



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Travel to school in Nottinghamshire

A school travel pathfinder scheme



Travel to School in Nottinghamshire: A School Travel Pathfinder Scheme? - Your Views

Nottinghamshire County Council wants to hear your views on two matters:

- A The Nottinghamshire Sustainable School Travel Strategy 2007-2011
- B Proposals to bid to become a School Travel Pathfinder Authority

In response to new legislation (The Education and Inspections Act 2006) local authorities are required to promote sustainable travel modes for journeys to school. The first stage of this has been the development of a draft Sustainable School Travel Strategy for Nottinghamshire, which can be viewed on the Council's website www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk. This strategy sets out some priorities with the aim of promoting choice, flexibility and greater fairness in the way transport is provided for children and young people.

The Government is currently inviting up to 20 local authorities to put forward proposals to introduce new "School Travel Pathfinder Schemes". For a Pathfinder bid to be successful, a scheme must include proposals for innovative, sustainable travel, and may introduce charging for home to school transport for some children who in the past would have travelled for free (although there will be exemptions from charging – see later). Schemes would attract some additional funding from the government to help to implement improvements in services and facilities.

Nottinghamshire County Council wants to hear your views as to whether a bid should be submitted to become a Pathfinder Authority.

This consultation describes the elements of a possible bid for Nottinghamshire. If submitted and successful, changes to the current policy for home to school transport would take effect from September 2009. **Your views will help us determine whether or not these policy changes are supported.**

The County Council is seeking the views of pupils, parents, schools and colleges, transport operators and other stakeholders who have an interest in home to school transport. The consultation will last from **10 September to 19 October 2007**. Details of how to make your comments are given overleaf.

Background

In Nottinghamshire about 9,500 pupils (less than 9% of all children and young people), receive free transport to school. This costs the County Council about £12 million per year. Most families, therefore, are responsible for making their own travel arrangements for getting their children to school, either by walking, cycling, public bus or car. For some, this journey will be to their catchment area or designated school, and for others it will be a preferred school, sixth form or college. Many of those currently travelling free are in rural areas, where distances to school are longer. For a variety of reasons there may be a lack of travel choice available. In some areas there can be traffic congestion in the vicinity of schools.

Proposals

If Nottinghamshire makes a bid to Government to become a Pathfinder authority, the draft proposals will include the following:

- (a) Measures to improve safety on school transport, such as increased use of CCTV and better co-ordination with schools to promote good behaviour whilst travelling.
- (b) More promotion of bus travel, cycling and walking amongst young people.
- (c) Better co-ordination of education and transport planning to facilitate additional and more flexible travel arrangements.

- (d) To be a Pathfinder authority, charging may be introduced for some pupils who currently receive free travel. Under the scheme children and young people may purchase a subsidised annual pass to travel to and from school on a school bus (up to £250 for primary age pupils; up to £300 for secondary age pupils).
- (e) A half fare travel scheme would be introduced for all children and young people (11-19 years) in full time education, available for use on buses and trams across Nottinghamshire. This may be used at most times of the day and evening including weekends and school holidays. Depending on the Pathfinder funding available, this may be phased in across the age range over the period 2009-2012.

These new arrangements would be introduced in September 2009. They would only apply to pupils entering primary or secondary school with effect from September 2009. Current pupils with free travel would retain their right to free travel until such time as they move school or reach statutory school age at 16 years. Pupils with special mobility needs, or receiving free transport because of unsafe walking routes, or from low income families who became eligible under the changes introduced by the Education and Inspections Act 2006, would also be exempt from charges.

Alongside the proposals, the County Council is exploring opportunities to work with other local authorities to share good practice and outcomes.

What are the benefits of becoming a Pathfinder authority?

- Over time, all young people would have access to half fare bus travel at most times of the day and evening for any journey purpose.
- Greater flexibility and travel choice, including travel for before and after school activities or some inter-site travel associated with learning programmes for 14-19 year olds.
- Encouraging sustainable travel (walk, cycle and public transport), reducing traffic and improving safety around schools.
- Spread travel support across a greater proportion of families.
- Income from charging, along with any additional funding from government, will be used to enhance the measures proposed and improve service quality.

Your Views

Nottinghamshire County Council would like to hear your views and comments on the proposals set out above.

Please return the attached form to:

School Travel Consultation, Room C166, Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

or e-mail: jane.mayor@nottscc.gov.uk

The consultation will continue until 19 October 2007.

What happens next?

Once the consultation period has ended, responses will be collated, summarised and considered by the County Council's Cabinet in November 2007, when a decision will be made whether to submit a bid to Government for Pathfinder status. A summary of the consultation responses will be published on the County Council's website.

For more information about the current home to school transport policy, see the County Council's website (www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk).

Consultation on School Travel Proposals

A Nottinghamshire Sustainable School Travel Strategy 2007–2011

Do you have any comments on the draft strategy? If so, please outline them here:

B Proposal to bid to become a School Travel Pathfinder Authority

1. Consider the following elements of the Pathfinder proposal. Do you agree with the following (please tick the relevant box):
- (a) Further measures to improve safety and behaviour on school transport
Yes No
- (b) Greater promotion of bus travel, cycling and walking amongst young people
Yes No
- (c) Improved co-ordination of education and transport to allow additional and more flexible travel arrangements
Yes No
- (d) Charging for some pupils who currently receive free travel MAY be introduced. Under the scheme children and young people may purchase a subsidised annual pass to travel to and from school on a school bus (up to £250 for primary age pupils; up to £300 for secondary age pupils).
Yes No
- (e) A half fare travel scheme would be introduced for all children and young people (11-19 years) in full time education, available for use on buses and trams across Nottinghamshire. This may be used at most times of the day and evening including weekends and school holidays. Depending on the Pathfinder funding available, this may be phased in across the age range over the period 2009-2012.
Yes No
2. Are you in overall agreement with the package of proposals
Yes No
3. Do you think the County Council should apply for Pathfinder status from Government to seek funding to assist in the implementation of these proposals.
Yes No

I / we would like to make the following comments regarding the potential Pathfinder proposals:



Please tick to indicate whether you are a:

Parent Pupil Governor School Staff Post-16 student
Transport Provider Other Education Institution Staff Other

Your postcode (e.g. NG1, NG11):

Your name and address (optional):

Institution or Organisation if applicable:

The information we collect is only used to inform the analysis or responses to be included in the final report. We will not pass your personal details/ information to any other agency or identify any individual in the final report. This information will be used for statistical purposes and all data is confidential. For further details regarding your privacy, see our privacy statement at:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/privacystatement.htm>

Please return this form by 19 October 2007 to:

School Travel Consultation, Room C166, Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham,
NG2 7QP

or e-mail: jane.mayor@nottscc.gov.uk

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation.



Contacting us

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