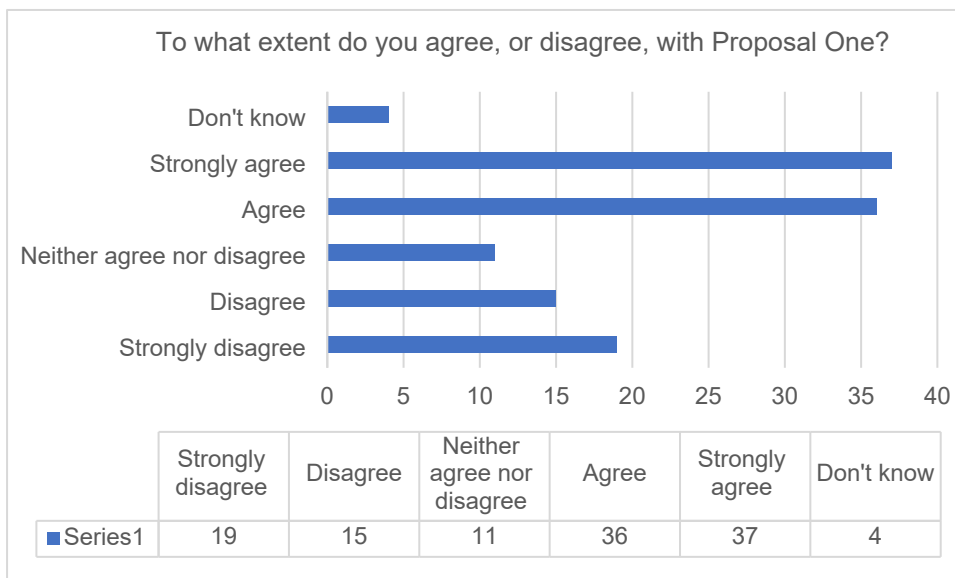


# School Transport Policy Consultation Feedback

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal One: For Personal Transport Budgets (PTB) to be available to families where a child or young person’s needs or circumstances mean that suitable transport is difficult to find, or not available at all, in the local operator market?

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal One?	Responses	Percentage
Strongly disagree	19	16%
Disagree	15	12%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	9%
Agree	36	30%
Strongly agree	37	30%
Don't know	4	3%



**(Proposal One) If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer please do so below.**

All children irrespective of their backgrounds and age should where necessary be provided with transport to complete their schooling
As a supposed to be green island every child should go to there nearest school.
Because probably won't cover the total cost
By the council providing transport then there is surely a higher chance of these children getting to school also by the the children travelling together it allows out of school friendships to develop and gives the children a greater sense of self responsibility
Children have a right to safe and secure transportation to school and invariably don't not have a say on their home location or the transportation within that area. Therefore the council need to make suitable arrangements. However I feel as though it should be means tested and evaluated on the childs families ability to assist in getting their child to school.

