

Annex 1

Home to School Travel Consultation – Comments and Responses

On Monday 16 November 2020 Trafford announced a consultation on its All Age Travel Assistance Policy, specifically Home to School Transport. The Consultation proposed the removal of the discretionary allowance for grammar school children meaning that those who travel further than the nearest qualifying school would not be eligible for travel assistance. The proposal did not include children who qualify for travel assistance because of their Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and did not affect children from low income families, who continue to be eligible under that criteria.

The proposal provided a breakdown of the children that currently receive travel assistance:

115 children receive free travel to a Trafford secondary school under the low income family category. 99 of these children receive free travel to a Trafford high school and 16 to a Trafford grammar school. These children will not be affected by the proposed change.

10 children receive travel assistance to the nearest available Trafford high school because it is more than 3 miles from their home address. The schools travelled to are Altrincham College, Broadoak School, Lostock High School, Sale High School and Wellacre Academy. These children will not be affected by the proposed changes.

5 children receive travel assistance to Altrincham Grammar School for Girls. This is the nearest grammar school but not the nearest qualifying school. These children all live in WA15.

9 children receive travel assistance to Loreto Grammar School. This is not the nearest grammar school and not the nearest qualifying school. Children live in M31, M32, M33 and M41.

63 children receive travel assistance to Sale Grammar School. This is not the nearest grammar school and not the nearest qualifying school. 1 child lives in M32, 62 children live in WA14 and WA15.

6 children receive travel assistance to St Ambrose Catholic College. This is not the nearest grammar school and not the nearest qualifying school. The children all live in M33.

28 children receive travel assistance to Stretford Grammar School – This is not the nearest grammar school and not the nearest qualifying school. Children live in M31, M33, M41 and WA14.

13 children receive travel assistance to Urmston Grammar School – This is not the nearest grammar school and not the nearest qualifying school. Children live in M16, M31, M32, M33 and WA14.

It is likely that these 124 children will lose the free travel assistance under the proposed change.

The consultation asked 2 questions

Question 1. Do you agree with the proposal to remove the discretionary grammar school criteria?

36 responses were received:

30 did not agree

5 did agree

1 was “not sure”

29 of the 36 provided comments, covering a number of common themes. Trafford’s response to those issues are provided below:

1.1 Possible impact on children with disabilities

Children who qualify for travel assistance because of their Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will not be affected by the proposal as these children usually use Trafford’s commissioned transport service or receive a personal travel budget.

1.2 The financial impact on middle income families

Trafford does not dismiss the financial difficulties suffered by some families but also recognises that the current discretionary allowance does not offer the same financial protection for other families, in similar circumstances, where their children have not qualified to attend a grammar school.

Other families who choose to travel further than the nearest school for a place in a particular high school do not qualify for travel assistance unless they are a low income family. Trafford is proud of all its children, regardless of their level of ability and strongly believes in equality and fairness in the provision of its services. The current policy benefits one group of children above others and we believe it is not equitable. The strategic objectives of the Policy include supporting those most in need and providing the most cost effective travel assistance so we make best use of our resources.

1.3 Unreasonable to expect children to walk more than 3 miles

The distance of 3 miles is not a Trafford construct. Rather it is the distance that the Department for Education expects a local authority to provide a school place. However, this expectation only requires a local authority to provide a qualifying school within 3 miles and does not extend to requiring a local authority to provide a grammar school place within 3 miles. Most addresses in Trafford are within 3 miles of a qualifying school. In setting this distance the DfE, and for that matter the Local Authority, does not expect a child to walk 3 miles. Rather the DfE thinks that if the qualifying school is more than 3 miles then the child should receive travel assistance.

This means that a child that lives 2.9 miles from the nearest school is not eligible although the difference is negligible. Even a distance of 2 miles represents a 40 minute walk but it is unlikely that a parent would expect that child to walk either. Instead the child will usually travel by bus without the discretionary subsidy. Once again this highlights the disparity between children attending a grammar school outside their area and those attending a non-selective school outside their area.

1.4 The savings are small compared to the implementation costs

This proposal is not a cost cutting exercise since it is made so that the Council's stretched resources can be targeted where they are most needed and where they will have the most impact on securing the best outcomes for all children, in education or otherwise.

