more independent.
I understand the need to look at cheaper ways to run transport within the borough, but I feel targeting the 16-18 age group is discriminatory as they need to attend college to at least 18. In my daughter's case, she has an EHCP till 25. Her disability severely limits her ability to travel on public transport without someone with her, which then takes away her independence. These are factors that are not being taken into consideration relating to the child.
I do not feel it is in my or my daughter's best interest to have a personal budget and this is not something I would be willing to take on. My daughter's transport works for us and that is what we would like to be continued.
I would be unwilling for my child to car share (not that this is an option as she has an electric wheelchair) and surely there are a number of risk factors with this option. I also have no family to support me in these circumstances.
In terms of the actual policy document, I would like to raise the point that in relation to the "how your application will be assessed" section, I believe that access to the use of a Motability vehicle can not be used as a reason to deny transport and I fail to see the relevance for the assessment. I also fail to see the relevance of whether a parent can drive as the assessment should relate to the child. Surely it is discrimination that a child whose parent can't drive can have transport over for argument's sake my child because I drive.
I am led to believe that I do not have to agree to take responsibility for my child's transport and I will be looking for the borough to continue to arrange this on my daughter's behalf.
if it is no broken, why fix it? leave it the way it has been running please.
My son weelchair user need help to do everything. He have cerabarelpalcy
Strict qualification criteria and also means testing

Direct Views of Impact on Children

Responses by Groups
Charity or Community Group
I feel it should be means tested as some families can afford to transport their own child but reply on services for a quick fix - of people can drive they should take their

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>own child or make their own alternative arrangement's this will free up funds and time for those with less support or resources</p>
<p>This will take away independence from those not able to do transport training. This will cause distress to parents and their children It will prevent children from attending school and college which will in turn have a detrimental effect on them</p>
<p>Child aged under 16</p>
<p>Agree with all conditions</p>
<p>Because my daughter needs assistance to go to school she wouldn't manage traveling to school by her self. The travel assistance put my mind at ease. Because of mental health and safety. Her school very far . Even if it was nearer I still wouldn't let her travel alone. I haven't got a driving license. I also have to take my. Younger child to school .</p>
<p>car pooling not a good idea. Don't think you can expect others who don't know your child to be responsible for them. What if you have to work?</p>
<p>I am not able to take my child to school daily. First, I don't drive. Second, it is much easier for me and my other little kids when the bus comes and picks him up</p>
<p>I think all children in full time me education should receive free travel to school, college or universities or any place that provides education</p>
<p>Inconsistent and it will not be subject to inflation or economic changes. Also as working parents it will severely impact our jobs as organisations are not flexible to the needs of caring parents.</p>
<p>It is everyone's responsibility to safeguard children, protecting them from harm and promoting their wellbein</p>
<p>Make it easier to work out a travel plan and reduce traffic on the roads</p>
<p>My child doesn't take public or funded transportation to school, he's 10, so I take him myself & pick him up. I'm all for the children that genuinely need assistance & the parents too. But there are far too many grown ups taking advantage as it is. So make sure it's not just given out willy nilly!</p>
<p>My child gets a black taxi to the local special school. She is 2 on 1 support & requires 2 escorts. She is unable to travel on the bus as been banned over 2 years ago. She cannot travel by mini bus as needs a black taxi as has protective glass from attacking the driver. Currently Havering cannot fund 2 escorts so dad gave up work to support mornings & 2 Guardians escort on way home from school. This works for my daughter. The black taxi is a must. We also have another school run for her mainstream sister.</p>
<p>My child is autistic and she gets collected from home by a havering bus and taken to school and the same in the afternoons. She is very happy as this gives her independence away from me travelling with her but I also know she is safe and looked after. I would not want this to change.</p>
<p>My child needs bus transport to get to school. He is unable to manage public transportation independently or with travel training at this current time. He is 12 years old. If I had to take my son myself it would negatively impact on my employment. If this is taken away it will have direct impact on his attendance or my ability to continue to work</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>My daughter and I are already mentally challenged to a near exhaustion to prepare for travel in the mornings by bus.</p>
<p>I am unable to extend myself more by having additional stress with arranging transport myself, I am almost at break down point now.</p> <p>We need this service to be continued, as my child gets older the stress level increases, by removing the service, it will greatly affect my child's mental health, as she struggles already, and I worry that this will result in larger melt downs than she currently has daily.</p> <p>She needs the bus, it's built in over a number of years, and to change that routine now, in my opinion would be catastrophic and a major life change to my daughters, and my, own wellbeing.</p>
<p>My daughter is profoundly deaf and has only just settled into year 7 at her new school, which she has to attend as it has a special provision catered for her needs.</p>
<p>XXXXX gets a shared taxi with 3 other children from her school. She would not cope being in a taxi on her own, she wouldn't feel safe, and I as her parent would not feel she would be safe also by herself with an adult. She is profoundly deaf, so If anything would happen to her cochlear implants she wouldn't hear anything or be able to communicate to the driver her needs. This is way she needs an assistant with her at all times whilst travelling to and from school.</p>
<p>Her new school is a long way from where we live. That would mean I would have to give up my job to escort her to school everyday, which would be a 1 hour 30 mins journey twice a day by bus as I can not afford a car.. There is not a local school that can cater for her needs as there is only one school in the whole of the borough which caters for deaf children.</p>
<p>I would have to pull her out of school as i cannot afford to leave my employment. Which would then affect her education, which is not fare at all.</p> <p>My son is severe disabled and need the transport assistance mandatory.if the transport assistance is not there he will not be able to go to school</p>
<p>None. My children have an 8 minute walk to school.</p>
<p>The changes for my children will help our family</p>
<p>We feel that it will affect our son's mental health. Our son would struggle to use public transport and it would be unsafe for him.</p>
<p>Other (please specify)</p>
<p>As a Governor at XXX School, any changes to the home school arrangements for our pupils, parents and Guardians will cause disruption to school's start and finish times each day. The use of the Havering Transport system (buses) is vital for our puils and will be detrimental to their education and welfare.</p>
<p>Our pupils are the most vulnerable children in Havering and should at least be able to receive education without the threat of not being able to get to school, on time. Their families are also vulnerable and any cuts in the home to school transport will be devastating for them.</p>
<p>At a time when we, as a family, are coming to terms with a medical diagnosis of a three year old and making plans for her starting school, this is all unsettling. She has been assured a place for September 2024 - she will be 4 - in XXX but is the youngest of</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>3 children. The older two are taken & collected from school in XXX by their mother. It will be impossible to take or accompany the youngest with needs to school at XXX & it has been agreed she cannot attend mainstream school.</p>
<p>I do not have a child requiring this service.</p>
<p>I don't have a child requiring transport to school, because as their parent I took this responsibility on myself - I feel that parents who rely on the Council to take responsibility to getting their child to school are lazy - the new policy should not impact, other than making the parents take on the responsibility of their own child which they should have been doing already. It's annoying to see parents not take their responsibility on-this is an excellent proposed policy and should be implemented asap.</p>
<p>If the proposed measures had been in place when my son was attending special needs school and college it would have caused great distress. With younger siblings also needing to get to school there is no way I could have got my son to school. Due to the nature of his difficulties I could not have car-shared or let him travel without an escort. I'm sure there are many families that would have these same difficulties now and taking away even this</p>
<p>small support would be detrimental to all.</p>
<p>If the transport to schools is stopped this will majorly effect my nephews wellbeing and education. As a child with special needs he needs to attend a different school to his brother and my sister would be unable to ensure he could travel to school safely.</p>
<p>My three autistic grandchildren would have their full time education curtailed if the funding for the transport service is in any way limited as they are unable to use public transport independently</p>
<p>Parent/Carer</p>
<p>A budget to support the cost of travel should be made available to all not means tested.</p>
<p>A huge change in my sons trusting and felling safe issues</p>
<p>A personal travel allowance is very unlikely to be adequate to pay for road-based vehicle transport should our child be unable to cope with public transport. As a result we as a family would incur the additional expense or have our career impacted owing to school journey times infringing on our contracted hours of work. This would also be environmentally damaging as the economy of scale (both financial and environmental) conveyed by group (school bus) transport would be lost, and many families move towards private vehicles/taxis to transport their children to school. This is also a risk as using private hire vehicles does not guarantee safeguarding as taxi drivers may not be adequately trained/DBS checked the same way as the school bus staff.</p>
<p>A stupid policy choice</p>
<p>Although my child has an EHCP, we have not required transport provision and use our personal car and at our own expenses.</p>
<p>It is empowering to be able to do this thanks to some reasonable adjustments at work and having a blue badge.</p>
<p>Any means testing should be on the individual aged 18 and NOT ok household income. This should be in line with social cares financial assessments. Parents of sen adults of 18 are not legally responsible for them !!!! We have a duty to send them to education until 19 but why should we pay for the much needed transport !</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>As for me I drop my grandson off at school in the morning, but for other Children the changes in the policy will have an impact on other children.</p>
<p>As I understand it, none of the changes would affect my child.</p>
<p>As long as XXXXX can get to school safely</p>
<p>At the moment my child is only 5 and we live near to his school so do not use transport. However think it will help many others and think it's important to help children get to school safely</p>
<p>Been disabled makes it hard for me to take my son to school as the road has restrictions and my sons attendance is suffer from this and I can not afford transport</p>
<p>Both my children travel on transport they r unable to travel on public transport in peak time such as school run due to the amount of people and noise on public transport in this time and also due to the distance it would mean then being on bus nearly 2 hours</p>
<p>Changing a structured routine to my daughters travel arrangements, will have a serious impact on her mental health. At the moment she travels by bus with trained staff that we trust and we know they can support her with her needs. Changing something as big as this, especially as it's the first part of the day, will set her back years. To even think that as a borough you are willing to do this to save money is disgusting.</p>
<p>Charging for post 16 should be no more than a typical child would pay on public transport. Why should we pay more because my child is disabled If transport was taken away my child would not be able to attend school Managing our own budget would add more stress to an already stressful situation & put extra pressure on those who definitely do not need even more stress in their lives. Children and Parents should be given the option of LA provided transport or Transport Allowance Personal Budget, families should not be forced to use the Personal Transport Allowance as such does not take into consideration the increased cost of Taxis/Cabs, and the fact that an escort would be needed in a form of the parent or the parent would need to pay for an escort to support their child in that Journey. The Personal Budget Transport Allowance simply avails the LA from responsibility, and of course we know that it'll work out mathematically cheaper for the LA.</p>
<p>Children and young adults in education should be able to travel to and from school/education place free of charge</p>
<p>children who need support to attend educational provision should be provided and this should be provided free of charge and to meet their needs</p>
<p>Children with mobility issues should not be the target of budgetary cuts as they are already an extremely vulnerable group. Considering this as a way forward for saving money feels very uncomfortable and an injustice.</p>
<p>XXXXX is diagnosed with XXXXX For the diagnosis XXXXX has he goes to a specialist school out of the borough to accommodate his high level of needs.</p>
<p>I'm a single mother of 4 children which 2 of them I still take to school and pick up from school myself, I would have no other means to get XXXXX to school if it wasn't for the London borough of Havering transport service. XXXXX needs to be accompanied when travelling with another adult due to him getting out of his seat belt which can cause harm to himself and others. He wears a 5 point harness to keep him and others</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>safe. XXXXX is not an independent child and doesn't have the level of understanding or awareness to travel independently at all.</p>
<p>CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS ARE OKAY FOR MY CHILD.</p>
<p>Current I don't use this service due to living within close proximity to the school. However as my child progress or when I move I potentially may have to. This service would allow me to work, knowing that my child is able to safely be transported to school by transport booked by myself and not eating not my already stretched finances. Taxi/lift sharing etc is not always practicable for all disabilities and should be based on individual needs/used where suitable. Consideration should be given that in particular days changes may be required due to sickness or melt downs in children with ADHD etc.</p>
<p>Currently none</p>
<p>Currently none, as my child walk / cycles to school</p>
<p>Currently we do not have transport provided however this may be becoming a need. Arranging private transport would be more costly and a personal budgets for things such as this never covers the costs. I believe this is veiled cuts in service. Please find somewhere else to make your cuts other than vulnerable children.</p>
<p>Cutting down funding for assisted transport will have a negative impact on my child's education</p>
<p>Depends what kind of changes it will be. If they help well it have a good impact. If not it will have bad impact.</p>
<p>Difficult getting disabled child to schiol</p>
<p>Do not currently use transport, but have 2 children both with an EHCP and currently both in separate schools, I am currently getting help from friends to collect and take one child as cannot be in 2 places at once when my youngest starts secondary this help will no longer be available which will mean I will need transport as currently not one of my children can go to school alone as it is not safe for them to do so. If transport is not available then one of my children will not be able to attend school as I cannot be there to take and collect</p>
<p>Does not apply to me. The council cannot be expected to pay for everything</p>
<p>Does not apply to myself... Due to the amount of taxis being used to transport children, I do feel this needs addressing as I feel these are not acceptable</p>
<p>Don't really impact</p>
<p>Due to the very specific needs my child has he requires specialist transport in a 9 seater with a chaperone. This is fo his safety and that of the driver and chaperone. He is too much of a risk to use public transport and I would not know where to start looking for suitable taxi staff and chaperones. It should be left as it is, organised and funded by the council who are trained for this.</p>
<p>Enable flexbile travel arrangements once my daughter attends college next year</p>
<p>Everyone in our household works and we depend on the bus to take our daughter to school. She is fully wheelchair dependant but sociable and enjoys her time on the bus</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