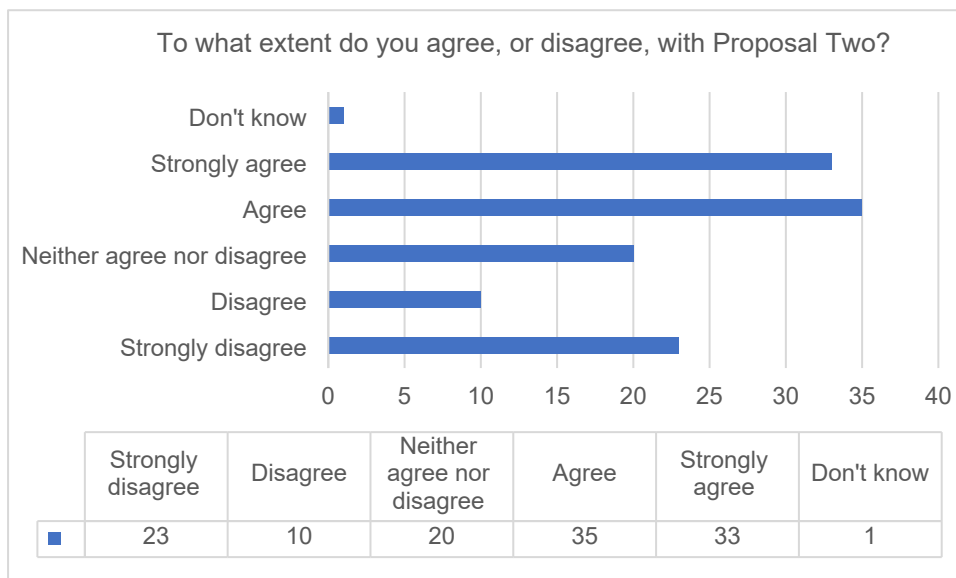
Children who are autistic and non verbal - and hence unable to use normal transport methods, do not qualify if they are within the stipulated distance range of the school. These children do not have any other recourse to get to school other than the parents having to sacrifice their work hours to do so.
Education is important but getting kids to school too expensive
Encourages home schooling, hence excluding are most vulnerable children from attending school
Everyone should have to pay
Families of children and young people already feel overwhelmed with meeting the needs of complex young people whether medically or in terms of behaviour. This is another aspect of challenge and barriers that they will face in trying to get their young people to school.
Having children is a choice as is where you live and which school you send them to. Why should the whole island pay for that?
I agree that where families are unable to access transport to school or the council are not giving any provision even at a cost to the parent. such as those children disadvantaged from Atherfield to the West of the Island who attend the Free School and are either spending 2 + hours per day on public transport or paying nearly £480 a term to get there children to school
I have broken my leg and can't get any help from the council or school to get my children to school
I made provision for suitable transport for my child with complex health needs for over 2 academic years with no financial support, a PTB would have been a lifeline for me
If parents are supported with the options of alternative transport then this potentially could be a decent proposal
If School Transport are unable to put transport in place with the resources they have how would they expect parents to organise this even by giving them a Personal Budget?
If the Council are unable to source suitable transport, how will I as a parent?
If you have children ,pay for them. Why should other council tax payers have to fund them.
It is a parent's responsibility to get a child to school
It is not clear what "difficult to find, or not available at all, in the local operator market" means, how far away does the local operator service have to be to be not available, how long does the journey need to take to make it difficult etc.
It is the Council's statutory responsibility to secure safe transport for these children
It may be detrimental to children's attendance if parents are left to arrange the transport themselves if the situation is not straightforward
It offers a more flexible option for parents whose child may not be able to travel using the council transport.
It's the parents' responsibility to get their children to school, not everyone else's.
It's logical. But, there should be a commitment to maintaining existing provisions at their current levels and there should be no decisions prior to the school closures being sorted out later this year.
Live in Arreton and no direct route to Ventnor. Without school transport, daughter would have to take two buses and leave home at 6:30 to get to school on time.
My daughter gets a school minibus provided by the council. Without this she wouldn't go to school. I have carers in the morning who don't drive and she is not able to walk safely to school bus stop. She also has ADHD/ASD and has no idea about time. I would not be able to take her to the bus stop myself.
Not enough information provided to determine the impact on current provision. Would parents / carers be pressured into sourcing their own transport, or would the onus still be on the council to find a suitable provider?