1.5 That the grammar schools' admission arrangements should be standardised

Trafford is very proud of the schools in its area and has excellent working relationships with all the schools regardless of their type or status. However, it is now the case that Trafford "maintains" only 1 of the 7 grammar schools located in Trafford Council. The majority of maintained schools are community schools which are funded by the Local Authority and the Local Authority decides the admission arrangements for those schools. Stretford Grammar School is a Foundation School. Foundation schools are also funded (maintained) by the Local Authority but the School is free to determine its own admission arrangements. The remaining 6 grammar schools are all academies. Academies receive their funding direct from the Department for Education and are independent of Local Authority control.

As a result, the grammar school system has changed significantly in the last 20 years. The Local Authority's Secondary Selection Procedure, commonly referred to as "the 11+" no longer exists, having been replaced by various entrance examinations where the method of assessment and the resulting outcomes are decided by the schools themselves without reference to Trafford Council. Although it is the case that 4 of the 5 non faith grammar schools do use the same examination, each school sets its own level of standardisation. This usually relates to the overall performance of the children in a schools area, for example a Grammar School may set their standardisation to select the top performing 30% of the children in its catchment area or it may select a number of children according to the number of places it wants to fill.

This means that although a girl may have sat just one test, she will have four different outcomes that depend on what each grammar school requires. Since Altrincham Grammar School for Boys currently has its own test, a boy might sit two examinations but will still receive 4 different outcomes. Altrincham Grammar School for Boys has announced its intention to join the CEM consortium in the future and, while this will allow all the children to sit the same one test, the final outcomes will still depend on the level of standardisation set by each school.

Trafford's 11+ examination tested for a set ability range, usually selecting the top 30% ability range, across of the whole of the Trafford cohort. Children from outside Trafford also sat the test but they were measured alongside the whole Trafford

cohort that, for many years, undertook the test within their own primary school after taking part in practice sessions provided by the test developers, the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER). Places were then allocated on the basis of the distance from home to school and there were sufficient places in each area to allow children to attend their local grammar school. Usually children that lived in Altrincham went to grammar schools in Altrincham and children that lived in Sale went to the grammar schools in Sale and so on. As a result most children lived within 3 miles of the grammar school they attended. Some chose to apply for a place at a grammar school further away and, since it was usually the case that some places were left in each school after all the local children had been accommodated, did manage to achieve a place. However, those children were not eligible to receive travel assistance even though it was usually children travelling from less affluent parts of Stretford and Urmston, taking places at grammar schools in Altrincham and Sale.

1.6 Trafford imposes the grammar school system and should honour the associated costs

As demonstrated above, Trafford Council does not impose the grammar school system, rather it is a matter of parental choice where parents may choose to apply for their child to sit the various entrance examinations or not. Children from low income families will continue to be eligible to receive travel assistance to any school, including any grammar school, which is over 2 miles from their home address. Since Trafford now has no role in the various assessment processes it cannot ensure that local children can achieve a place at a local grammar school and cannot affect the impact of those decisions that are out of its control.

1.7 It is unreasonable to change the policy for children already attending a grammar school

It is expected that the Policy will take immediate effect. However, families already in receipt of the benefit will be invited to provide evidence of particular hardship for further consideration.

1.8 The impact on social mobility

The proposal to remove the discretionary grammar school criterion is certainly not designed to restrict social mobility. It is proposed so that the Council's stretched resources can be targeted where they are most needed and where they will have the most impact on securing the best outcomes for children so promoting social mobility.

It should also be noted that analysis of children currently receiving the discretionary allowance shows that the vast majority are not travelling from the less affluent areas of the Borough to attend the high performing grammar schools in more affluent areas. Rather they are travelling to take up grammar school places in areas less affluent, relevant to their own.

1.9 Parents have a right to make choices without being disadvantaged

Trafford acknowledges and respects parents' right to express a preference for any school. Many families, where children have not qualified for a grammar school place, also have that same right and might consider that their child would be best served by attending a school further away, such as to a faith school, a single sex school, or to a school that they perceive might provide better outcomes and give their children access to social mobility. However, these families do not have the option to apply for travel assistance because the discretionary criteria is not extended to them. Consequently they must fund their choice themselves, if they can.