chatting to her escort driver and peers. Socially and emotionally my daughter will regress if she does not have her “bus time” with her friends. I will also have to
give up work as I work in a local school and will not be able to drop her off and make it to my own job and my husband works in London from 7am-6:30pm.
Everything will run smoothly
Families with multiple children with only one attending specialist provision (i.e. kids in different schools) wouldnt be able to use a personal transport budget as a parent cannot be in two places at once
Feel that the children’s trip to school is safer
Firstly I feel this will impact us in so many ways.
My children’s behaviour will need to be managed on the transport to and from school. They won’t be able to travel without someone being there to support them.
A change in their transport will definitely impact their attendance because they are comfortable with the way things are now.
Travel training is irrelevant to us because my children are only 7 years old.
My children’s mental health will be negatively impacted and mine and my husband’s working hours will be impacted if we have to take them to and from school ourselves.
I also concerned about managing a personal budget and managing the availability of transport that I would have to arrange. The new proposed transport changes are vague and not clear enough.
Firstly, it will be incredibly difficult for her to cope with the routine changes, which will have an impact on her emotional well-being.
Secondly, as we are both working parents, we have already made changes to our employment, and that will have a negative effect on our financial situation, pushing us to limits where the basic needs are barely met.
For working parents like me, the changes might have a negative impact on my life and might result in working parents working fewer hours or leaving work in order to provide or manage their child's transport to and from school. Working is what helps me unwind and keeps me sane in my daily caring responsibilities. I cannot afford to lose my job or reduce my working hours because this would have dire financial consequences for me and my family. This would be very stressful for me and definitely have a negative impact on my mental health.
Likewise, my autistic child has been taking the school bus for years, and therefore used to this and now part of his routine. Any change in routine would be stressful and distressful for them and will result in anxiety, and challenging behaviors, and also affect his mental health negatively.
Free travel should be for all students , this would enable them to get to school/college without the worry or stress on how to afford it . Also stop them having to carry money or card to pay, eliminating theft and harm caused by those who rob students for monies etc...
Getting my grandson to school would be very stressful for all involved if it changes. He is happy and it works.
Getting travel finance support will help us / family economically

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

Good
Greater flexibility for suitable to needs transport
Greatly help with attendance as I struggle to get him in with lots of health issues
Harder
Having XXXXX who need routine any changes to their daily travel arrangements would have serious repercussions to their mental health. There is no way they could cope getting on public transport. As a single parent my days are already very hectic not only caring for XXXXX special requirements, but also working part-time to help make ends meet. To then have to find transportation and manage a "travel fund" would pile greater stress and strain on me, which in turn would negatively impact XXXXX.
Having more than one child at different borough schools makes it physically impossible to be able to get them to school on time. Havering borough education authority DO NOT have a school that is able to meet my child's needs which is why she attends an out of borough school & needs transport to get there. Having to manage the transport independently would change my child routine which she loves being on the bus and being surrounding by other children on her journeys to and back from school. Having transport to and from school will cut traffic in half, and public transport will have less congestion than now.
Help independence
Help with my sons disability's and build more social confidence
Hi I am a single mum living with 2 children and they both have individual needs because son had medical condition and my daughter had ADHD which is under going investigating so I can't pick up and drop of both on time .I don't have any family support or help. Huge as we need more school buses on route ie 651 as 1 bus for a school of over a 1000 students is not enough plus it will make school attendance better especially in winter seasons I am a mother and I would be very happy to be a transport for children from school. I am a single parent to 4 children. 3 of these children attend a SEN school out of borough, and 1 attends a mainstream setting.
My children have multiple appointments at various hospitals and clinics, all at different times. To have transport taken away from us would mean my children would not be able to attend school on a regular basis, as they would all have to attend appointments for their siblings, as I would not be able to travel to and from school twice per day, as well as attend appointments. I do not have anyone else who would be able to take my children to school, or attend appointments with them. Having school transport removed is not an option for us.
I am disabled and have asked for help in the past for transport for my children to get to school and was refused, Most boroughs offer this service by the council but Havering doesn't due to there budget but seem to fail the impact it takes on families and children with there attendance and not all family vehicles now are ULEZ compliant, The council doesnt offer no help in any way but are happy funding other organisations that are pointless, and as a havering tenement I believe there should be more help from the

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>council and be up to date with what's going on in the real world and shouldn't be based on means tested, but maybe PIP or DLA or EHP</p>
<p>I am not impacted but many young people I know could be</p>
<p>I am strongly agree with pooling system.</p>
<p>I am not agree with travel training as it is not easy for disabled children to learn due to learning difficulties. And the travel system can change any time due to unforeseen circumstances e.g stike , road works etc and some children cannot cope with change in system.</p>
<p>My personal situation will not allow my kids to travel as well because both of us mum and dad are working during their school times and my parents look after my children. They both cannot speak English that's the reason I can't take risk of leaving my autistic child with them travelling in the bus.</p>
<p>I applied for this for my son and didn't even get a reply. Support with getting him to school would have and would be really helpful as having to rely on his older brother causes massive issues at home and on his attendance</p> <p>I applied for this for my son and no one even had the decency to reply. My son misses days at school when there is no one available to support him on the bus.</p>
<p>I be worried about their safety and the upset they will feel has they can't handle change to well it well affect then physically and mentally</p>
<p>I believe any change would be personally detrimental to me and my child.</p>
<p>I can't afford a personal transport More boring</p>
<p>I can't say until I know exactly what the changes to my child will be.</p>
<p>I could not afford to fund any travel help for my child as already living on the breadline for the basic needs also my child would not be able to go to the school he is at and thriving without the taxi provided as he can not travel independently or with help as he as anxiety issues and also could end up in trouble as he often says things tht would get him in trouble</p>
<p>I currently claim fuel allowance, and transport my child to college. Please remember this is not just about school age children, but also post 16, college etc. These do not seem to be getting much mention.</p>
<p>I have had to fight to get, and then keep, my fuel allowance, in the past, although my son more than meets the criteria, which is so wrong.</p> <p>If I were to lose the assistance, it would mean having to absorb the petrol costs myself, as he still needs to get to college each day and there is no other way.</p>
<p>I currently don't use transport. My son has autism but not an EHCP as yet. He is due to start secondary school next year. He will not be able to get a bus to school on his own due to his lack of understanding and how busy buses are in the morning. This will ultimately cause a meltdown and I will have no way of knowing where my son is or if he even got on the bus. I will have to take him to school everyday and my other children who will still be in</p>

<p>primary school. This will make someone late for school everyday. I was planning on applying for transport to get him to school. I find the whole process confusing as it is already. To hear this might be included in the budget cuts is a massive worry for me especially as school is such an important part of his development. Having the transport take him to school will ease his anxiety about getting to school and will ultimately make his day alot easier. I fear if he doesn't have this he won't be in school at all in an incredibly challenging time in his life where change will be the contributing factor on his mental health. I appreciate more children have special needs these days compared to 10years ago. But our children's safety and education needs to be a top priority. In my opinion the council should make cuts to the contractors they use, plumbers and electricians for example as they will visit a home on a call out charge and will then go back at least 3 times and charge call out fees when no work has actually been attempted or the problems fixed. I feel if you opened them jobs out to other companies you would get a more competitive price and work would actually get completed. Or employee staff that work directly for the council to do the work rather than subcontractors as the cost would be significantly less. I feel penalising families that are already struggling with special needs children is the wrong route to go to save money. You only need to look at the invoices from contractors and see how many times they have gone to one site to know that they are ripping the council off with fees they charge.</p>
<p>I currently take my child to and from school however he is going into sixth form next year and needs independences as he becomes a man, so would expect him to go by transport. This will also mean I can return to work full time, making the Financial strain on my family better.</p> <p>If he was unable to get transport this would affect not only his independence but also the mental health of the whole family living in a cost of living crisis.</p>
<p>I currently take my son to his sen provision and claim fuel reimbursement however I know this will affect other parents in very different ways. Especially those who work.</p>
<p>I do not agree with charging children for bus or train transport to go to school. It is a legal requirement that they attend school and charging them a fare each time will result in loss of school attendance.</p>
<p>I don't get any even though my son has special needs</p>
<p>I don't think we require any changes as a family</p>
<p>I don't drive a car</p>
<p>I don't feel the changes would have a huge impact on me and my child other than possibly giving more confidence travelling independently.</p>
<p>I dont have any details</p>
<p>I don't really understand what this is</p>
<p>I don't think it will affect our family.</p>
<p>I don't think it would have much of an impact.</p>