Only where a transparent calculation is used, with parents held to account for the use of public money. A level of efficiency should be included to ensure council tax value for money.
Only where necessary. Not to replace services.
Parents of children with SEN face challenges every single day that others can not even dream about. Being able to give their children some independence albeit with another adults support, is helping children to learn some independence from a younger age to assist with the transition to adult life where they are likely to need support from people who are not parents or guardians.
PTB should be provided only where neither private or public transport is available. Not simply 'difficult to find'.
Should be delivered internally by the Council minibus transport service rather than expensive taxi companies
Should not be parents responsibility to arrange as how will they find this. Should be delivered directly council
Some parents could use their own transport to take their child to school.
The council is responsible for lack of adequate public transport over great parts of southern and western island. Hence they are responsible for the children attending school!
The council is ultimately more effective in arranging this because of the cumulative buying power it has in the marketplace. The council also has many years experience of organising this. If left to individual parents/carers it will become more expensive and potentially fail which is in no one's interest.
There are options for closer schools in most cases which do not require transport to be funded by the taxpayer.
There is no LA nor public service transport to my son's school from our area. Having a personal transport budget would allow us to make provision for home to school transport via a private bus or taxi and this would save many cars from traversing the same route daily between Freshwater and Ventnor - a much better option for the environment. The situation at present is very unfair as others from our area have transport support from the local authority for attending other schools in Newport. The secondary school selection process means that not everyone gets their first choice of school so transport options should be equal wherever your allocated place of study is situated. A fairer system would be to allow all students a personal transport budget. We are currently signed up to bus transport laid on by a parent group but will not be able to afford this service when my youngest child starts high school next year. So we will be returning to twice daily car journeys to Ventnor from Freshwater unless financial assistance becomes available to help with home to school transport.
This proposal appears to be shifting the responsibility for accessing/finding transport to school from the council to the parent(s) in situations where transport is 'difficult to find'.
Where are these vulnerable children going to find suitable transport? Why not employ drivers from the Council which would be cheaper
Why would you give money to an individual to find a service that is already difficult to find?

**To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal Two: Development and delivery of an Independent Travel Training service for children and young people with SEND who may be capable of travelling independently to their place of education?**

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal Two?	Responses	Percentage
Strongly disagree	23	19%
Disagree	10	8%
Neither agree nor disagree	20	16%

Agree	35	29%
Strongly agree	33	27%
Don't know	1	1%



**(Proposal Two) If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer please do so below.**

Although the reasoning behind this appears sound it seems to be another instance of the council shifting responsibility for transport on to parents/children/young people.
Any opportunity to offer more independence to SEND children and young people should be welcomed.
Any scheme to help SEND students potentially become more independent as they approach adulthood should be tried
Are you seriously considering this option. Whilst I'm not currently a parent of a child with SEN I have been in the past and the thought of them travelling home solo would of sent shivers down my spine and caused untold and unnecessary levels of stress
As a parent, surely that would be my responsibility / decision to ensure my child can travel independently. Newport Bus Station as an adult or child without needs is bad enough, but you want my child with needs to possibly negotiate independent travel because they have been assessed to ok to travel independently. SEND children are vulnerable and easily influenced as they think people are being kind when they really are not. A child's safety is paramount and you will have to take responsibility if anything happens on their way to and from school because you have trained them to travel independently. This doesnt sit comfortably with me
As before if they went to nearest school you would not need assistance
As previously commented, all children should be supported irrespective of their background and age be provided with transport to be able to attend their schooling.
Do not let Southern Vectis run this as all they do is waste money
Every child should be treated the same
For young people with SEND who are capable of a level of independence this is essential training in preparation for adulthood. Schools are not staffed efficiently to provide this comprehensive training.
I agree some children and young people with the right training could be encouraged to be more independent, although some will never be independent unfortunately