1.10 Discriminates against grammar school children

We strongly believe in equality and fairness in the provision of our services. The current policy benefits one group of children above others and we believe it is not equitable. The strategic objectives of our policy include supporting those most in need and providing the most cost effective travel assistance so we make best use of our resources.

As an example, the October 2020 Census shows that 1,041 Trafford children, that do not live in Altrincham, attend Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College. 42 receive travel assistance under the low income criteria but not one the remaining 999 receive travel assistance even though they live more than 3 miles from the School.

When this data is compared to Sale Grammar School the difference is stark. The October 2020 Census shows that 413 Trafford children that do not live in Sale, attend Sale Grammar School. Only 3 receive travel assistance under the low income criteria whilst 63 receive travel assistance because they live more than 3 miles from the School.

Across Trafford, not one child, that receives travel assistance under the discretionary criteria, travels to Altrincham Grammar School for Girls or Altrincham Grammar school for Boys from outside Altrincham area even though the 2020 October Census shows 449 children on roll at those 2 schools from other, less affluent, areas in Trafford.

Clearly, what inequality does exist is between children that have qualified for admission to a grammar school, albeit further away than their local grammar school, and children that have not qualified but would like to attend another school further away than their local school.

Question 2. The low income criteria which is used to identify families who qualify for a free school meal currently targets around the 20% lowest incomes in England. Thinking specifically about travel assistance for families who travel further for a grammar school place, should we consider increasing this so that the 40% lowest incomes would receive travel assistance to travel further to access a grammar school place?

36 responses were received:

7 did not agree

19 did agree

10 were "not sure"

29 of the 36 provided comments echoing the issues raised in Question 1. All the comments received will be considered as part of the ongoing decision making process.

ALL COMMENTS

The full text of all comments received are included below.

Comment 1.1

No

The proposal will impact adversely upon social mobility.

Pupils currently receiving travel assistance are mainly from families not in receipt of free school meals or maximum WTC. There are many reasons why parents choose to send children to schools that are not their nearest qualifying school and can include; other siblings attend the school, faith (including single sex), and perceived to provide better outcomes.

The proposals will also impact on families who have more than one child as parents would have to fund additional travel costs or experience difficulties in getting children to different schools at the same time.

The proposed policy change could also impact on schools who may not prioritise places to Trafford residents accepting out borough pupils who score higher in the selection tests or parents who can afford to meet the costs to get their child to the school.

The proposed savings are miniscule and could be found elsewhere this seems therefore to be a political choice."

Comment 1.2

No

While we live in an area that supports the grammar school system I think it only fair that free travel be provided when the nearest grammar school that the children are entitled to attend is over 3 miles away.

This problem will in part be alleviated if AGSB changes to the same entry exam as the other non-faith grammar schools."

Comment 1.3

No

My child attends Stretford Grammar which is 4+ miles away. He was denied access to Urmston GS due to 50% of their cohort coming from outside Trafford.

As decided by independent appeals panel Stretford GS is the appropriate school for my child.

It satisfies the 3+miles criterion for free travel

The correspondence and survey you have implemented will probably cost more than you save by trying to penny pinch.

If the Grammar school entrance exam was not set at such arbitrary levels for each school we would not have children like mine having to travel past one Trafford grammar school to access another.

In our case this is not a choice. If we had a level playing field my son would attend his local grammar school.

We have a situation where children are traveling to Altrincham and Urmston etc. by choice, affecting local access, apart from the ""Catholic"" situation of Ambrose and Loreto.

We do not have a choice other than Wellacre which would not be appropriate for our son's needs."

Comment 1.4

No

Comment 1.5

No

As Trafford runs a two tier system of education, i.e. grammar schools and high schools, I think it would be unfair to remove the free travel passes for those grammar school children living more than 3 mile away from their nearest qualifying grammar school. As there is not just one exam across the board for all grammar schools, it means that children may pass the entrance exam for one school but not for another, meaning that their closest grammar school is not necessarily their closest qualifying school.

I would be more accepting of the proposed changes if there was just one exam for all grammar schools, such that if you passed you could get into any of the grammar schools and then if parents chose to send their child to a school that was not their closest grammar it would seem reasonable not to issue them with a free travel pass.