<p>I feel Havering Council are trying to save money by targeting the most vulnerable children and young adults in our communities. Your cabinet report highlighted huge safeguarding concerns such as 'carpooling' which is a complete lack of awareness for disabilities and learning difficulties. A school bus should not be a last resort. Travel training is not suitable for vulnerable children unless that child is extremely able and even then it's a risk. Also, some schools such as XXX school is located within country lanes and is dangerous for a vulnerable person to walk down from a bus. Expecting parents to make their own taxi arrangements and claim back the costs during a cost of living crisis is ridiculous. Not even mentioning the amount of stress this will put on a parent who already leads a very stressful life. I personally feel that Havering Council are bending rules and regulations and are not taking the Education Act of 1996 seriously or basic human rights of a person with a disability. Maybe cabinet members can take a pay cut so our children can get to school safe and calm.</p>
<p>I feel that all children should be able to benefit from free travel using buses if necessary and that no child should be means tested. Parents situations vary greatly throughout a child's lifetime regardless of their care needs. If this survey is being done to make some parents pay for costs then I think it's totally wrong.</p>
<p>I feel the amount of funding cuts and lack of support for disabled children and their families in this borough is already a huge issue that needs looking into. Limiting the transport for special schools will hugely impact disabled children and their families. Unlike other children who attend local schools. Our special needs children attend schools all over the borough and beyond. I think it is ableist to take away even more of the services we currently access.</p>
<p>I feel the changes will have a negative impact on myself, my son and my family.</p>
<p>I feel this would help children that's beneficial too help.</p>
<p>I gave up my job to take my disabled children to school and did this for two years as there is no accessible afterschool club support.</p>
<p>They were late every day, we were all traumatised by the school drop/pick up which is at a very busy mainstream school one trip home resulted in a cracked windscreen. They would attack each other and me from behind on the ten minute drive. Sometimes I would get stuck in the carpark till everything shut because it wasn't safe to drive. Sometimes it would take two staff to get me to the car.</p>
<p>In February this year I applied for transport. They are on time every day, we are safe. I know longer have anxiety attacks sitting on my driveway. I'm looking at returning to work. My children have made friends on the bus and its given them safe independence.</p>
<p>The PTS service works not only that but it's given me back my life.</p>
<p>If you were to remove this I have no friends or family nearby that can support me taking my children to school, I wouldn't be able to return to work, my children would go back to having violent meltdowns outside of school and their attendance would be effected.</p>
<p>Transport is propping up the broken SEND school system, the no afterschool system.</p>
<p>We don't want benefits (which is what this will become) we want services that work that enable our children to get safely to an education. That allow us the freedom to earn a living and have our dignity back.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>I have a child with additional needs and is due to start full time at reception in 2024. I feel that I do not know enough about transport arrangements or facilities should I wish to send my child to another school that is further from me. At the moment I plan to send my child to a school that is a 10 minute walk but should I decide to work, send to another school further away or if my child is in high school, there is not enough information available to help me make these types of decisions.</p>
<p>I have considered using transport for my son who has been bullied on the way to school and I'm concerned the changes would remove that option.</p>
<p>I have no idea. I accompany my child who uses a scooter, so not surfe this is applicable to us.</p>
<p>I have transitioned my child to local transport and no longer use the service</p>
<p>I have two children that have transport to and from their schools one attends XXX who has serve medical and mental health needs and the other attends a XXX school out of havering if either of them were not to have transport it would servilely impact both of their education</p>
<p>I have two children who receive transport one to the XXX which is XX and the other goes to a XXX in a taxi out of borough this possible changes could massively impact both my children and would result in them not being able to go to school</p>
<p>I have two other young children that I take to and collect from primary school. I rely heavily on the transport bus to take my child to school as I can't be in two places at once. He is also severely disabled and needs an adult with him so a taxi is not an option. We rely heavily on the transport bus to help him get to school. I also believe where he stays in full time education that transport should be free and not charged or means tested otherwise he will have to stay at home and miss school which is crucial for his mental and physical wellbeing.</p>
<p>I hope that my child will be allowed to use the school transport soooon.</p>
<p>I just hope it would be simple, as long as my child gets to and from school safely.</p>
<p>I know people with disabled children who are horrified by this news.</p>
<p>I may not be able to avoid the payment</p>
<p>I rely on transport to get my daughter to the XXX every day for school and on time. My daughter has several health conditions and mobility problems. Public transport is a no.no. And I cannot drive it is a big issue in our lives. Im her full time career and her dad has to work 24/7 to keep a roof over our heads.</p>
<p>I strongly believe that transport provided by the borough is essential for SEN children. The positive impact of sharing a school bus with his peers has been highly beneficial dealing with social interaction in a controlled environment. The bus is less noisy and much more reliable than TfL buses which would increase his anxiety levels. In my son's particular case he is classed as a vulnerable child specifically around a lack of awareness in how dangerous the roads can be and his impulsiveness can cause a detriment in his cognitive decision making. Transport assistance has been a real confidence booster to him knowing that he is seeing the same driver/PA everyday and that he is with the same travel buddies</p>
<p>I struggle to get him to go school has it is with out the added pressure of getting two buses to school and he wudnt be able to do that alone so I would then have to take up hour getting him there then get back my self to the. Re do that again on pick up</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>I struggle with the cost of petrol. We applied for transport last year but never got it Our son uses a walking aid which he would struggle using independently on public transport,also his mental health would suffer without myself getting him to college</p>
<p>I take my child to school because I do not work at the moment so it works for me but I would think if u have to work and r moved to having to sort out your own transport for your child would be extremely hard and stressful. Also some family’s find budgeting their own money extremely hard.</p>
<p>I think all children in full time education should have free transport</p>
<p>I think having added pressure on families to maintain responsibilities for transport and allows for abuse of trust. Families use transport as a means to a must. They do not need extra stress and worry. No parent wants to be in a situation where they are dependent on transport. Having this area managed by the local authority is better. I do think the transport by the local authority is more concerned about expenditure rather than the best interest of a child. Every child is different and should be case by case. I have recently have had a negative experience with transport for my child. Making decisions without consulting families lead to undue stress.</p>
<p>I think it will be a positive consultation</p>
<p>I think it would depend on how far the school was in distance. Also if the budget covers the full cost. If they tried it and got worried, anxious or it wasn't working is there flexibility for it to go back to how it was</p>
<p>I think the changes are disgusting. If my daughter didn’t have the bus to take her to XXX, she wouldn’t be able to attend. I would have to get buses and walk as I don’t drive as a single mum this is unacceptable and my daughter wouldn’t have an education, which she couldn’t access in mainstream education. The council should be ashamed, our children deserve love and patience and respect not to be discriminated against because they have special needs. XXXXX</p>
<p>I think this is largely an unnecessary initiative for any London Borough as the bus network is extensive and all students are eligible for Oyster Zip cards. The bus is free for our students, any family who does not appreciate this or finds it unsuitable can make their own arrangements at their own cost. If the DfE has spare funds they should be directed at schools and not training students on how to get on a bus. I do however understand that in a small number of cases the borough will need to make provision for those with disabilities that means accessing public transport is problematic. This is an acceptable use of public funds, but the DfE and local councils need to remember these are public funds and should not be wasted on giving extra travel budgets to students when buses are already free. Or training students on how to use public transport which should be a parental responsibility.</p>
<p>I think those changes will make parents life more complicated. We have lots of things to think about. And thinking about arranging a taxi or travel 2 hours per day will simply impact my working day. It would be good to have more sen school so kids will not need a transport.</p>
<p>I think yet again your penalising, attacking and discriminating against disabled people and thier families. It is hard enough navigating life with a disability without putting more barriers in place. Disabled people have the right to access school and care and be treated equally. They have and should have the same rights as everyone else. It costs</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>more to have a disability and the support for disabled children in the Borough is already horrendous. For example you have no accessible parks. You want to put more charges and barriers in they way of support, respite care and independent living, all children have the right to learn and all families requite different support. Please find a different thing to attack / tax. Havering is completely lacking and really behind with the care and support of sen children and any one with a disability. You are discriminating against these families which will be mine at some point. You treat people with disabilities as a burden and the support you provide is already sub par. You intend to make it even worse for families who are already struggling emotionally financially and physically.</p>
<p>I wasn't aware of the policy. My youngest child walks the short distance to his secondary school. My eldest child travels by train to Victoria every day to her sixth form. It has never occurred to me that travel expenses could be funded by the council.</p>
<p>I will be calm for my children .That they can safely travel .</p>
<p>I will have less time for work and other involvements</p>
<p>I worry that my child wouldn't be safe travelling alone.</p>
<p>I'm not in a position to get my daughter to school as I have other children to get to school. Any change will be detrimental to our routine and have a knock on affect on our lives.</p>
<p>If he does not have transport he will be unable to attend college</p>
<p>If i am to be able to work i would need a place on the school bus. A budget is not the answer. It is not going to cover the transport and escort that is needed. I also feel that post 16 transport should not be charged. The young people using this service are not able to work. If anything financial support through child benefit and tax credits reduces or ends and the government has made it extremely difficult for disabled students to claim universal credit in their own right. Our young people should be able to access education without causing financial hardship.</p>
<p>If I had a personal budget I don't feel I would be able to get my children to school. My daughter has drug resistant and uncontrollable epilepsy and would be extremely dangerous for me to drive with no other adults in the car to supervise her. Both my children are special needs and will fight without an adult between them again how would this be possible if I am driving the car especially on big fast roads. There is no way on earth that I would be able to book a cab to take them for obvious reasons like safety but also for there mental health not knowing who the driver would be every day. Also with an hour and half round trip twice daily how would I be able to pay my mortgage as I wouldn't be able to work. It's very short sighted to save money on transport costs only for me to then have to claim benefits as I'm no longer able to work let alone the stress it would cause on top of the every day struggles we already have</p>
<p>If it is free then easy</p>
<p>If it was taken away he wouldn't be able to go to school</p>
<p>If my child needs transport in the future this will have a negative impact</p>
<p>If my son couldn't get the bus he wouldn't be able to go to school</p>
<p>If my son doesn't go on the school bus, I wouldn't be able to get my other son to school on time, as I cannot get to 2 schools for drop off and pick up at same time. This would obviously have a big impact on my children's attendance.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

If school bus is stopped will be more time needed to get to school so this would disrupt whole household
If the changes are brought in this will have a massive effect on my child's education as she will be unable to attend school and will miss out on her education.
If this is stopped my child will need to be moved to another school which will impact her mental health badly she is settled and receiving lots of help from the school with her disabilities aswell as myself we do not use this service as of yet but are undergoing the routes to receive this due to my daughter being partially sighted and having mental health with cahms I myself am unable to take her to and from school due to logarithm and being registered blind Thai has impacted all of us and now we are dependant on peoples hesp so this service will take the burden of our careers and our self's to keep her in the school she continues to revive help from
I'm a mum of of 5 and I struggle to get her to school on a bus I'm 5months pregnant and it's hard because sometimes it's hard getting both kids on a bus with all the older school kids haveing a buggy and being pregnant it's horrible I think this school bus would help alot of people and I suffer from anxiety and sometimes blackout on a bus so I think this would be ideal
I'm not sure
Impact on their well-being
Increase stress and anxiety for both parent and child. Expecting a contribution will impact on support I can provide for my child and to the detriment of other family members. Already my family is struggling financially with living costs rising dramatically. If the council is facing financial challenges, so are it is Havering families and especially those families with dependents with SEND.
Increased levels of stress and anxiety leading to seizures
Independence & reassurance for my daughter
XXXXX would not be able to keep herself safe on public transport. She would get overwhelmed and panic. She suffers with lots of sensory issues. XXXX is a very vuneralble child and could easily be taken advantage of. I have 2 other children I have to get to school plus a job I have to get to. The best option is for XXXXX to get the school transport.
It does not affect we live 2 minutes from the school
It makes him more independent and get him prepared for secondary school
it makes sense not to waste money
It may help by child in in school on time and more regularly It seems so wrong to make parents of disabled children aged 16 plus to pay for transport to school when they legally have to be in education until they are 18 and when mainstream young people aged 16-18 get free travel to school via TfL Oyster cards. However the majority of our 16-18 Sen children are unable to travel independently on public transport and are reliant on transport provided by the borough
It will take away my child s independence so no
It will affect my childs attendance and also his mental being
It will allow my child to go to and from school without any issues regarding mobility. It will help us a lot as our work attendance is suffering due to continued lateness
It will be an additional expense

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>It will be stress free for my child and myself because at the moment we are going through stress of waking up at 6am to get on the train in order for them not to get late to school as the school is far away from our temporary accommodation .</p>
<p>It will give him more structure and routine and cause less meltdowns.</p>
<p>It will help out families who are working and no time to drop or pick them up, if they live far from school.</p>
<p>It will help with independence and it will keep them safe</p>
<p>it will improve my childs attendance as my partner is unwell and i work in london most days so i dont have the time to do drop off and pick up</p>
<p>It will lead to absence from school</p>
<p>It will make life a lot easier especially for some of us that do not drive. There's this peace of mind that comes with you knowing school transport is picking up your child so you don't have to worry or run helter skelter about morning school runs.</p>
<p>It will make us happy and it will make life easier</p>
<p>It will provide freedom for my child to get to school safely with somewhat some independence</p>
<p>It will severely impact on her mental health if a seat on the bus was taken away from her. Since going on the bus she has felt more confident and "normal" as she is getting to school by herself without being accompanied by a parent. My child has asd and dyspraxia as well as severe mental health issues which makes it impossible to travel independently on public transport, she would be a danger to herself and others. We are also not willing for random taxi drivers to pick her up each day as this would hinder her too.</p> <p>You need to seriously reconsider your options here as you are talking about messing with the boroughs most vulnerable children, not regular school children. They need support not made to feel like an inconvenience because they are costing too much money. It is ridiculous that one of the proposals is to "car pool" where 1 parent takes several Sen children. Do you know how hard it is to look after your own Sen child and keep them safe all the time let alone 2 or 3 others who could all have different levels of needs.</p>
<p>It won't help the majority of children at all. You've raised the volume of children in each class in each year meaning more kiddos with needs. Then realised that that's potentially 120+ kids for each year group compared to what it was before and now realise that because of the cost of living both parents need to work and are struggling with getting their kids to school and to a school that's overcrowded and having parking issues. Then blaming the parents for making the area busy and now your backpedaling and trying to fall in line with Khan's next idea and the complaints of a few residents that funnily enough purposely bought a house next to a school. There are multiple reasons why your new policy doesn't even touch the surface with a solution to getting kids to school and getting them there on time. Parents are doomed what ever do, they have to work and yet they have to worry about stupid rules and school policies and encouraged to carpool when they just need to get to work after dropping kids off instead of running around like a headless chicken to get other kids in school that's going to be busy anyway. What needs to happen is a new school being built for the borough that can cater to the overspill of kids to the area that has adequate parking for parents. You've got a 'sports centre' in lower Bedfords road , wouldn't that of been the perfect spot for</p>