I feel this would better equip those children for the future, help them to live more independent lives and improve their self-confidence.
I think it is better for the older children to learn how to travel independently.
I think this is a good idea if the young person is able to travel independently
It is a good idea to try to promote independence but would need to make sure that the child is ready and safe to travel alone. Factors such as other school children on the transport would need to be taken into consideration as this may lead to confrontation/bullying which the SEND child may not be able to cope with. Children can be very cruel to each other.
It sounds like an option worth exploring.
It would be very difficult to train SEND children as their needs are all different and some cases extreme or outside conditions affected - i am uncertain this could be managed as a whole but do agree that childrens growth and independence should be promoted
Need more SEND schools provision on island to meet demand
Only used when parents consent and I have concerns over who decided the student may be be able to travel independently
Part of the process encouraged by St George's in moving students into adulthood and preparation for later life is gaining independence. This process may help that but only if sensitivity handled depending on the individual.
Provide another SEND school closer to those who need this. If some schools are to close, then repurpose as a SEND school.
Sen children are entitled to transport stop trying to lighten your work load by finding ways to not provide it
SEND children should be encouraged to attend school regularly with transport provided by the Council or their school
Send children should be safely delivered to s hook by a responsible adult at all times
SEND transport should be delivered to all children by Council or the school
Should be given the choice to decide
Shouldn't be paying for children to travel to school, parents should be paying and arranging this themselves.
Sounds sensible
The parents should be doing this and not taking public money to do this.
This could have safeguarding implications however it would be good if they can do it independently
This is a service I would be prepared to pay for to help my autistic daughter learn to travel to school independently, as I currently drive her everyday
This is not a light policy change, one I would not feel comfortable taking the risk on to save the Council money. These are children not adults and their safety is paramount. I would not wish for the worry on whether my child arrived safely each day and for that to be playing on my mind.
This would benefit them after school, too.
This would form part of their education with a goal to ensure that they are able to travel independently by public services and hence to be productive in their life and employment profession.
This would help those who would be able and support parents to help children transition and learn more independence. My concern is that parents / guardians must be listened to and only suitable children are put forward. The council can NOT enforce this or remove support because they feel a child could do this and parents don't
This would need to be delivered by learning disability & Autism aware professionals ideally who could ensure that the child & families needs were recognised & supported throughout

To help enable children and young people with SEND to develop confidence in travelling independently if appropriate to that particular child/person

Travel training would benefit wider teenager access, not just SEND. A small charge for non-send might support widening the training.

Unecessary, this is a GP/school/parent led decision. Council could simply provide online advice and parents should make their own decision based on GP/school advice, using the persons diagnosis. Parents should seek to train their own child on their route when or if this becomes suitable, making use of a mobile phone and trackers. Funds would be better spent funding and subsidising the transport services for all. No guaranteed outcome and large administration costs.

We should be encouraging children independence and self confidence. However, we need to be mindful to others that it may impact, and we should consider the impact to those who may encounter individuals and provide them with guidance and training as to how they can support or should react in different situations.

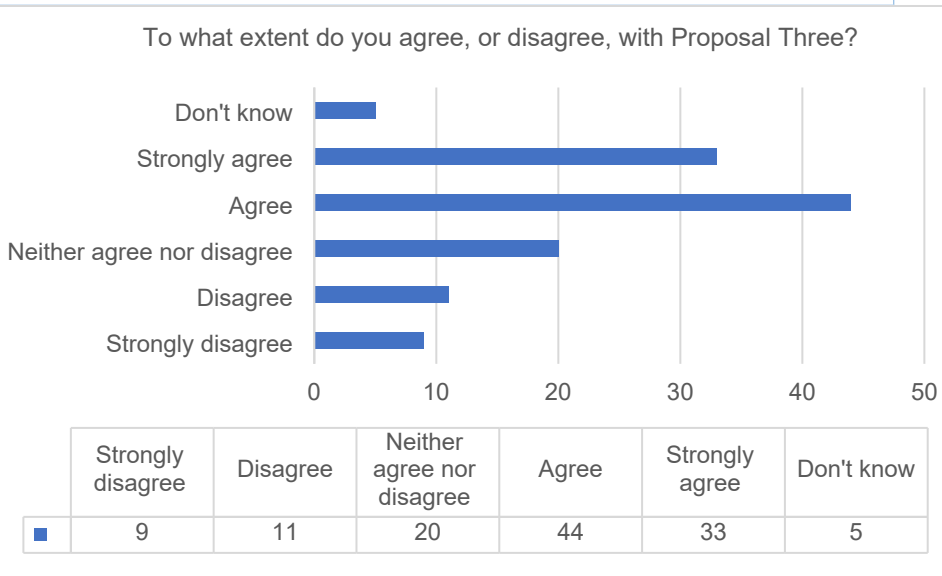
Whilst I feel this is the parents responsibility, if this proactive approach reduces costs in the long term I would agree however I suspect it wont and will just be an additional cost as new children reach an age

Whilst offering training may be helpful in some circumstances, completion of such training should not be seen as a 'fix' as many children have complex and fluctuating needs.