However, in the current situation, as is the case for my child, they did not pass the entrance exam for our closest grammar school meaning that they attend the grammar school for which they did pass the entrance exam which is more than 3 miles away. It feels like you a penalising children who already have a lot of pressure on them, taking more than one entrance exam, for not passing the exam for their nearest school.

Comment 1.6

No

I think that this is unfair if the child does not qualify for a place at the local Grammar school. For example, we live in Sale and despite sitting exactly the same entrance exam paper for all Trafford Grammar Schools, my daughter qualified for Urmston but not Sale. If the travel assistance is removed, the Grammar schools need to consistent in their approach for marking the exam paper and if a child 'passes' they should be granted a place at their local Grammar school.

Response

Comment 1.7

No

Absolutely not! For many families, like us, who do not fit into the low income category but who are on middle incomes (not on large incomes) it would be a big cost to afford the tram or bus ticket each week/month etc especially when you have more than 1 child. If they don't pass for the nearest other grammar school then they are still at the nearest school for their ability and faith. You are saying my option then is between Loreto Grammar where she passed for and St Anthony's (a school still with concerns over it's abilities) how fair is that as an option for Catholic parents. This is in no way levelling the playing field at all it is in fact creating an even more unlevel playing field, giving further advantage to extremely wealthy families and further discouraging middle class families from sending their child to the best school for their ability and faith. For Catholics faith is also a factor for where we send our children. Children from other councils (Cheshire and Manchester) get free travel to Loreto, a school within Trafford, so how fair is it to charge Trafford children to attend a Trafford school when children from out of area receive assistance in the form of a free pass. At 120 children, with an average cost of £378 per child, the total cost per year is only £45,360 which is absolutely nothing in terms of a council budget. The council cannot choose to discriminate in this way. Middle income children will be victims in this discrimination.

Comment 1.8

No

Disgusted, council tax increases each year, yet the services you provide reduce, it's nothing more than another cost saving exercise, don't dress it up!

Comment 1.9

No

With 4 children attending school, 2 at Altrincham Grammar, who have always travelled on the school bus and have found it to be a really enjoyable and positive experience that has really been a big stepping stone in their independence, the new proposal is extremely disappointing. The bus is so convenient and has been used by my eldest every day for four years. My second daughter has been using it in year 7 since September. The alternative for us would be me having to take my car into school to pick them up because it is too far and unsafe for them to walk home. This would be adding to environmental pollution and increased local congestion around the secondary school also in peak time.

I would be really keen to know how we can facilitate continued use of the school bus for our children.

Many thanks"

Comment 1.10

No

Proposal to remove the discretionary grammar schools criteria is highly discriminatory, frustrating, one sided and inconsiderate proposal. Does council wants that kids walks for more than 3 miles in winter each way to school? . We can't afford additional burden of two passes in these difficult times.

For my kids this is the nearest grammar school for which they got admission.

I am not sure how council comes up with such crazy ideas and who gave them such dividing ideas. A low income family kid can't walk to the school for 3 miles but a kid whose family is not low income can walk to the school for 3 miles. Is that our kids have extra power and strength that they can walk to the school.

Kids are future of the country and should not be treated like this. Council should feel proud of such kids who have qualified for grammar school based on merits and will contribute to the society and economy. However council is so discriminatory in this case instead of supporting such kids and families in every possible way removing the only benefit.

Is it a child's fault that he has got selected for a grammar school. The decision to choose the grammar school was done few years back. How can council change something one sided which was decided couple of years back.

During these hard times all council should think that how it can reduce the hardship of people and not further increase it.

We are not in low income group does not mean that we are not having financial difficulties. We are struggling to make our finances meet the basic requirements. I being a health care worker working all during Covid times help saving life for Britain and in return we are getting the pass for the kids being removed.

We are law abiding residents paying full council and income tax and we are the one who are getting penalized

Just a simple example you give free meal to kids from low income family and we appreciate it but our kids have to eat cold meal (packed from home) in the school because we can't afford to buy it from school. Our kids also wants to eat hot meal at school but forced to eat cold meal especially in winters. In addition to this being a working mum I have to spare time to prepare the lunch for the kids before starting for work at 7 am in the morning. All the hardship is for the tax payer. Whereas family from low income can also give packed lunch like they are preparing the evening dinner.