<p>a school???? Everyone is fed up of the policies and pointless ideas when everyone has asked for a new school in Harold hill but instead you'll spend millions on building on every spot or another policy that's not achieving anything but instead parents having more pressure to carpool is your solution. No thanks, I'm not going to be trying to sort car seats out everyday and check my schedule with someone to get othe loss to school. So many people are having enough with the amount of money schools and the stupid policies like this are taking out of the boroughs budget with no solutions. Build a purpose built new school once and then you won't be spending extra over the years on bizarre ideas.</p>
<p>It would be a disaster for parents, Guardians and children with ableism at its core.</p>
<p>It would be a massive improvement to my child's travel as well as mine as I work in a different area and have to travel back and forth 4 times a day without counting the travel I do for work</p>
<p>It would be huge. We rely heavily on transport. I don't drive and getting him on public transport would be to dangerous and I doubt we would actually get there. I have had to stop getting taxis as his behaviour is bad and that makes it dangerous for the driver. The only thing that works is the bus.</p>
<p>It would cost us more money and would probably decrease attendance of loads of children. It will put children in volnurable position carrying money around and can lead to theft and violence amongs children.</p>
<p>It would enable me to return to work full time</p>
<p>It would greatly make it difficult to get both children to school on time as the schools are at different ends of Havering. At least one parent would need to give up work to be around for at least one of our children for school. There is a safeguarding concern as my child lives too far away from the school he currently attends for him to safely take public transport regardless of how much travel training he would be given. I would also not feel safe for my child to be in a different car on each school day to travel to school, there is no one who lives close enough that could take him to a school for us. My child would become anxious and insecure with changes to the current system in place and would not be comfortable not knowing who he is travelling with.</p>
<p>It would have a detrimental affect on my mental health, as well as my children. I have 2 children with sen, both have very different needs, neither child understands the need of the other. Having a seat on the bus has relieved a lot of the stress that previously came with me driving them to school. Meltdowns in the car were a daily occurrence, i had no one to help me while driving, I often had to pull over to avoid an accident, as the children would be lashing out at each other. I have many health issues and i am on medication for chronic pain. At present i do not have a car as it was not ulez compliant, but over the last few years i was not driving often as my medication or the pain i was in prevented me from being able to drive safely. My children having a seat on the bus has been positive for them, it has also improved our relationship. Having the transport taken away would only have negative consequences and severely disrupt my children's learning. I am a single mum with two children with disabilities and health issues myself, just knowing that transport could be taken away is already causing me enormous amounts of stress and anxiety, as it would be impossible for me to be able to get them to and from school without putting my health at even more risk.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>It would impact on my son's mental health, his daily structure and input in class. Also I work from home sometimes and with early morning start. It would also impact on siblings going to other schools...</p>
<p>It would mean that as I in XXX and there is no suitable SEN provision here that my child would not be able to go to a suitable school My other child goes to the local mainstream and it is impossible for me to do two school runs at the same time There is not one primary school in Upminster with a ARP My child can't go in a taxi without an escort. How would this even work with the school parking restrictions?</p>
<p>It would take longer and cost more to use public transport. He would have to think of other ways to get around. It's really good</p>
<p>It's saves time. During winter and raining it's really good</p>
<p>Less money</p>
<p>Make our lives easier</p>
<p>Make people more accountable</p>
<p>Make sure you child arrives safe at school Take pressure of parent money worries</p>
<p>XXXXX can not travel by him self and is classed by law as not mentally capable. I have arthritis of the spine and there will come a point where I can not drive at all. Our life is busy at the moment and our money is stretched beyond what it should be due to Havering refusing to support XXXXX in the way that they do with other men his age and I know that as a fact. I have more than just my two children that I have to deal with and my husband works. In order for us even be able to change our life style would mean that he would have to stop working which means we would then be a none working household just to do another job on top of what we do already. XXXXX has not had any support other than transportation since turning 18 years old and no respite. What you are basically showing as a borough is that disabled should not be supported in XXXXX case and don't have the same rights to a decent life compared to other people. May not be able to attend a suitable college with a sen department for his needs due to distance and complex travel changes</p>
<p>More independence</p>
<p>More pressure added to the pressure special needs parents already face.</p>
<p>More stress on the family Most SEN parents do not have time to make these arrangements. My child will likely never be able to travel alone for the rest of his life, I do not see the benefit of "gaining independence" in this instance. It is another attempt to save money by a local authority that do the absolute bare minimum, and do it very badly already. Managing a budget is *easy* I do not understand why people we literally pay to do these things cannot wrap their heads around this?</p>
<p>Mr child has been getting the bus to school for years and this would greatly upset him</p>
<p>My child has received a seat on a bus since starting special school from year 7, she is now in year 12 and still has the same arrangement. The bus gives her a sense of independence and she enjoys the social aspect of mixing with a wider variety of</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>students. I feel that having a personal budget would take away the independence as it would be likely to be a family member doing the transporting.</p>
<p>My child and i relies on the transport as we have no means of travel and cant afford or manage to travel by local transport as many times there is no chance to get transport as always full at that time of the morning</p>
<p>my child as a lot of needs which she would not be able to make her way to school the only way she would be able to go to this school is by transport</p>
<p>My child benefits from the continuity of the bus pick up and feels independent with out a parent of family friend present. Having to manage our own budget would have a detrimental effect on him attending school .</p>
<p>My child could not access education in this borough through no fault of our own and due to lack of placement funding. Removing transport to his out of borough school would impact his life massively. It would also impact the family who already had to fight so hard to get a placement to start with. This is unfairly penalising families who have to accept a place at a school which meets the needs of the child and who do not have their choice of mainstream places.</p>
<p>My child currently received a seat on a coach he does not cope well with close proximity to other children so being on the coach at least allows him some space as he does not have a student sit next to him. He could not be sent to school on his own as he is non-verbal and has no understanding of travel due to his severe mental impairment. I feel safe putting my child on the coach with the escorts in the mornings and letting him travel to school. I think if this service was terminated my child would then struggle to attend school because he would not want to sit in a car in close proximity to others and I would be unable to take him to school due to my own working commitments. I work as a special needs learning support assistance which means that my job would adversely be affected and so with the student I care for. My child has received transport on a coach for the past eight years and I also feel that a change would not have a positive effect on him.</p>
<p>My child currently travels to school by bus with several other children and an escort. This has worked well for my child as he is unable to make his way alone but he does get a sense of independence not travelling with a parent /carer and is still kept safe.</p>
<p>My child does not like change as he is blind and can not talk and is o a wheelchair</p>
<p>My child does not need transport assistance</p>
<p>My child doesn't rely on public transport to get to school so it will not impact her directly</p>
<p>My child enjoys the school bus and looks forward to going to school it could make him feel he has done something wrong and anxious if he cant travel that way it makes life easier for me as he is motivated to get up and ready for school</p>
<p>My child even though 14 wont travel anywhere alone, so its either with myself, or older Brother or both. My child is Autistic, learning disabilities and selective mute. They are still seeking a special needs school for him as the one we wanted we didnt get as no spaces. We have waited 6 years for his diagnosis. He doesnt like public transport.</p>
<p>My child gets free bus travel which is very helpful as I am single parent</p>

<p>My child had ME , which meant he lived with flu 24/7, muscle aches, tiredness and high temperature at times. This went on for 3 years. It took the school 6 months to arrange a home tutor, after 6 months I felt my son was too much influenced on a personal level by this older man and asked that he be allowed back to school on a limited timescale. I could take him to school on way to work but had no way of picking him up until was advised the school could arrange a taxi. This was a game changer for my then 14 year old. It meant he could socialise with kids his own age but it also meant he was exhausted so a bus home was out of the question. Am so grateful that this service was available. He should have been the only one in the taxi but often was taken to another school to collect someone else. That needed to be reviewed ?So am now making you aware.</p> <p>This all happened a long time ago but is still relevant. I was most grateful for this help at a time of great need. Then ME was thought to be a way of getting off school- which was totally wrong. Please help those in most need it's awful to see your child suffer</p>
<p>My child has a learning disability he could not find his way around, he goes to a school in XXX so I would not be able to take and collect him each day as I work , I would have to give up my job and become a full time carer, this would impact on our family financially. Also for us to pay for his travel wouldn't be worth us working as I fear it would cost us too much, we are hardly surviving as it is.</p>
<p>My child has a rare and degenerative form of epilepsy and is registered blind. He has autism and delayed development, and over time his ability to do things for himself is reducing due to the epilepsy.</p>
<p>He currently attends XXXXX school in XXXXX, which is the closest school for visually impaired children. He travels by taxi, with a carer who is trained in managing his seizures, and also administering his emergency medication if necessary. He has previously been assessed by transport as to his suitability for a bus to school and the decision was his epilepsy means he is not suitable (for a number of reasons).</p>
<p>I will not accept a personal budget. I do not legally have to do this and the council cannot require me to do so. I will not accept it for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Change affects my child very badly, so having an 'uber', with a different car and driver each day will be very detrimental to him, because it will cause anxiety, which in turn triggers seizures for him.- Ubers are unreliable in availability and would cause my son to be late to school. I tested availability at the time an uber would be needed for us in the morning, and there was nothing available until 20 mins after he was picked up by our regular driver. This lateness would be picked up on by my son, and would cause anxiety.- Ubers wont necessarily be cheaper. My son travels to school on the A13 and A406. This route is notorious for travel delays and about 2-3 times a month I am informed the taxi is stuck in traffic. Ubers charge for time not distance and this would drive up the cost significantly. I would be extremely worried about having sufficient funds to cover costs like these.- In 2022 I managed to find a job that allows me to work and be at home for my son when he returns from school. I am proud to be a taxpayer and not be reliant on Guardians allowance. However I am now juggling normal family life with a job and the

<p>anxiety and extra time and care my son needs - just because I do not claim Guardians allowance does not mean I have stopped being a carer. The very last thing I need is to be worrying about budgets for taxis and XXXXX carer, and paying invoices and salary. Much of the time my mental health is 'on the edge' as I struggle with the stress of constantly worrying about my son having a seizure that he cannot recover from, and I am on the waiting list for psychotherapy. It won't take much more stress to push me too far and I would have to give up my job if this were to happen.</p> <p>- Finding a carer to travel with my son is extremely difficult, because most taxi Guardians do not want the responsibility of taking care of him if he does have a seizure. I have found the most wonderful person, who my son trusts and loves, but there is no back up. Being a taxi carer is a very challenging role - Your day is split into small chunks of time, and doing anything meaningful is very challenging in just the few hours between the morning and afternoon run. I do everything I can to show her how much we value and appreciate her, but she may decide that the impermanence of changed arrangements isn't worth the hassle, and my son wouldn't be able to get to school without her.</p> <p>In summary the following would be affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- our health and wellbeing- my ability to work and contribute to society- my son's ability to get to school on time, or at all
<p>My child has always used school transport and taxi. To be honest the bus always been our first choice because it's more practical, less stress for us to on finding suitable and reliable PA, taxi companies to accompanying my child to school. With the school bus my child enjoys because it's the same driver, same PA. We create a good relationship between ourselves and the transport people and they know my child, my child knows them and my child transitioning when he starts the beginning and the end of the year is less stressful for all of us especially my child that takes long to adapt to the changes of his routine.</p> <p>The communication is always very good, always on time to pick and drop my child, they support my child through is good and bad days.</p> <p>Our opinion is we would prefer the school bus transport.</p>
<p>My child has ASD and ADHD with a few mental health issues. I would not be able to take him by public transport because of safety issues. I also couldn't take him in a taxi due to behavioural problems. He has to go to a special needs school and I would have no way of getting him there.</p>
<p>My child has difficulties going to school without me</p>
<p>My child has Downs syndrome, and severe learning needs. He would not be able to cope navigating to school by himself.</p>
<p>My child has extreme special care needs that would deteriorate under new proposals.</p>
<p>My child has no awareness of danger and when he was getting a escorted bus to school he wrapped the seat belt around his legs and neck once so tight his leg went blue.</p> <p>He would also strip naked and many times he wouldn't walk to the pick up point meaning we would miss the bus. I also have a young daughter who needs walking to school. He becomes aggressive and has put me in hospital hurting my back so trying to</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>get to any pick up point doesn't help. He has lung disease and needed to be alone during covid in a taxi pupil wise. He could share a taxi but again this would depend on the child and him being settled with it</p>
<p>My child has no danger awareness or area awareness so travelling on anything other than the school bus would be hazardous to her.</p>
<p>As I have severe health issues myself taking her to and from school is not an option for me so without transport by the bus she would most likely miss a lot of school time</p>
<p>My child has no other support he can count on other than myself (his mother). I have different health problems including osteoarthritis that can disable me from driving for longer journeys, especially in slow traffic on a regular basis. Only the school journeys currently take about 2.5 hrs daily. My only respite is when he is at school. Having ASD and ADHD, looking after him is full on. Tried shared taxi with him at the beginning, the PA could not handle him with the other kids. We also had several taxi companies and PAs, which was not ideal and did not get him to school on time, found very stressful but I cannot see how I could organise him getting to school if anything happens to me.</p>
<p>My child has severe behavioural needs and self harming behaviours which requires him to have constant assistance. He currently receives the most adequate travel assistance for his needs and any changes would greatly impact his emotional wellbeing as well as his increasing his self harming behaviours.</p>
<p>My child has to attend school and as the local school can not meet his needs I have to travel to access his care needs petrol prices have increased but my payments have not</p>
<p>My child has to have taxi transport as he is in a wheelchair and he also has to have a medically trained (to his individual needs) person to escort him.</p>
<p>Havering are unable to provide this person so I have to accompany him to and from school and I do not have a WAV</p>
<p>Being a single parent I also have to work so having this taxi service plays a vet positive impact on my mental health removing the stress of worrying about how he gets to and from school</p>
<p>My child is 3 years of age almost 4 and he currently gets transport only in the mornings. I think it would be a good idea to address the need for transport for children who attend nursery and only do half days</p>
<p>My child is currently in primary school, but I am extremely concerned for how my child will travel to and from school when he goes to secondary school, especially if these changes are made.</p>
<p>My child is currently undergoing psychiatric help with his behavioural issues and transitioning into adulthood At this stage in his life he is unstable. Any change would have detrimental impact on his mental health, well-being and safety to himself and others around him.</p>
<p>My child is extremely vulnerable in many ways. She's is registered severely sight impaired/ blind. She also has almost no stranger awareness and would extremely easily distracted and manipulated. Also due to her visual impairment she would be unable to</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>cope with the busyness or public transport and would be unable to find her way to school.</p>
<p>My child is in a wheelchair and attends school daily. She enjoys travelling on the bus, and the staff are excellent. If we were to drop her off and pick her up from school one of us would have to give up work, there is no other way to work around it</p>
<p>My child is mentally / emotionally not ready to travel alone and unsupervised - she would be considered a vulnerable member of society. As a family we would be willing to contribute towards the financial cost as without the assistance we simply would not be able to get our child to school.</p>
<p>My child is non verbal and has autism and cannot travel on public transport alone. The current school bus with dedicated person to keep an eye on him at all times is very important as otherwise he won't be able to attend his current school. Also the local TfL bus service is not convenient as the school he attends does not have a bus stop close enough to the school and there is no single bus which can take him to school.</p>
<p>My child is non verbal and loves getting on the bus everyday. I've had to take him myself on occasion due to dentist appointments and this has caused my son and myself chaos and unnecessary drama. This would be a daily occurrence if I had to take him to school. Also I own a diesel and this would become very expensive to the council.</p>
<p>My child is non verbal autistic, any changes to his routine impacts on his wellbeing.</p>
<p>My child is only just getting to grips with getting the taxi we had to appeal for. Still has a hard time if the taxi is a different colour to normal or the taxi is late.</p>
<p>Please don't take this option away.</p>
<p>My child is SEN so this will truly affect his independence</p>
<p>My child is severely disabled and is in no way ready, nor will they be before the end of their education, for travel training. As evidenced by their recent PIP claim, they are unable to participate in any travel without significant supervision and so travel training would be pointless, as it would be for many of their peers. My child is happy and confident using the Havering bus as they have been for the past 10+ years and sees it as a vital extension of their school day. We would have absolutely no interest in changing the method in which my child attends school nor would we be interested in managing a personal budget. This is because we have always used the same method, it has always worked well for us, and it sets my child up well for a day in school. On some days, the bus is actually their favourite part of the school day. We would have no interest in making it more difficult for our child to attend school. We would be happy to make a small contribution towards travel costs to continue to use the bus.</p>
<p>My child is severely mobility impaired and non verbal. School transport is the best option for his safety and mental health.</p>
<p>My child is taken to school by mother and father any sort of help when starting college in September with transport would be appreciated</p>
<p>Kind regards</p>
<p>My child is unable to learn how to public transport, due to significant learning disability. I'm a single working parent. My mother helps out with childcare in the afternoon in order to keep me in employment. She does not drive and cannot escort my</p>