Who would be responsible if something went wrong?

### To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal Three: to regularly review the provision of Passenger Assistants?

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal Three?	Responses	Percentage
Strongly disagree	9	7%
Disagree	11	9%
Neither agree nor disagree	20	16%
Agree	44	36%
Strongly agree	33	27%
Don't know	5	4%



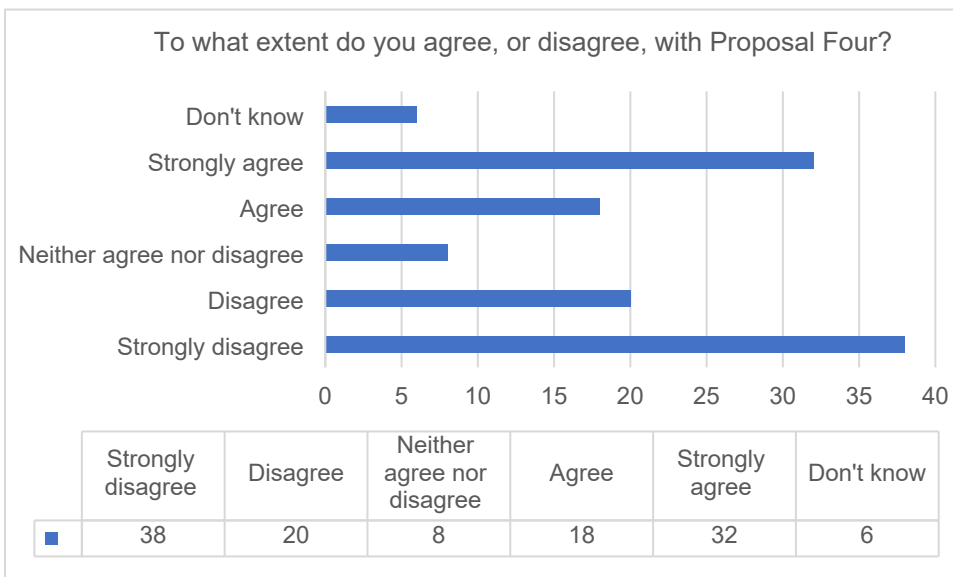
**(Proposal Three) If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer please do so below.**

Agree in theory but worried it will turn into removing support that's needed
an annual / change of circumstances review is a great idea - needs change and this could benefit both the child and save money if there needs are reduced
Any provision for a young person should be regularly reviewed as they grow and learn, and in particular to prepare them for adulthood.
As before
As children get older their needs change, so a review is good if carried out by suitably qualified professionals
Assuming this is not just cost savings.
But again why aren't the parents assisting their child to school?
Children who can travel in a transport provided by the council, and are capable of traveling alone, can have a common PA.
Do not let Southern Vectis run this
Every single one of your suggestions is to save money. Not to improve the safety or wellbeing of any children. I strongly oppose this.
For the same reasons in question 4.
Goal being to obtain independence for the young person.
I think if a child is needed to be escorted in a taxi to school then this should be a family member or parent that does this. School bus escorts should remain as they are as many children would not be able to get on the bus unattended.
I think that the council should provide bus drivers and buses for the children instead of spending thousands on individual taxis etc
In some cases not needed
It is obvious for such need.
It makes sense to review particular needs on a regular basis, I am surprised it is not currently standard practice.
Many children will have anxiety due to complexities which could be attributed to situations, sensory sensitivities & other issues that contribute to daily struggles. Having a consistent person/s to assist with this is their right & legal entitlement
Needs change so should always be kept under review
Parents should be taking their children to school and not relying on other people to do so.
Parents should pay and arrange themselves.
Passenger assistants will always be required. Reviews to ensure that adequate provision is made. Reviews are not just an excuse to cut costs.
Passenger Transport Assistants are essential for some SEND children and should be employed via the Council rather than via Taxi companies
Reviews are necessary to ensure this service is really necessary.
Risk assessments and reviews should be continuous and not rely on a mindset that we have always done it this way, so it should continue.
Seems more like opportunity to save money rather than deliver a good service to those vulnerable children, what about those driving vehicles who are responsible for safe transport provision?
Some children need this essential service for safe home to school transport
Some children require this service
Some SEND children require this service as would provide risks to the drivers of vehicles who cannot look after children and safely drive vehicles
This could be beneficial as long as it does not ever have a negative impact on the child/young person or parents.