At the end, council should think about the kids before taking such decisions."

Comment 1.11

No

Comment 1.12

No

It is unreasonable to change a policy after a child has already started at a grammar school.

It is also unreasonable to charge - it is a right to be able to attend a grammar school if a child passes. They should not be penalised for going to their nearest grammar school (which may be further than 3 miles away). Either we have a grammar school system or we don't."

Comment 1.13

No

If children have the option of the exam and they pass the exam they all should be supported to get to the school. It is not coherent to offer the exam and not the support.

Our family of 4 children would struggle with extras. It is not a good time with this pandemic neither.

Thanks for listening to us. Hopefully this can make a difference."

Comment 1.14

No

This proposal is discriminatory as we live in a grammar school area and already pay over the odds for houses to be within this Trafford catchment area.

The proposal would only be acceptable if the grammar schools change their acceptance policy and prioritise distance/postcode over marks. Currently the local grammars -ie Loreto & CEM CONSORTIUM-Altrincham Sale Urmston and Stretford accept all pupils from out of area with higher marks OVER any student within walking distance.

Trafford will have to enforce this change on the schools before being able to propose any of the above-mentioned changes."

Comment 1.15

No

Here's my reasoning....

This proposal is discriminatory as we live in a grammar school area and already pay over the odds for houses to be within this Trafford catchment area.

The proposal would only be acceptable if the grammar schools change their acceptance policy and prioritise distance/postcode over marks. Currently the local grammars -ie Loreto & CEM CONSORTIUM-Altrincham Sale Urmston and Stretford accept all pupils from out of area with higher marks OVER any student within walking distance.

Trafford will have to enforce this change on the schools before being able to propose any of the above-mentioned changes.

Yes to 40% subsidised travel!

As the gap widens between low and high income families and the current pandemic has hit hard and helped increase this chasm, I would support the subsidising of travel for lower income families, on the basis that this money needs to come from the government and not from cutting down on transport for other children."

Comment 1.16

No

Comment 1.17

No

If my child could pass Altrincham Grammar then we would of course send her there. It is her local school. However, the pass mark is extremely high and if we can reach those grades we will hopefully achieve those for Sale which is 20 mins away. We shouldn't be penalised and have to pay for the transport to get her there just because she didn't get the grades and because she chooses a grammar school over a local comprehensive school which doesn't meet the same high exam results standards.

Comment 1.18

No

They are subjected to the grammar school System, and all the stress and pressure that surrounds it. Schools are also different because of the system. It is not the same

as going to nearest school in non grammar area. It would be making grammar schools even more elitist if travel cost not available as some will still be able to go and others on low income won't.

Comment 1.19

No

Comment 1.20

No

The free travel pass available from Trafford Council played a pivotal role in making the decision to send my 2 daughters to Loreto Grammar School (Catholic secondary school) after completing their primary education at a Catholic primary school within walking distance of our home.

My closest secondary high school would be Ashton on Mersey (there was no guarantee the girls would have been offered a place, I was not willing to take chances with my children's education). There are no bus routes from my house to Ashton on Mersey High School (AoM). I do not view the route to (AoM) be safe for 2 young girls to be walking home on dark winter nights. I cannot afford to purchase homes closer to either school in order to avoid expensive travel.

This change in policy is punitive and unfair for working families with already stretched budgets. Considering the impact of Covid-19 on families this year the timing of this change in policy is horrendous.

When I voted for the current Council members it was to find common sense value for money and not take from school children and their families. We already contribute to the school to make up for the shortfall in funds from the government.

This is a cynical attempt at penny pinching whilst punishing families trying to provide the best possible education for their children.

There must be another way to find money, taking away school transport funding is crippling.

Once again the Council is moving the goal post after the game has begun. Where am I going to find an extra £550 to send my children to a school, which they met the criteria for and were guaranteed a place."

Comment 1.21

No

The free travel pass available from Trafford Council played a pivotal role in making the decision to send my 2 daughters to Loreto Grammar School (Catholic secondary school) after completing their primary education at a Catholic primary school within walking distance of our home.

