



OFFICIAL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE PUBLISHED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Notice is hereby given that the following decision(s) have been made today by Cabinet Members at the London Borough of Hillingdon:

Title of decision	TRAVEL SUPPORT POLICY CHANGE FOR POST 16 STUDENTS
Reference No.	1430
Date of decision	Friday 30 May 2025
Call-in expiry date	Friday 06 June 2025
Relevant Select Committee	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Relevant Wards	All

Decision made

Cabinet Members making the decision	Councillor Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education
Decision	<p>Approved</p> <p>That the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Considered the outcome of the consultation and the Equalities Impact Assessment;2) Agreed that the Council amends its policy for eligible post-16 students, to make the offer of a Personal Transport Budget (PTB) the default method of travel support for this cohort and agreed the Post 16 Transport to Education and Training – Policy Statement Academic Year 2025/26; and3) Recommended that for those eligible post-16 students who remain on transport, because of exceptional circumstances or cheaper options being available, a parental contribution of £640 per annum should apply for sixth form age students and take effect from September 2025, subject to approval by Cabinet.
Reason for decision	<p>This proposal is being made based on the Department for Education (DfE) guidance and addresses an area where the local authority has discretion in how it supports post-16 students.</p> <p>DfE guidance and related objectives alongside the SEND Code</p>

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	<p>of Practice emphasises the need to tailor support to the individual's needs and ensure the promotion of independence as part of preparing young people for adulthood. A personal transport budget empowers families and young people to achieve this and choose the most suitable transport method.</p> <p>This Policy change has also been drafted in response to increasing costs of providing free travel to school for eligible students. Against this backdrop, the Council is looking at how it can continue to provide a high level of service and encourage independence within its service users, while making savings to the existing spend and generating additional revenue.</p>
Alternative options considered and rejected	<p>The option of not implementing any of these recommendations has been considered. Unfortunately, due to the financial pressures experienced by councils across the country, difficult decisions must be made particularly in relation to non-statutory services and the level of service provided.</p> <p>The Council could explore alternative methods to alleviate financial pressures without compromising the quality of transport services provided to students. These methods may include implementing cost-sharing strategies, seeking additional funding sources, and optimising current transportation routes to ensure efficiency. By doing so, the Council can continue to support post-16 students while maintaining fiscal responsibility and adhering to statutory obligations.</p> <p>The Council could consider removing all post-16 transport. However, this would leave the Council open to challenge in how it is facilitating the attendance of all persons of sixth form age and post-19 students receiving education or training set out in the statutory guidance. Additionally, good attendance supports the continuation of education and promotion of independence in young people.</p> <p>Having the default option of a PTB will require the Council to look at any potential exceptions to policy and how parents/carers could show exceptional circumstances. It is expected that this is likely to be through medical need, distance to college, family circumstances, need for a specialist vehicle or low income.</p> <p>Any new policy statement will include details of how financial assistance available for low-income families who are affected by the parental contribution, can be accessed.</p>
Classification	Part I – Public

Link to associated report	Here
Relevant Officer contact & Directorate	Jan Major, Assistant Director – Direct Care & Business Delivery
Any interest declared by the Cabinet Member(s) / dispensation granted	N/A

Implementation of decision & scrutiny call-in

[Internal Use only]	
When can this decision be implemented by officers?	<p>Officers can implement Cabinet Member decision in this notice only from the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period which is:</p> <p>5pm on Friday 06 June 2025</p> <p>However, this is subject to the decision not being called in by Councillors on the relevant Select Committee. Upon receipt of a valid call-in request, Democratic Services will immediately advise the relevant officer(s) and the decision must then be put on hold.</p>
Councillor scrutiny call-in of this decision	<p>Councillors on the relevant Select Committee shown in this notice may request to call-in this decision. The request must be before the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period above.</p> <p>Councillors should use the Scrutiny Call-in App (link below) on their devices to initiate any call-in request. Further advice can be sought from Democratic Services if required:</p> <p>Scrutiny Call-In - Power Apps (secure)</p>
Further information	<p>These decisions, where applicable, have been taken under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>This is the formal notice by the Council of the above executive decision, including links to the reports where applicable.</p> <p>If you would like more information on this decision, please contact Democratic Services on 01895 250636 or email: democratic@hillington.gov.uk.</p> <p>Circulation of this decision notice is to a variety of people including Members of the Council, Corporate Directors, Officers, Group Secretariats and the Public. Copies are also placed on the Council's website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Democratic Services London Borough of Hillingdon Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge UB8 1UW</p>