This is an overall good proposal but we need to ensure that families are listened to with concerns of their child if they feel their child isn't ready to travel without an escort.
This is essential for some children to safely travel to school
This is in place for a extremely good reason and should continue to be so
This promotes a level of independence when appropriate and also provides the opportunity to request additional support for individuals as required.
To facilitate safe transport to school for all children
Why can't the Council provide this essential service themselves now rather than through expensive taxi companies
Yes this is obvious if they are no longer needed.
Your proposal seems flexible enough to work and be fair

**(Proposal Four – Part 1) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase the parental contribution for Spare Seats, with inflation-linked (Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases also being applied in future years?**

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal Four?	Responses	Percentage
Strongly disagree	38	31%
Disagree	20	16%
Neither agree nor disagree	8	7%
Agree	18	15%
Strongly agree	32	26%
Don't know	6	5%



**(Proposal Four) If you would like to explain the reason(s) for your answer please do so below.**

Absolutely rip off! Public transport on IoW is far far below parr! Council raises taxes left right and square. This is an additional tax for people sending their children to school in areas where transport is not anyway near normal European standard in coverage.
All other costs are going up by CPI so this cost should do also.



As previously commented, all children irrespective of their background and age should be provided where required such transport to complete their schooling.

Based on affordability

Big jump in cost

Cost of living . People don't have the extra

Crazy amount of money

Currently pay for 2 spare seats. Think that whole issue of 'spare place' school transport for children to schools needs looking at. As a parent happy to pay but would be better for buses to be put on and available to all at a reasonable cost. My children travel from East Cowes to and from Christ the King and have to pay for spare seat which is never guaranteed. I have emailed Karl Love about this issue already and he passed it on. There is not an option for a through bus to CKC Or Carisbrooke from EC. I do not think more children in bus station is a good idea and if parents take them in more cars on already congested roads. A school bus service for all as in years past, but paid for could make money for council, especially if sixth formers allowed on bus as well and those entitled to free transport use service as well. If cost goes up to £570 a year I will not afford to be able to use the bus and will be forced to put another car in the traffic jam to and from EC and Newport every day whilst also adding to pollution. That is extortionate! I actually did the maths on petrol costs to and from EC to CKC every day and bus at current cost was cheaper. If price goes up to £570 it will be more expensive than driving every day and you will lose passengers so your bus you have to provide for entitled pupils will be even more loss making. If Ryde private school can put on buses for their pupils from all over the island and parents pay why can't the council get themselves sorted?? Could there be a consultation on how many parents would chose to send their children by bus of all pupils could pay for a place on a school bus rather than the lottery privilege seat provision? That would tell council if running a service for all those who want it would be a possibility. Just punishing parents who want to avoid adding to the congestion or who physically can't take their children to school by upping the cost of a 'spare seat' is wrong.

Discretionary provision should be charged at total cost, and increases in costs should not be left to the tax payer to fund.

Every child should be treated the same regardless of whether parents are on benefits or not.

Every year our council tax goes up and services get worse. In addition all ancillary fees such as this are going up. We get terrible value for money

Families are already struggling with the cost of living and this will add additional financial pressure.

Going to school should be paid for by government, it is compulsory to go to school so you shouldn't have to pay. Instead of providing bus passes for old people who don't even need them the money should go to the children going to school

I agree that this figure should increase BUT this is a 50% increase, i think a gradual year on year increase should be applied especially in these difficult financial times. I also think a review of the running of these services should take place. An example is the 214 from Kingates to TIFS, this could extend by a few miles its route further to the West of the Island who are currently un catered for in transport. this would benefit the childre but also would increase the number of paying children utilising the spare seats and therefore reducing the council cost of running this service as it will be partially funded by those additional childrens parents for a minimum additional cost

I get the sense behind it but there are parents out there that possibly won't be able to afford what is being proposed. If this leads to increased home-schooling it would be hugely detrimental to the child.