My closest secondary high school would be Ashton on Mersey (there was no guarantee the girls would have been offered a place, I was not willing to take chances with my children's education). There are no bus routes from my house to Ashton on Mersey High School (AoM). I do not view the route to (AoM) be safe for 2 young girls to be walking home on dark winter nights. I cannot afford to purchase homes closer to either school in order to avoid expensive travel.

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This is a cynical attempt at penny pinching whilst punishing families trying to provide the best possible education for their children.

There must be another way to find money, taking away school transport funding is crippling.

Once again the Council is moving the goal post after the game has begun. Where am I going to find an extra £550 to send my children to a school, which they met the criteria for and were guaranteed a place."

Comment 1.22

No

The reason so many children in Trafford travel to their secondary school is the selective system. If there were comprehensive schools across the board, instead of selective grammar schools, less travel would be needed. Trafford chooses to have the grammar school system, unlike nearly all surrounding areas. On that basis, in my view, Trafford should continue to fund travel to its grammar schools for children.

Otherwise the expense will be put on parents, such as ourselves, who reasonably expected travel to be funded throughout school attendance.

Comment 1.23

Yes

Comment 1.25

No

Many families who are on low incomes, but not low enough to qualify for free school meals will be discriminated against by this policy. I feel it is an ideological based assault on families who take advantage of the excellent schools in Trafford. Shame on you for suggesting it

Comment 1.26

No

If parents cannot afford to get their children to grammar schools after the child has worked hard to get into a grammar then removing this funding is grossly unfair on the child.

Comment 1.27

Yes

Our son passed exams for AGSB & Sale Grammar School. As we chose to send him to a mixed gender school (further away) does not qualify for travel funding. This is discriminatory.

Low income families should be supported however. However children who failed to pass the exam for AGSB are unnecessarily subsidised. Many have paid for primary education which is ironic. I fully support the withdrawal of this funding which is clearly needed elsewhere. Thank you

Comment 1.28

Yes

Comment 1.29

No

Grammar school education should not be restricted to who can afford the transport costs

Comment 1.30

No

If scores for exams taken were the same for each school, then pupils living closer to their local grammar school would go to these providers. However the increase in out of area pupils pushes up the grades/ mark required and therefore local pupils have to travel. We do not have any other Ofsted outstanding rated schools options to choose from in this area. If bus passes are to be removed, would this therefore be in line with preventing out of area pupils being allowed in the local grammar schools?

Comment 1.31

No

Seems to penalise less well off families - many families who don't qualify for benefits or free school meals still have to budget very carefully - seems to conflict with the idea of parental choice - wealthier parents have the option to buy a house within walking distance of the school - less well off (but not poor) parents do not. Is this really worth it commercially - sounds like an awful lot of admin cost for a very small saving."

Comment 1.32

No

My child walks to school and so I am commenting as a concerned citizen. This change in policy appears to be ideologically motivated. Trafford staff would need to ascertain which is the local school, and given that many of the local schools are oversubscribed, there may be very few pupils which would not otherwise qualify. Factoring in the cost to manage the change, the actual amount saved will likely not be significant and the social and educational costs would be very significant to the pupils and their families involved through lessening opportunities. This is an attack on the free choice of schools.

Comment 1.33

No

Two of my children attend Loreto Grammar School, this was the only Grammar school they passed for (having had their test scores submitted to every Grammar in the borough). We do not receive any of the benefits mentioned so does that mean, as of Sept 2021, they will no longer receive a free bus pass?

Comment 1.34

Yes

I think if a parent can afford to pay and they choose to send their child to a grammar school further away they should pay for it. They are still receiving a free education.

Comment 1.35

Not sure

It has not given due consideration to the additional mobility difficulties for secondary school pupils who are physically disabled to travel to school. An able bodied pupil attending grammar school can likely be expected to travel to school by themselves by year 8. Adjustments should be made for disabled pupils so that they do not suffer any change in their choice due to their physical disability.

Comment 1.36

Yes

Comment 2.1

Yes

Trafford Education Service is highly respected topping performance tables at all phases regionally and nationally. Even with a selective system high schools consistently outperform our neighbours and nationally.

Trafford's educational provision is predicated upon choice and diversity with parents able to choose provision that suits their child's; ability, faith, type of school and it is why, at all levels, outcomes are good or better for most pupils.