<p>son home that distance or in a safe way.</p> <p>I'm a Community nurse within the borough. It will greatly negatively impact our family and many others without transport service.</p>
<p>My child is unable to take up travel training due to the complex nature of his multiple disabilities.</p> <p>By providing a personal budget for home to school travel would cause us more stress and anxiety and in turn simply be 'another job for us to do' when we are already stretched to capacity in working/caring responsibilities/running a home/financial pressures etc</p>
<p>If my child was not able to access his school transport in the form of the school bus it would massively impact my job and I would be deemed unemployable due to the very restricted working hours that I would be beholden to. Already I use all of my annual leave entitlement per year to leave work early to ensure that I am home for the</p>
<p>school bus. I do not use it on luxuries such as holidays.</p> <p>Therefore loosing my job/wage will ensure that I loose my house as I will be in financial ruin which not only impacts myself/family but that of my disabled child.</p> <p>Car sharing or relying on friends/family is not an option. All of my family and friends work and to employ a carer to take my child to school/pick up is not an option due to the high nature of his needs and safeguarding issues that it would bring.</p> <p>And that's not even touching on the extra pollution caused by parents/Guardians individually providing transportation when the bus service reduces that. After all was that why ULEZ was brought in to reduce the amount of pollution caused by car emissions?</p> <p>The very idea of limiting/stopping home to school transport is disgusting and will massively and negatively impact on the mental health and well-being of parent/Guardians/siblings to which you also have a duty of care towards.</p>
<p>My Child is unable to use public transport alone. He currently gets transport to school via the Havering supplied bus. He is registered disabled with learning difficulties and is unable to travel alone. Should transport be removed, I would have to give up my current employment to ensure I could help him get to and from school every day.</p>
<p>My child is way behind his peers some 4to 5 years and travel training would put his safety risk.</p> <p>Fuel reimbursement works and would be preferred.</p>
<p>my child needs the school bus to be able to access school safely and attend school everyday, getting a wheelchair on a bus at school times is virtually impossible</p>
<p>My child needs transportation from home to school,as me and my wife work. He travels aproximetley 10 miles each way monday to friday, something we would not be able to do.</p>
<p>my child received travel training which gave him independence. limiting or stopping this for other children would be terrible</p>
<p>My child travels to a Special Needs School on the other side of the borough. This is the closest school that can meet his needs. He is a wheelchair user who is autistic and currently has a place on a bus collected and dropped off at home. He is unable to use public transport, especially at peak times due to his autism as he finds this extremely difficult. He would not cope with the 1.5 hour journey with people close that he does</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>not know and the stop/start of the bus. He also doesn't cope well with young children around him. He also has a younger sibling who attends a mainstream school and it would be impossible for me to be in two places at once. If he loses his place on school transport I would have no choice but to look at home schooling.</p>
<p>My child travels to school by bus and sometimes the buses are very busy</p>
<p>My child travels to school on a bus with support staff with other children with needs. This has given him a better sense of independence as well as keeping him safe.</p>
<p>My child walks to school</p>
<p>My child will be happy.</p>
<p>My child will feel discriminated and helpless as he couldn't possibly travel independently and I wouldn't be able to keep my job as I will have to physically help my child getting and coming back from school, by using 2 trains and 1 bus for each journey. This will put a big strain on myself and my family</p>
<p>My child will need assistance too and from school, if he doesn't I'll have to give up my job in the emergency services to be able to get him to and from school. Taxis aren't reliable, I don't drive so a personal budget for me wouldn't work.</p>
<p>My child will not need special education.x</p>
<p>My child would not benefit in anyway if he never received transport to and from school he wouldn't understand how to travel by himself and would be dangerous as he has no awareness of dangers around himself</p>
<p>My child would struggle to get to school as he knows the bus comes and gets him and as a lot of trust in the bus drivers and thier escorts. It could lead to his anxiety getting to high that he may not want to go school or he may get to school and become very challenging for the school to deal with him which means he would not be learning very much as they would have to deal with the violence outburst. If the day does not run as normal right from morning it will have a profound effect on his learning. Not to mention the fact that my child as no road safety understanding . I would have no way of getting my child to the school if it was not for the bus as thier is no direct bus that runs to my child's home to the school which would mean lots of changes and take to long to get thier .</p>
<p>My child's school cannot be accessed easily via public transport. I have to work and cannot get him to and from school without this affecting my working hours. My son accesses the closet school that meets his needs Any changes to his transport arrangements especially those that incur extra costs will have a detrimental effect on our lives both financially and mentally. My son struggles with change</p>
<p>My children are on the school bus for hivering as we have no footpaths and way to school this has helped me so much as there attendance is great and due to my disability's and living in the lanes access is very poor</p>
<p>My children do not have additional needs and attend closet schools to us so they walk.</p>
<p>My childs attendance would be a lot better ,</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>My daughter has a diagnosis of Autism and has severe high anxiety. She likes routine and the system of the school bus picking her up and dropping off works for us. It encourages her to go to school and the routine works for her. If drastic changes were made involving her transport, it would cause severe problems for my daughter and our family. My son's schooling would also be affected if the transport system for my daughter was to change.</p>
<p>My daughter needs her own personal escort, a special harness on a bus. She can't be close to anyone due to her aggression/behaviours. A cab wouldn't be suitable as she would. E too close to other people.</p>
<p>My daughter would be unable to travel on other transport, she is autistic with learning disabilities, and processing and retaining information disorder, also suffers with anxiety and panic attacks, so is too vulnerable, also I have 4 other children who I assist to school and back, so it would be impossible to get to another school and have all the children in school on time, having my daughter picked up and dropped off each day is a great help and piece of mind she is safe, and for her this eases her anxiety as it's also children from her school, not having this support would have a great impact on us as a family.</p>
<p>My SEN son has been in receipt of travel assistance since starting at school. He is completely non-verbal and has severe mobility issues. "Travel Training" is completely unsuitable due to the nature of his disabilities. The travel assistance he currently receives is a huge part of his routine and would negatively impact his desire to go to school, and his mental well-being. Furthermore it is completely impractical to have multiple vehicles dropping off a single child (as would be the case in home or taxi transport) - the school is on a narrow country lane with insufficient parking. You can't just drive up, drop a SEN child off, and speed away - there are safeguarding issues. The child needs to be accompanied to their teacher or school rep. I would advise the council to visit and observe drop-off and pick-up at my son's school, XXX, and base their policy on the practical aspects of changing what has worked for years.</p>
<p>My SEN son who is non verbal and has severe mobility issues has always had transport to school and this is part of his routine. His school is down a country lane with no parking space make drop off by parents dangerous and impractical.</p>
<p>My son although 17 cannot travel to college or work placement independently and because I'm his carer I'm unable to work full time to support all our needs. The fuel support is invaluable to our family</p>
<p>My son enjoys going on the bus to school he feels safe and looked after by the staff. He has been using the bus for approximately 4 years and depends on the routine that this service provides. He would find any changes difficult to cope with.</p>
<p>My son enjoys the bus journey to school, it is one of the very few opportunities he has to be independent. I know he is safe, happy and looked after on the bus. The school is too far away to use public transport and is not a straightforward journey unless in a car. Public transport would cause significant stress and anxiety for my son. I have shared access to a car, it could mean my son would not be able to attend school when I do not have the car. It wouldn't be straightforward to ask a friend/relative to drop him off, the change of routine would upset him significantly. The school could also not accommodate the additional cars dropping off and picking up, it would make traffic on the surrounding areas a nightmare.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>I would be prepared to contribute to the cost of the travel rather than have it reduced or removed.</p>
<p>My son has ADHA and on the spectrum of autism. Getting him to school can be very challenging as if someone else was to take him would help with my mental illness</p>
<p>My son has ASD and has huge problems with concentration. His school is 2 buses and over hour away from our home. He wouldn't be able to change buses at the right buss stop and get off at the right time. He wouldn't be able to stand up for himself if harrassed at the bus. I cant see any travel assistance solving this problem. No one would look out for him in public transport and that worries me a lot. What if he didn't get to school on time or is being attacked on the way?? Who would take the responsibility for that?</p> <p>People with special needs are special for a reason. I don't think budget savings are worth their life and safety.</p> <p>If the Borough finds it hard to pay for transport I am willing to pay reasonable amount for my son to be able to get to school every month. Although I think wellbeing and safety of our children must be priority to decision makers.</p>
<p>My son has diagnosed ASD and will be attending school next September. I would like the opportunity to apply for an ARP setting for him, which in this borough, are far and few between, so transport is something that I would have been applying for, for my son. As full time working parents, neither myself or my husband would have the ability to take my son to school at the given times and therefore, access to transport assistance would not only</p>
<p>help us remain in full time work but allow my son the independence to travel to school without us. The council paying us money to do this ourselves does not resolve either of those scenarios</p>
<p>My son has EHCP and ASD, going to school using public transport will be extremely stressful and even impossible, there will have to be one of is parents with him, which again it is not possible as we both work full time.</p> <p>This will effect his mental health severely and might result of being late or even missing first lessons at school.</p>
<p>My son is 10 years old and travels in a taxi with a PA. He has the same people daily which for a child that struggles with changes is critical.</p> <p>The PA engages with him throughout the journey and they read stories and play games.</p> <p>My son is academically around a 3 year old and for security purposes could not travel unassisted in a car - he will sometimes undo his seatbelt and also if he requires a drink needs support to stop him chocking if he drinks too quickly.</p>
<p>My Son is Autistic almost non verbal uses an iPad for communication and would not cope with travel training.</p> <p>XXX gets the Havering bus to college it is in he's mind independence, as he is doing it without me!</p> <p>I currently work, trying to get XXX to college through rush hour traffic and then get to work in time would cause anxiety to my day and XXX</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>My son is autistic and pre-verbal. In order to support his many needs both parents need to work. He currently takes the school bus and leaves home at 7.15am (the bus meets him at home) and drops him back around 4.30pm. It's a long day for him, but it allows for both parents to get to work on time. Any change in this process would affect our family income AND disturb the routine that he enjoys.</p>
<p>My son is autistic and unable to comprehend normal social interaction and has no awareness of danger. Travelling by car is the only safe means of getting him to school.</p>
<p>My son is currently waiting for transport I think this is important to him because of getting into school</p>
<p>My son is severely autistic. Travel training is not suitable for him. Other options were not viable for us. Having a safe seat on the bus has meant I am able to go back to working which has a positive impact on my well being and my families.</p>
<p>My son is wheelchair dependant and also has an acquired brain injury as a result of a brain tumour (diagnosed). He cannot use public transport and for him, now using Havering bus to his special needs college gives him safe independence that he cannot have any other way. Children like my son need this independence away from their parents to feel valued and the same as their peers. I do not agree that any post 16 transport is means tested - only if you use the income of the child not the parents !! It should be all or nothing ! Why should we have to pay when others dont ? My son has only started using Havering bus since September and he is benefiting from it so much. I hope he can continue to be able to use this service for his mental wellbeing and independence that he can only have this way !...fully reliant wheelchair users who require full assistance can not do travel training especially when they have an acquired brain injury that affects their capacity ! If this goes ahead I hope you take into account the struggles for the physically disabled and the need for them to feel socially included with their peers on the bus !!</p>
<p>My son needs 1:1 support at all times and will never be able to travel independently. Going to his daycare centre by taxi with an escort in attendance has helped to keep him calm , because if he is stressed or anxious he hits himself or puts his fingers down his throat to make himself vomit. Also, having a 1:1 stops him from putting his hand down his trousers if he has soiled, which he would then try to eat or flick it anywhere.</p>
<p>I know havering are trying to put him on a bus to his daycare centre, but this is also unsuitable for him as the escort cannot be with him all the time. If he manages to soil and flick, then there is a strong possibility that other people will be affected and the bus taken off the road for deep cleaning, which surely defeats the objective. I am very strongly against him going by bus as I feel he will never get the support he needs without a 1:1 escort.</p>
<p>My son needs transport to school. He is in post-16 education. We were offered a personal budget for this school year, but I had to appeal against it (and won). I am also disabled and it would be physically impossible for me to take him to and from school. I do not drive, we do not have a car. My husband works full time (and doesn't drive). No one else we know would be able to take my son to and from school as our only family members live too far away and are elderly. The personal budget was no where near enough to cover the cab fare.</p>