I have two children in KS4 who use this service. The proposed increase is a very big jump from the current rate, which is just about manageable financially. I strongly object to this increase, especially when more than one child is involved and given the increased cost of

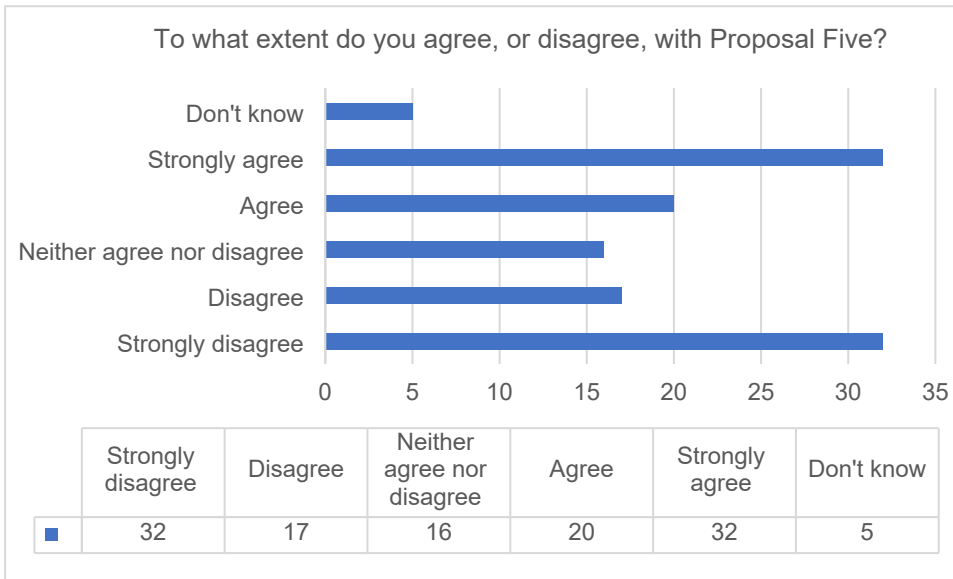
<p>living across the board.. I want them to be able to finish their KS4 education in their current school without being penalised in this way. to me it's another example of middle England being hit. Not earning well enough to be able to afford this without sacrifice, not eligible for any benefits.</p>
<p>I think that's an outrageous amount considering that school is compulsory. Surely a review of non essential travel should be done first before an increase it's onky a £2 saving from southern vectis and they are the biggest profit making transport company in the UK.</p>
<p>If means tested then yes</p>
<p>If the council cannot allocate students their localSchool they need to provide transport regardless. A huge issue where the local free school denies local children entry!</p>
<p>If they can afford to vape, they can afford this cost.</p>
<p>If they went to nearest school it would not be a problem</p>
<p>In a recession with inflated bills &amp; rising costs &amp; the knowledge that SEND parents are less economically well off than others is this really fair &amp; just?</p>
<p>Inflation may go up but your cost are above what they should be anyway plus as the council you wish for lest traffic on roads this will never happen with the cost of school transport</p>
<p>It is astonishing that the council believes a near 50% increase in costs within the next few months is within the capability of any families budget, particularly in the current economic climate. An understandable inflation linked increase would be acceptable but this proposed increase is severely out of touch.</p>
<p>It seems a high amount of money to get your children to school each year and is a large increase on the current rate. If it's going to increase it would need to be in smaller increments.</p>
<p>Most school buses are running around half or quarter full so get rid and let the children travel on service buses</p>
<p>No. Parents are struggling during the financial crisis. This will increase home schooling and non attendance. The amounts are not realistic. The council must work on reducing administration costs and must protect and increase services. There are gaps in services to primary and secondary level. The rural nature of the island must not stop pupils from gaining education in a setting that meets their faith, send and academic abilities.</p>
<p>Parents are already struggling with cost of living crisis. Lots of families with a SEND child are financially struggling. Due to the extra pressures they face. Why should they be out of pocket because the school that meets their child's needs the most is out of area.</p>
<p>Parents are responsible for getting their children to school</p>
<p>Parents face enough costs and pressures already and the council has just put up council tax again</p>
<p>Parents should contribute it should not fall on council tax payers</p>
<p>Parents should contribute to costs</p>
<p>Parents should pay more or arrange for their own children to be taken to school.</p>
<p>Parents/carers should not be burdened with these costs. Funding should come from central government.</p>
<p>Ridiculous price rise for families that are already struggling financially. Many places elsewhere in the country, kids get free travel/school travel, but because its the island, we are charged extortionate amounts for school bus travel already.</p>
<p>Stop wasting tax payers money on things like the council car park at County Hall being resurfaced for £30000 when the roads are in far worse condition and stop trying to make savings by penalising the community who are suffering enough hardships</p>
<p>The cost is very high particularly for a family of multiple children, and that no fares can be clawed back when the child does not attend school. Additionally it feels unfair that a hard working family has to pay for a bus whereas others do not pay for a taxi or personal service</p>

