

To **Parent/carer – Assisted Travel Policy Consultation**Date 13th October 2025

Dear Parent/carer

We wanted to let you know, today, the council will launch a consultation on both policies that support travel for young people across Wirral. The development of the new policies was approved at the council's Children's, Family and Education Committee.

To take part, visit www.haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/assisted-travel-review.

The two new policies will have the following titles.

- ASSISTED TRAVEL POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-16
- POST 16 ASSISTED TRAVEL STATEMENT 2026-2027
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-19 AND 19-24 FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING
DIFFICULTIES AND/OR DISABILITIES

Both policies were due for review, having not been refreshed for a number of years. While there is a need to make savings and reduce the environmental impact of the service, the council is also looking at how it can utilise some of the savings to help more children and young people travel independently.

Work on producing the proposed new policies took place throughout the summer with input from key stakeholders. As part of the review work the council also looked to bring the policies in line with other Merseyside local authorities.

It's important that we now hear from young people, parents/carers, schools, and transport providers. You can help us to shape smarter policies that work better for families while we ensure the council continues to meet its statutory duty of helping children and young people to access their education.

A public consultation will run for 12 weeks from 13th October 2025 to 4th January 2026, giving everyone the chance to share their views on the proposed changes. This consultation will not have any implications for the current academic year.

Council officers will be offering the opportunity to meet in person at Family Hubs across the consultation period. Further information is available on the council Local Offer website SENDLO. www.sendlowirral.co.uk

We want to make sure we provide modern services that help our SEND children and young people develop and grow in the future. To do this we need to ensure we have a stable financial footing with sustainable costs – while offering a service that supports the young people who need it the most.

We do hope you take this opportunity to share your views. To take part visit www.haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/assisted-travel-review.

If you have any questions or queries through the consultation, please email the Assisted Travel Team at assistedtravel@wirral.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Backhouse', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Backhouse
Assistant Director: Education