Travel training would be useless for my son. we often travel by bus as a family, so he is used to travelling by bus

with us, but he cannot be trusted to get himself to and from school safely as he doesn't like school, and would much rather go somewhere else. He also gets very anxious, so needs someone with him to keep him calm and deal with problems. I am completely against the idea of car pooling with other parents. obviously i cannot drive, so wouldn't be able to take other children. But my son has massive social issues and so would be extremely anxious about having to go with other people, especially other children. I would not expect another parent to be able to deal with him if he had a meltdown in such a situation (which is likely). I also would not feel comfortable with him going in a car with a complete stranger. I know the council needs to make changes to budgets, but why is it hitting those who need it the most? without school transport (as in a cab directly between home and school) my son would be unable to attend school.

My son self harms when stressed and anxious. We have tried him on a school bus but the driver had to stop 4 times for my son to be restrained and made safe again. He arrived at school with his harness around his neck almost asphyxiating him. His GP and functional neurologist have both gone on record to say that my son needs the most direct route to school and to be accompanied at all times and to travel in a safe adapted way - ie in his wheelchair. He has an adapted wheelchair that only a black cab is large enough to accommodate. Due to his visual impairment combined with his brain injury he finds comfort in listening to a familiar voice throughout the journey, someone who can anticipate his needs. With his familiar travel escort he is able to go to school and arrive in a calm state ready to learn. This would simply not be possible without the travel assistant. My son is also non verbal so needs a companion who is able to "read" him and identify the early signs leading to an anxiety attack and meltdown. Havering's Direct Payments team are not fit for purpose and have a long track record of non payment and late payment. For this reason as well as safeguarding issues this proposal simply cannot work.

My son travels out of borough via a shared taxi/bus to a special needs school because havering could not provide him with a space in any special school in the borough, he wouldn't be able to manage the 3 buses by public transport to get him there if this was taken away from him, havering need to look at school placements in special schools before trying to reduce who gets help and who doesn't on travel assistance

My son would be late for school every day because of overcrowded public transport. XXXXX Academy is on the same road as 2 primary schools and a senior school. I would have to wait until the number of passengers died down as my son needs a lot of personal space and cannot stand loud noises. He is scared on public transport. In the afternoon I would struggle to get out of work at a time that would allow me to make the journey, using public transport, to his school for 3pm. I do not drive. My son is nearly a foot taller than me and can be difficult to control.

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>My son would struggle and make school days a nightmare as my son suffers with a social phobia.</p>
<p>Myself & my child would suffer significantly, I would greatly struggle to get him on public transport, it would raise his anxiety immensely & he would refuse to get on the bus, at busy times, due to noise etc, & there is no way I would be able to get my son to school, This would greatly affect his attendance & I feel he would start refusing to go to school,</p>
<p>Myself and my husband are disabled and our daughter has autism, we also have an able bodied son that due to his age uses the buses with his sister without this service it would have had such a negative impact on our family and our children's primary school attendance. But as my daughter moves in secondary school I feel travel training would be much better. As we have an older son that only ever used the bus this stopped him progressing and now at 22 he still needs assistance as he is unsure and has no confidence. The problem is the services you offer are virtually important I feel they need to be assessed better with more detail so the children can progress and those who can achieve more independence get help and it's not just parent drive as accessing the social workers the help takes too long and the assessment should take a year in advance to make any transitions seem less</p>
<p>Needs the routine and structure without change</p>
<p>none as we wouldn't be in receipt of any of the additional support None at present, as not currently needing home to school transport support as my child is in reception year and the school is within walking distance, but this may become an issue in future, due to my health and potential travel distance for secondary school.</p>
<p>None on us.</p>
<p>Make parents take more responsibility</p>
<p>None to my child, but certain people who use / receive this service do not necessarily need it or have other modes of transport, claim where it is not necessary</p>
<p>None. Greater use of public transport would be more likely if trains, railway stations and buses were cleaner, safer and more frequent.</p>
<p>Not sure right now as anything can change in the time that these changes are planned.</p>
<p>Of all the places to think of cutting! For young people who do not go anywhere and urgently need the assistance. This is terrible and I strongly oppose any cuts. Our council tax costs over 200 pounds a month! How can you turn around and tell me the council is bankrupt and therefore you are possibly considering cuts to transport of vulnerable children? I am beyond shocked. It's a very callous move. I am pretty sure with better management, you could go further with funds. Not going to risk my child's well being for a council that has failed....penalising my child and children like him is just wrong.</p>
<p>On top of the existing struggles with getting from school home this will create more burden on families of school age children where some are restricted on assisting themselves due to lack of own transport and work commitments</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>Our child currently has a seat on the bus which works extremely well for all of us as a family. She has her independence of travelling to and from school without her parents but she is also very safe and well looked after. She would be unable to go to school via taxi or public transport, even with training because she is too vulnerable to be able to do that. The bus is an excellent service, it is cost effective as up to 10 or 12 children can travel together. The assistance on the bus is excellent, we would strong recommend keeping it. We are a family who do not require a personal assistant to travel with our child and we do not expect a high expense paid out for her to travel to and from school. Please do not take away the bus service. We understand the example in the newspaper recently that listed someone who has £45,000 spent each year getting their child to and from school. These extreme cases should be removed from the system allowing more money for other people who require the basic bus transport system. The example in the paper is too excessive and we would not expect any borough to pay out for this. Thank you</p>
<p>Our child has complex needs and will need 24/7ncare for the rest of his life we have only had transport since September 2023 and it has really helped us without this support we would be attacked on a daily basis and most of our day would be spent travelling to and from school as his school is out of borough our son was home schooled for 2 years so was always with us the transport gives us that little bit time to relax</p>
<p>Our child is currently using a taxi to get to school. He was taking the transport bus last year but his new setting does not have a bus route. He carpools, and shares a taxi with another child for half the cost which works well.</p>
<p>We would be happy for him to take a bus or a taxi to school.</p>
<p>We cannot use uber, or public taxis, due to his needs and behaviour. Too much change and stress in the mornings is unsettling.</p>
<p>We have no family members or friends that can do the school run, and the special ARP he attends is far away from our home.</p>
<p>The only logical, safe and fair mode of transport is a transport taxi or bus.</p>
<p>We as parents are concerned about the personal transport budget, as we are not sure what that would entail in terms of booking our own taxis/Ubbers.</p>
<p>We don't have enough money to cover a month's taxis and wait for reimbursement.</p>
<p>In respect of safety for my son, yesterday after getting out of the taxi to be dropped home he bolted and ran into the road. Luckily the transport chaperone was trained well and managed the situation and nothing bad happened. However, the behaviour has worried us as he has no danger awareness and our concern is that if this taxi/bus service is to stop we will have no safe way to get him to school. We do have family, but they do not have any first hand experience of caring for our son and he wouldn't be safe in their care due to his needs. We have concerns as well, as our son is still in nappies and longer journeys could mean he will be uncomfortable if he goes to the toilet which leads to meltdowns. This will put a lot of pressure on the staff at his school or us as parents. Our son is currently doing very well in the ARP setting, we have seen a dramatic change in his behaviour for the better and we do not want this placement jeopardised due to these changes.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>Our child is non-verbal, autistic and attends a special needs school slightly outside of the Havering borough - because there is such an inadequate supply of SEN school spaces within Havering.</p>
<p>Routine and familiar faces are part of the requirement.</p>
<p>Travelling via public transport daily would be traumatic because of the din and the issues around how his condition impacts his autistic traits/behaviours and how that comes across in public.</p>
<p>Frankly, we are exceptionally happy with the current arrangements. We know the routine. We know that the driver and chaperone have been vetted and crucially they have good liaison with the school during the handover and pick up processes.</p>
<p>Having to rely on the availability of willing fellow parents or arrange our own transport reliably each day is incompatible.</p>
<p>Our neurodiverse child who is Non-verbal and considered severely mentally disabled attend an Autism Resource Provision in the Borough that is far away from our residence. Our child has to attend this setting as it is the best and one of the only limited places in the Borough that supports their needs and development.</p>
<p>If our child cannot be afforded transport to the setting by the local authority, they would be unable to attend due to both parents working full time. Can companies or Uber is not a viable option due to ensuring the safeguarding of our child and we have no family members or friends who can physically manage our child's needs. Our child used a LA provided bus last year to attend their previous setting which they thoroughly enjoyed and built up a great relationship with the chaperone and other children, this to use seemed cost effective and safe. Our child will now share a taxi with another child at their new setting as there isn't a bus route for the new school and would assume that they and the other child are the only ones from our area who need to travel to the provision.</p>
<p>Overall, we feel that the SEN community in Havering is being unfairly targeted with this review as it seems to be seeking to take away a method of providing freedom and independence to SEN children to attend the limited appropriate settings to hide the children the best opportunity for development, and given that there is very limited, almost non-existent support for SEN parents and children in the Borough, this feels like a big step backwards.</p>
<p>From a personal perspective, if our child's access to transport was removed or replaced with a taxi card or other financial option, we would not be able to afford to send our child to school every day at his current setting due to the distance between home and school. The LA placed them at this setting and so if this change goes ahead and we are affected, the LA would need to move them to a ARP setting closer to their residence.</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

Our son currently uses Havering school transport (bus). We applied when our financial situation changed and it was no longer possible for one of us to remain a carer. We both had to work.

I work shifts (12 hour nights and days) for an emergency service and my wife is able to work from home sometimes. On night shifts I come home and get our son ready for the bus which comes at 8.20am. I then sleep and wake at 2.50pm to be ready for his return. I can just about function on the next night shift on 6.5 hours sleep. On my day shifts my wife either arranges to work from home or my 17 year old son helps out. We just about manage. But this is an enormous improvement on the alternative.

We were both working prior to the application being approved and that is an indication of the alternative. I was

driving our son to school after the night shift, getting back at 9.30am, sleeping for 4.5 hours then driving to pick him up. Then looking after him before going to work.

I fell asleep at the Upminster traffic lights on multiple occasions. Thankfully we have an automatic car. I don't know how long that would have been possible without transport. We are both getting older.

School holidays are a patchwork of annual leave and respite.

If our son were not disabled this would just not be a problem. But he always has been. He cannot get the bus on his own. He would just wander off into traffic.

School transport means we can both work. This is not only vital for us. It is important for Havering. Our son will realistically need support for his entire life. If we both have careers we will be better able to support him as a disabled adult. When we are gone we will leave behind pensions and savings that he will inherit. Or that a trust will administer for him.

