

## Summary of responses

Subject	Number of responses	Summary	Considered response
Special Education Needs (SEN) Early Years	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Chose Option 1B – allowing children to complete current phase of education.</li> <li>(ii) Only specialist provision is in Weston. Parents unable to pay for travel.</li> <li>(iii) Only maintained SEN Unit for speech and language difficulties is based in Weston. Will discriminate against vulnerable. Fewer children will have access to high quality provision early.</li> </ul>	<p>This specialist provision is only available in one location. It may be preferable to have a range of local services but this will take time to plan and implement. Therefore, it is recommended that this discretionary support continues for the academic year 2011-12 whilst a full review is undertaken.</p> <p><b>Recommendation (i) Retain discretionary Special Education Needs (SEN) early years transport provision to Weston Shore, whilst a full cost benefit review and options appraisal is undertaken.</b></p>
Mainstream Primary	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Pressure on Primary school places may lead to less provision close to home.</li> </ul>	<p>Transport to be considered in primary place planning.</p>
Mainstream Secondary (all comments related to faith schools)	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(ii) Faith education was of high importance when deciding which school to apply to. Some parents unable to pay for travel, particularly single parents.</li> <li>(iii) Families will have already planned transport around the support being offered. The scheme was set up to support families with faith.</li> <li>(iv) Questions of discrimination and Human Rights Act implications.</li> <li>(v) Faith school achievement is greater than catchment secondary school.</li> <li>(vi) As a catholic, the child has a right to an education in a catholic school. Children are already settled and a move to another school would cause upheaval.</li> <li>(vii) Children are baptised and take their faith seriously. Their freedom of choice is being compromised.</li> <li>(viii) Decision could have huge impact on lives of pupils.</li> </ul>	<p>Current eligibility will remain for those currently at school.</p> <p><b>Recommendation (iv) Remove all assistance for ‘new’ pupils for travel to faith schools that is not statutory from September 2012.</b></p> <p><b>Therefore, no change in current policy for the 2011-12 academic year.</b></p>

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Special Educational Needs (SEN) Primary and Secondary	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Is transport to special school a statutory requirement?</li> <li>(ii) Concerns that responses will not be taken into consideration.</li> <li>(iii) Children that attend special schools have difficult conditions, which is why they must attend that school. Change can affect them badly. Children need to be accompanied and parents who work part-time may need to leave their jobs. Children may not understand danger or what is right or wrong. SEN post-16 students should contribute to travel.</li> <li>(iv) Son is severely disabled and transport is crucial. There must be other ways to save money.</li> <li>(v) Family has one car which is used for work and it would be virtually impossible to take and collect child.</li> <li>(vi) Child attends special school and sibling attends mainstream school with the same hours. Parent cannot transport both without one being late / early. They would seek social services support if they did not receive transport.</li> <li>(vii) Massively affect special school's attendance figures if parents could not afford to pay. Parents will be able to challenge through an SEN tribunal.</li> <li>(viii) The child receives transport as part of their daily routine. They are autistic and change would lead to anxiety.</li> <li>(ix) Document was not parent-friendly. Difficult to tell who would be affected.</li> <li>(x) Child goes to special school and parent doesn't drive.</li> <li>(xi) Children need to attend suitable provision and their parents do not drive.</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst it would be legally possible to amend this entitlement, it is recommended that the current provision is maintained as many children and young people would qualify under exceptional circumstances. Savings are therefore difficult to quantify.</p> <p><b>Recommendation (iv) Retain current SEN primary and secondary transport provision.</b></p>

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Post-16 mainstream	2	<p>(i) Equal opportunities concerns and ability to choose. Council should make savings elsewhere. Current students should be given funding to complete their studies. If a student is from a low income family, no charge should be made. Proposed savings are minimal. Aspirations and careers should be maximised.</p> <p>(ii) Young person attends Sparsholt and requires transport support – public transport is not suitable due to timings.</p>	<p>It is recommended that current students retain eligibility and this is phased in for new students starting their studies in September 2011. They will therefore be able to complete their courses and new students will be able to choose given the full information available.</p> <p><b>Recommendation (vi) Remove all post-16 assistance for ‘new’ mainstream students attending a mainstream establishment from September 2011, whilst undertaking a review of personal budgets and the possible introduction of a ‘local payment’.</b></p>
Post-16 Special Educational Needs (SEN)	1	<p>(i) Vulnerable young person attends Taunton’s and has a disability preventing her from using public transport. She would have to stop going to college and this would affect her confidence and independence.</p>	<p>It is recommended that current students retain eligibility and this is phased in for new students starting their studies in September 2011. They will therefore be able to complete their courses and new students will be able to choose given the full information available.</p> <p><b>Recommendation (vi) Remove all post-16 assistance for ‘new’ mainstream students attending a mainstream establishment from September 2011, whilst undertaking a review of personal budgets and the possible introduction of a ‘local payment’.</b></p>
General comments	1	<p>(i) Question regarding whether the savings are real to the Council.</p>	<p>These are real and necessary savings.</p>