Trafford's motto is ""Hold fast that which is good"" and Bert Lance said ""if it ain't broke don't fix it"".

I come from a low income family, was born at Trafford General Hospital, live in Old Trafford, worked as an employee of the Education Service for over 40 years and greatly benefited from a grammar school education. Tony Blair predicated his time in office stating ""Education, Education, Education"". I implore the Council to rethink this proposed change to the All Age Travel Policy in my humble opinion if will greatly impact on social mobility and force grammar schools not to prioritise the allocation of places to Trafford residents."

Comment 2.2

No

Sort the grammar selection process so that Trafford provides education for its own residents first and not half of Manchester etc.

Comment 2.3

Not sure

Despite not being in the low income category, I have 3 children, two of which I pay £120/month for travel to school. Size of the family should be considered and personal circumstances. as a low income family with just one child could have more disposable income than a larger family with average incomes.

We recently moved to Sale and applied to the school within walking distance of our house, Ashton On Mersey for my two children (that did not qualify for a Grammar Place). Despite going through an appeal process, my children were not granted places. One daughter therefore attends Flixton Girls and my son, Knutsford Academy - costing £120/month in bus fares. If the travel assistance for my daughter who attends Urmston Grammar is stopped, this would further increase costs and cause financial strain. The whole system is wrong - children should be granted a place at their local school, whether that be a High School or Grammar School and this would avoid children having to use public transport at all."

Comment 2.4

Not sure

I am not sure how increasing this to 40% lowest income would affect us but this then becomes means tested which for many families will require filling out many forms and providing proof which I am sure will be a bureaucratic procedure costing much more than the £45,360 to administer it than for the passes currently issued.

Comment 2.5

No

Families for many years have benefited from free school travel, what is the genuine reason for stopping this now, other than cost cutting, why do you continue to punish the middle classes?

Comment 2.6

Yes

It would be good to consider low income families children travel as this can be a major obstacle for such families otherwise.

Comment 2.7

No

Our chancellor has announced help to eat scheme in Aug 20 and may be planning to bring the same scheme again costing billion pound to tax payer. Those restaurant/pub owners are not low income family. One side people are dying and other side they are encouraged to go to restaurant and spend lavishly and increase the infection rate. Such areas to be targeted first.

Govt is making liquidity available for businesses to sustain during these times but business owners are taking the money and liquidating the business to fuel their lavish lifestyles."

Comment 2.8

Not sure "I think is good to give preference to low income families first. However if this option is given to us and then withdrawn it can also have economic consequences.

We are a family of 6 and we need to negotiate this carefully. This will have an impact on us - and the children.

Comment 2.8

Yes

As the gap widens between low and high income families and the current pandemic has hit hard and helped increase this chasm, I would support the subsidising of travel for lower income families, on the basis that this money needs to come from the government and not from cutting down on transport for other children.

Comment 2.9

Yes

All children in Trafford should have free travel to their nearest grammar school for which they are given a place.

All children should have free travel to the school most suited to them regardless of distance.

Dyslexic or gifted children should for example receive free travel to a school that is known for supporting this better.

Comment 2.10

Yes

This would help the ones that work very hard and need help too.

Comment 2.11

Yes

Families in the 40% income band are stretched to the limit as well. It appears there is little help for those who are in the middle.

Please take into consideration we will be left with paying additional taxes for the furlough and credit to support individuals affected by Covid-19

Comment 2.12

Not sure

I feel the current policy is working including the free school bus passes. As a parent who is eligible for the bus pass I would struggle to pay for the travel otherwise, yet would probably not benefit from even the 40% mentioned above. There are individual situations you can never pre-empt as a policy. The system at the moment is extremely beneficial to ensure a good education for the Trafford pupils. It should be commended not taken away.

Comment 2.13

No

The cost of the change and the administration would likely offset any savings.

Families would likely not know whether they qualified and this could affect their choice of schools, leading to lower income children not applying to a grammar school. Grammar schools need to be equally accessible to all income levels. Some families who might qualify might also not wish to apply or might not know they qualify leading to hardship and inequity. This proposal is flawed and should not be supported.

Comment 2.14

Yes

Low income families should be supported improving social mobility.