The worst situation for everyone is parents who are obliged to give up work and become full time Guardians for a decade during the most productive years of their lives. If that is damaging for our generation who are mostly homeowners, consider the impact on the next generation who mostly rent.

That is a social care time bomb in the making. Where will Havering accommodate all these elderly parents caring for disabled adults when they can no longer afford their private rented accommodation? People need to be able to work.

We are not averse to making a contribution to the school bus. But it is vital.
Our son is severely autistic, attends a special school and is totally unable to travel to school in his own or with any other mode of transport except the supervised environment of a school bus. The journey to/from school is also a central part of his

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

weekly routine and any change would have a profound impact on his anxiety levels and ability to learn.
Parents should be responsible to paying for their children
Planning, timetable, pickup time and understanding the process of each other information. There is many students in needing of free bus. There would be build good quality communication between the havering,school and prenatal ideas.
Positive
Positively
Providing education to gain independence on transport I believe is a good idea but it has to be done at a time and in a way that is suitable for each individual child. Therefore, I agree that it's a really good option, but presently and for the next few years, would not be a suitable alternative for my daughter because of her high needs.
In terms of being provided finance to source or support transportation to school I feel is extremely unhelpful. It would not enable increased independence for my daughter (which travelling by school bus does) or help me, as I am also a carer to my father who is blind, on top of being a single parent who works. I feel strongly that this is a very poor option. For those over the age of 16, the government says they must continue in education, however for many of our children this means finding the right provision which often is not nearby. It is wrong for parents and children to be charged to be able to access the appropriate education that they need. I disagree strongly with means testing or charging for children who are still having to access education, particularly those for whom education is difficult to start with.
I understand the need for cutting costs but I struggle that it is always the poorest people who suffer the most. To change the access to transport directly from home for children whose lives are already difficult and complicated, and for families who are often finding themselves at breaking point, feels extremely unfair. their lives are already very difficult and removing transport provides another extreme hurdle in their lives. Parents with disabled or neurodiverse children are often already working to their absolute limits to provide the support and care that their children deserve, they didn't ask for their children to have these additional needs, and they need the support of the local council to enable our children to have access to education in ways which are appropriate for each individual child, part of which is providing a bus service which has proved invaluable to my daughter and I.
Reduction of basic services like transport - the veins to the life blood of special peoples existence is not the way to build a better society. Cuts elsewhere cost rises elsewhere but not to undermine those whom can't speak for themselves
Restrictions on child's independence

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>Routine is essential for XXXXX. Taking the bus to and from school has massively increased his independence and confidence. It keep him calm knowing what to expect Monday-Friday each week and has enabled him to establish deeper relationships with his peers on the bus.</p>
<p>He would not be able to travel independently. For 8 years my husband did not work so we could accommodate school runs so we only applied for transport assistance this past year when for financial reasons we both had to work.</p>
<p>To have this service removed would not only have a major impact on noir financial situation as one of us would have to give up work to take XXXXX to school but just as importantly it would upset XXXXX routine and damage his confidence. Routine is very important part of my sons day to day travel and general lifestyle on a day to day basis (even on a weekend). He is severely visually impaired, dyslexic and has other learning difficulties so would find it extremely difficult to commute on his own and would not be safe on the busy roads. School bus picks up my child from XXX for school at XXXX in XXXX. Public transport really isn't an option as would involve considerable walking, major road crossing and multiple bus or train and bus routes. He literally can't tie his own shoe laces, so this commute would be dangerous. They cram 13 kids on his school bus. How can that not be cost effective?</p>
<p>see answers</p>
<p>SEN child / young adults generally fair better with consistency- change can impact behaviour massively & therefore cause added stress to families & Guardians Have 'easily' managed options to suit the child If demand is higher get better funding & manage budget holistically. I know there's budget of SEN facilities that are not utilised.</p>
<p>Should be more school buses plus ne on time. The buses in Havering are overpacked , full of noisy kids, their behaviours are bad , should be more control on them in the buses (like cameras or person who will control them)</p>
<p>Thank you for the initiative, if it is possible to arrange a safe, secure and economical transport assistance service for our little angels, I would appreciate it very much.</p>
<p>That would be disruptive to my son's routine and orientation.</p>
<p>The bus that takes my son to school (XXX) is such a strong support I cannot put into words how helpful it has been for my family of 3 children</p>
<p>with additional needs (two with severe additional needs and EHCP which both require special educational placements in special schools in different schools due to different needs) I would be extremely worried that the borough would make any kind of cuts to this service. Not only would it stop me from continuing my employment it would cause a lot of stress and I strongly disagree with the plan in place</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>The changes are not positive for my family. My daughter is vulnerable and taking to and from school will not enable her to be independent and will cause a change to routine that's not nessasary. She WILL NOT be able to use public transport independently and having another sibling to take to and from school will be ridiculously Early starts Hanging around for her Or Being late It's not manageable when the transport bus works perfect for her routine safety independence giving her space to grow.</p>
<p>Personal budgets cause more strain upset stress on the child that's not nessasary but having to endure on another school journey before her own which causes anxiety upheaval, unregulated to her day and also at the end of the day.</p>
<p>Thus will be said for a lot of families. We fight for everything When we have routine and help you want to remove it...</p>
<p>Go and see for yourself what the transport gives to the families of Havering</p>
<p>The changes in the policy could impact my child's attendance, punctuality and academic achievement</p>
<p>The changes in the policy would have a detrimental impact on our family as it would cause financial difficulty. We both work full time, the changes in the policy would cause upheaval to our day to day living. It would impact my child's independence.</p>
<p>The changes won't make a difference to me or my child as we don't have a need for the service provided.</p>
<p>The changes would not affect my child a lot right now, but could affect him after he turns 16.</p>
<p>The child could get in touch with other students</p>
<p>The impact on my child would affect his day. He does not handle loud noises well or overcrowded places. Like public transport at rush hour.</p>
<p>He has passes at school to allow him to leave lessons before other children to avoid the crowds in corridors. Other kids with similar issues to him will have the same. Their ECHP is tailored to their needs in order to help them. This includes how they get to and from school.</p>
<p>In my personal situation, I do not drive, or that is what we have been doing all along. I also do not have someone I can ask to take him to and from school. My child needs security, and likes his routine to stay the same every day so his transportation needs to be a kind he can trust.</p>

<p>The impact will be huge on my child. My child has been taking transport to school since he started at the school (for over 9 years.) He uses objects of reference to support his understanding of the world and the school bus represents school and when he sees it he knows it's time for school. Routine and structure is vital to his mental health and changes in this can affect his mental health and behaviour which in turn would impact his school day. Going by car will confuse him as he associates the car with days off school and therefore would find it hard to structure his week causing him to have anxiety and behaviour. The school itself would have major problems with an influx of single car transport every day. XXX school is down a cut through road and there is nowhere to park right outside the school and parking further away is not possible due to behavioural and road safety issues as he has No danger awareness and can have challenging behaviours. There is certainly not room for all the cars to turn up at the start time for school as weather does not accommodate parking in the school field for most of the year so the car park will be full with the staff cars leaving little room for car drop offs. Furthermore, the school does not offer a breakfast club or after school club and therefore to accommodate this change in transportation they would need to have staggered starts and finishes which would mean my child and other children missing out on their education which is so important to him and this would have a significant impact on his mental health and learning, not to mention my own mental health in the stress of getting stuck in traffic at the school every day. As</p>
<p>evident in the past with the disruption caused by the pandemic and the huge impact it had on my child's mental health the last thing he needs is a big change to his routine. Furthermore, as a parent of a child with special needs every day is a challenge and to add even more responsibility of managing a personal transport budget would only add to the stress already experienced daily. In addition to this I have other children too that need my attention and support. Managing the communication and admin from all the different schools as it is can be overwhelming at times especially when there are deadlines etc, the council priority should be how can we give the right support to these families so that they can cope with the stresses and challenges of raising a child with special needs.</p>
<p>The question assumes:</p> <p>1) I know what the current policy is.....I do not....why would I? 2) I and you know what the changes to the existing policy will be.....you do not.....or at least you shouldn't if you are consulting using the variables in the answers in this survey to try to determine the policy.</p> <p>What's going on?</p>
<p>The reason my child uses this service is that it's for his own safety as he has no danger awareness, so being pick up from home and dropped to school is a big part of his safety he doesn't understand to stop and wait for traffic and this is his life line to get to school safely, taking this away would be the worse possible outcome for my child</p>
<p>The stress levels att transporting my son to and fro his center is beyond description. He has motability vehicle but cannot drive it himself hence doubles as the main vehicle the family uses. Transporting to his center at 9am to be collected at 9:30am, rush to get to work for 10:30am, leave at 2:15pm to collect him at 3pm and get home for 3:45pm (if</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>traffic lucky) and return to work and close at 8pm because I've got to work in the hours. Why this hustle? He has motability vehicle so no assistance can be offered. Daily I'm stressed to the eyeball and its no wonder my son is stressed too. I can say it but he cannot so he imbibe it and his stress levels manifests in the downward trend of his health. His immunity suffers and mental wellbeing suffers too.</p>
<p>The stress of having to deal with personal budgets and the administration of them is too much when having to deal with a number of competing priorities and cost of living pressures</p>
<p>The transport (seat on a bus) that my child currently has is a very important part of his school day and he enjoys it immensely. It allows him to have a certain amount of independence in a controlled environment. As with a lot of SEN children, change and disruption can cause a great deal of stress. I also do not feel that the introduction of paid travel post 16 is fair as we are required to send our children to school/college by law so why should we pay for that?</p>
<p>The travel training would help my child understand things better.</p>
<p>These would have a enormous detrimental impact on my child's and our families mental health, my daughter would not attend school, would become more violent, would not receive an education, we would not be able to work, we do not have people trained and able to take our child to school, all of which would have an awful negative impact on our daughters future.</p>
<p>They will improve my child's safety. They will improve attendance.</p>
<p>They will not impact me or my child</p>
<p>This change is discriminating against families with SEN children. These families are already vulnerable. They struggle get their children ready for school. Children who hate the texture of clothes, may hate water. Children who cannot eat or this who have so many sensory needs.</p>
<p>You are now punishing them by saying after 16 there's increased pressure on parent. Non SEN Children over 16 do not have to pay to go to school</p>
<p>Yet you want ours to</p>
<p>Those who cannot have to stay home</p>
<p>As a result the parents cannot work</p>
<p>Child and parent become mentally ill with anxiety and depression as they cannot go out and access what they need</p>
<p>Social care now has to use ITS budgets to cater for non working parent and child</p>
<p>This is going to put more pressure on a mental health service that's on its knees</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>As a result- a Sen child becomes non functional adult</p>
<p>You are not empowering them</p>
<p>You are taking away their independent and choice further disabling them</p>
<p>Also you want to commiwon Private companies to train children to use transport- have you been to a special needs school/ it takes years- you are setting yourself up for failure</p>
<p>You cannot train special needs children in the short term- you only had 9 do this this year. It's a money pit. Who ever wants to make money off the council has no experience working with our children. They don't learn through training- THEY ARE NOT DOGS. ABA IS CRUEL</p>
<p>This is a lifeline to people</p>
<p>This is about cost cutting and nothing to do with independence or supporting families at all. The pretence that it is anything else is disingenuous in the extreme and treats parents and Guardians as idiots.</p>
<p>This question is completely pointless. This will greatly affect my child and family.</p>
<p>My son is currently uses a wheelchair, has a tracheostomy and is peg fed.</p>
<p>He requires 24 hours care and has a separate 1-2-1 for education and 1-2-1 for his health care needs</p>
<p>This will positively impact on attendance, weather related issues, employment, etc</p>
<p>This would impact me and my child massively!</p>
<p>He would not be able to cope with public transport on his own. He would not of grown in confidence and would more than likely refuse to go to school. This is a piece of mind for me not to worry about him.</p>
<p>By my son getting transport set him up for the day in a positive way. If he had a good start in the morning this will continue. This would not happen on public transport.</p>
<p>Transport has such a big impact on a child's independence and their ability to get to their educational facility. Having an aid/ support is also important based on the child's needs, taking this away would be a risk to both the child and driver</p>
<p>Travel is now easy. Any kind of personal budget would potentially lead to lower school attendance and more admin for families.</p>
<p>Travel training doesn't help my child as she isn't able to travel independently. Not aware of dangers and also using a public transport where you have to wait for the bus to come and also the noise and a lot of people will</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>make it be unbearable for my child. Can not use own transportation either and to get to the suitable school will have to travel with 2 buses .</p>
<p>Under 16 policy - no impact at all.</p>
<p>Post-16 - travel should be free if done for education.</p>
<p>use of independence and help to families</p>
<p>Very negative impact</p>
<p>We are lucky enough that any changes would have minimal impact on us so I am looking at the bigger picture on where council money is spent.</p>
<p>We both work full time and live far from school. We also do not drive. He gas pick up from grandparents and at home, with a chaperone to ensure safety of himself and others. He is much younger In his way ie he is 11 but mentality of a 7 year old. He is vulnerable as he will tryst everyone and not see dangers. Also he will have anger outbursts which go from 0 to 100 in seconds when he deems an injustice or rudeness. A look a tone of voice will also trigger this.</p>
<p>We currently live within walking distance of our primary school, but are now considering what secondary school's are the most suitable for him, but many which are better at supporting SEN are further away. He is high scoring impulsive ADHD with DLA mobility, because he is not safe to travel on his own and we have no car. Knowing that there was council provided trasport scheme available, where I didn't have the overhead of managing a budget throughout the year and knew that there would be consistent, trained and safety checked staff would make me much less anxious and allow me to make the right choice for him school's wise.</p>
<p>We currently pay for two of our children to use the school bus arranged by xxx. Although best efforts have been made to reduce costs, the price is still high. The bus has enabled the children to get to school safely and on time; something which was not guaranteed when using public transport. Without the bus service, my husband and I had to drive them to school in the morning which impacted our working day. Suggesting that parents car pool therefore is unrealistic as, especially in this time of financial crisis, many parents are unable to spare the time from work.</p>
<p>We do not need transport as we live round the corner from the school.</p>
<p>We do not use the transport service yet, as my daughters primary school is close to our home, but may have to use the transport within the next year as my child will be starting secondary school next year, and our local schools are not necessarily the best equipped to be able to offer her the support she requires. She has complex medical needs as well as educational, and due to medical equipment needing to go with her, would not be able to travel unaccompanied on public transport, and also needs to travel with an adult that is trained in her medical condition. Car sharing or going on public transport by herself are therefore not realistic, as is a taxi if she is unaccompanied. The choice of school will primarily be made dependant on the support they can offer her. However two of the schools we have been recommended by her Primary school SENCO are not local to us (but still in Havering), so travel to & from school will have to be a major consideration as we both work full time, and these schools would likely involve a one hour round trip twice a day for us to take her ourself - both of our employers have</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>been very understanding and flexible over the years, but in this situation it would not be realistic for us to continue in full-time employment.</p>
<p>We do not want a travel budget, it would not work for our special needs child, we would be surprised if the travel budget would work for most special needs children. There is also the aspect of safety. It is not safe to put a vulnerable child into a taxi alone, we would not trust anyone to do this. It would open up all sorts of issues and would only be a matter of time before a child was abused/harmed in some way. That would not help with keeping our children safe. The same goes for public transport and a child travelling on their own, it is just not feasible for most special needs children. This also applies to travel training for all the same reasons outlined above. We currently use the borough transport buses, these are cost effective and safe and a great way for children to travel. The buses should NEVER be taken away, these are essential. The Borough should be looking at the cases that cost a lot of money to transport children. The cases whereby a child has one or two assistants travelling with them and costing £40,000 etc., that is ridiculous and costs us as tax payers a lot of money each year! Do not take away the</p>
<p>community buses please, it is unfair on families who use the service and do not abuse the travel budgets. Means testing travel is also unfair to the parents who work and already pay their taxes and then potentially giving travel money to the families whose parent(s) do not work, and who do not pay taxes, that is very unfair!</p>
<p>We have two children aged 15 and 17 needing to use buses and trains to get to school, and with the rising cost of living we couldn't afford transport costs without help. Children under 18 in school, shouldn't have to pay for buses or trains.</p>
<p>We live 5 minutes walk away from the school but use the breakfast and after school club. If the policy provides some help towards the cost of this and we are eligible it would be useful.</p>
<p>We really need travel assistance as we have a child with a EHCP , and a 23 year old who also has needs and goes to a day center . Neither can independently get themselves ready for school / day center . During the consultation would it be taken into consideration about parents / Guardians who have two or more children/ young adults who have needs</p>
<p>We strongly rely on transport to and from school and FIG. Any changes that could affect this will have a deep impact on my son being able to get to school on time, which in turn will lead to anxiety and or meltdowns. It could have an impact on their punctuality and attendance. I have medical issues myself which will mean I will struggle to get him to and from school. He doesn't have the capability to make his own way to and from school due to his disabilities</p>
<p>While children are in education they should not pay for travel on buses or trains. I currently pay approximately £20 a week in travel for my daughter to attend sixth form. This is unacceptable.</p>
<p>Whilst a child is in full time education I feel that free public transport is essential to all.</p>
<p>Why don't you cap all councillors wages before implementing a budget on disabled children. Havering council is a joke!!</p>
<p>You don't even provide any schooling for half of the disabled children living in the</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

<p>borough, they have to go out of borough for their education and now you want to take their transportation away.</p> <p>I guess we know where all of Havering councils pennies are going, you must have shares in Horlicks/ovaltine because that is how you sleep at night after spending your working day trying to shaft the disabled children of the borough again.</p>
<p>Will disturb me mentally as my child is wheelchair user and other is autistic so any change is not easy to carry out.</p>
<p>With a child attending mainstream primary and a child attending special school, it would be impossible to undertake two school runs in different directions. Any ceasing of the current service (seat on bus from dwelling) would unsettle my autistic child and mean that one child would be late for school. The special school has no before and after school provision and the mainstream child has provision but at a cost. We already have one parent working certain hours to manage school runs.</p>
<p>With a family of 6 children. It is difficult to transport one child to a different school. Attendance will be decreased due to lateness. It would break his routine as well</p>
<p>With autism no 2 days are the same and having a structured routine is SO important. Knowing when the bus comes at what time and who are the drivers and assistant is on that bus and the seat they sit in and the route they take are SO important for my young person so as not to cause any unnecessary anxiety and meltdowns. My young person would not be able to handle the sensory issues of what public transport entails.</p>
<p>With personal budget, we will be happy as now.</p>
<p>Without the borough bus transport it would be impossible for my son to attend his specialist college. Public transport is not an option as he wouldn't be able to travel independently due to his level of needs even with adult support. We are both working parents and cannot get him to college any other way than by the bus transport provided by the borough. I have already had to cut my working hours to accommodate my sons needs. If you cannot provide this service I would have to give up working which would have a massive financial impact on us as a family. I am sick and tired of our children being penalised because of their needs. Our children never asked to be this way. How about making other cuts to services and stop depriving our children.</p>
<p>Without transport my children will not be able to attend schools 5 SEN children over 3 settings with 1 out of area</p>
<p>Won't have any impact on myself or my children as I take them to school and pick them up everyday in my own car.</p>
<p>Won't have any impact on my children, as I don't expect the local authority to take them to school for me!</p>
<p>Would be financially beneficial to us as a family and would ease my sons anxiety about travelling alone to school</p>
<p>X2 children whom eventually I will need to apply for school bus for as they get older travel is becoming more stressful and worry over attendance.</p>
<p>Yes, it will improve my child child attendance and have positive impact on the family.</p>
<p>Public</p>
<p>Any changes to save money for the council are important.</p>
<p>Huge impact</p>

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 01 February 2024

I do not have a child
I do not have a child who needs this service but I have been watching friends children being ferried about and I was shocked to see what the overspend is although it is not surprising without a more coordinated approach.
It will save me money as a council tax payer. £5.5 million a year, and £200 per day, per child, is outrageous. Where is the school; Newcastle? And what cars are they using; Lamborghinis? What happened to good old fashioned council run school transport for groups of kids going to schools in close proximity? It might mean some children having to be picked up slightly earlier, or dropped off home slightly later, but so be it. I'm sure some children need individual transport, but surely with a bit of lateral thinking, the least demanding children can be grouped together.
My godson wont be able to get to school and this will affect his physial and mental health.
Remove expensive taxis as an option to conserve the budget left
The Council should develop a cost effective contract with Uber or the like to provide individual transport services.
That coupled with a basic means test linked to benefits is the best way forward in my view. The eligibility criteria needs to be evidenced as well.
This will hopefully improve the child's independence.
True Nothing's Free, There's Family Allowance, Free School Dinners for Parents that work Blue Badges for Two car Families and other things, make All Charges a little lower and Charge every one, not a higher increase for those that DO Contribute.
will provide more independence
School or Education Setting
A more efficiently budgetedvway of doing sonething is a positive way forward for all
Families of pupils who require transport because of their SEND, do not make this choice they require support as they are the most vulnerable in society. There are a lack of special school places due to governments lack of investment in schools. Parents of SEND children are often financially disadvantaged due to the needs of their child. The challenging demands of parenting a child with SEND can prevent both parents from working or being able to hold a full time employment. Pupils who use single taxi is typically because the child is unable to manage using transport with others due to Sensory difficulties. My belief is that asking parents to find their own transport will further disadvantage families.
Give children the opportunity to have the social interactions with after school. Parents and Children being able to build friendships and relationships with other children and parents. Parents becoming more involved with school and having the flexibility of being able to use the budget for a later leaving time if child has after school activity or meetings for parents. Building relationships between staff and home, some children who come by transport do not have parents who will attend school activities. Children being included and feeling part of the school community. Children being able to be in school till the bell rings at the end of the day instead of leaving early to get on

<p>to the bus and missing out on the social side of leaving with the class. Developing relationships for children and their parents, being there at the end of the day to collect a child and be told face to face in front of the child of their achievements has a massive impact on the mental health of both parents and children and behavior of the child in school. For parents being able to speak to someone if they are worried or concerned, teachers can see better if parents are needing help if they speak to them face to face instead of a catch up email at the end of the day.</p>
<p>Helps gives children more independence and preparing for adulthood</p>
<p>I work as an attendance officer so any help getting the children into school is greatly welcomed.</p>
<p>I work in a school and the children that come on the Havering transport bus simply would not come to school. Their attendance was down around 70% but has picked up significantly since travelling on the bus. More school support workers would have to go out every day and pick up these children because the parents cannot manage to get them into school</p>
<p>I work in education. I feel poor attendance would deteriorate even worse.</p>
<p>Increased financial commitments. Impact on working pattern.</p>
<p>It is good</p>
<p>It is important that any change enabled parents and young people to access education settings in the simplest most helpful supportive way that keeps the child's needs and the families needs at the centre of the process. The changes must make it easier simpler and more supportive to families.</p>
<p>Our school very occasionally uses home to school transport, a self managed taxi option would work best for our students and parents</p>
<p>Young Person aged 16 - 25</p>
<p>Disagree</p>
<p>In my view I feel the transport services, need to assess every young person's individual needs and also the parent/ Guardians'. Due to my son's reluctance to exit the transport bus , I have to ferry him to college 4 mornings a week, which means I rely on another parent to take my 8 yr old son to school as it's impossible to do both runs. I have not been offered an alternative option, I would consider a travel buddy system where I don't have to transport my young adult son, and be able to take my youngest child to school.</p>
<p>My child we'll chair user he needs help to do everything My daughter has traveled independently in a taxi since the age of 11. More recently this has moved to a black taxi due to using an electric wheelchair. She loves the independence that the taxi provides her and you would be taking away one of the only sources of independence she has. She arrives and comes home from college on her own in a taxi, like any other child her age who has the ability to go via other means of transport, walk, bus, etc. My daughter is unable to travel independently on the bus due to her disability and the need for a carer to be with her to support her needs. This will have a huge impact on her independence, self-esteem, and mental health as it is one of the only things she does without me being with her. Please note that she also takes a walking frame as well as her wheelchair to school and the equipment would not be easy</p>

<p>to transport on public transport.</p>
<p>In terms of the impact on our family, this would be massive. With my daughter already moving from school to college and the impact on my time with the reduced timetable of a college environment, she is now at home with me requiring care more than whilst she was at school. We are both working parents and as my daughter's main carer, I already juggle working around my children's appointments (both children have EHCP's) along with her reduced timetable, numerous hospital appointments and surgery and the additional support she requires at those times. For me to take my daughter to school would also have a very negative impact on my son who's additional needs require a lot of emotional support especially in the mornings before school.</p>
<p>In honesty, if we lost the transport provided it would probably be the final straw and push me to have to give up work. I am physically unable to do everything and the constant struggle and juggling of all the tasks and roles that I need to carry out already play a part in my mental health and my ability to have some time of my own.</p>
<p>I would have to look to give up work as it would no longer be feasible for me to work.</p>
<p>My daughter is unable to use public transport on her own due to her disability and safety. Using transport buses means that she can be as independent as she can possibly be. She travels with her peers and is able to interact with them safely meaning she's as 'normal' as possible at her age.</p>
<p>Negative Impact accessing an education and community</p>
<p>these changes will totally disrupt my child routine and everything she is now used to as her attention span is less than 2 minutes, she cannot go anywhere without support/carers, cannot recognize danger.</p>
<p>Too many parents take the XXX to be honest! I know some parents that don't work have another child that is old enough to take themselves to school, have a vehicle but they get transport. Why?</p>