The cost of living crisis is hitting families hard. Extra travel costs for everyday travel to school will only exacerbate that.
The cost should reflect the outlay and it seems reasonable to increase the annual charge by a measure comparable with the rise in inflation.
The government should allocate extra funds for councils to provide transport rather than expecting parents to bear further financial hardship in order for their children to receive an education.
The initial increase of over 45% is unacceptable. A CPI increase is acceptable, but the proposed increase for the next school year shows a complete disregard of the current economic impact has on parents, and portrays the council as being completely out of touch
The price increase you are suggesting is 46% how on earth have you come up with this figure ?. We don't drive and wanted the best education for our daughters and a school of our choice rather than the nearest. This amount of increase is a disgrace to families already coping with a cost of living crisis. Surely an inflation based increase over the past 2 years would be more sensible than what you are currently proposing.
The price should be kept lower to encourage students to take the bus rather than private travel. There are many spare seats available on most routes
The sums of money are quite high so the price difference is going to be challenging.
These seats are not really spare. Many of these services would have not run without the school routes. There should be better local provisions if you want to charge more for seats. We already pay enough council, corporations or personal taxes. Eliminate the waste instead of rising prices like corporations have to survive and stay competitive.
This is a big increase. Only working families not on benefits are going to have to find this extra money to subsidise lazy people claiming benefits.
This is a lot of money to pay out when the is is going that way any how! Surely something is better than nothing?
Too expensive
Too large a hike in the price from Sept 2024.
We pay enough already. This is not a privilege!! Do not penalise parents who pay for their child's travel already. The rise is too much.
We should be paying for the national legally required minimum. Anything other than that should be charged at a market rate - i.e. what would it cost to get that child to school on southern vectis?
When you ask do we agree or disagree it is not clear in the response offered disagreement indicates the charge should be more or less than proposed. This is a very large increase. If you needed to make the increase you should have thought of it last year and made an incremental increase. This only represents a 30% reduction of the typical 190 day academic year with two bus rides costing £2 each.

**(Proposal Four – Part 2) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to introduce a parental contribution for exceptions to policy and to increase this contribution in line with inflation (Consumer Price Index (CPI) from September 2025, with inflation-linked increases also being applied in future years?**

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal Five?	Responses	Percentage
Strongly disagree	32	26%
Disagree	17	14%
Neither agree nor disagree	16	13%

Agree	20	16%
Strongly agree	32	26%
Don't know	5	4%



**(Proposal Four – Part 2) If you would like to explain your reasons for any of the answers on this page, please do so below.**

Absolutely extra tax!!! IOW have a surplus of old people yet lack youngsters age 15-19 and below. We are taking our children away asap! As no future no hope here. Good luck! You need it! You are punishing the few staying with children. Schools are far far away / centralised. Then pay a highly priced extra tax. Absolutely not!
Again, people would get this service if they didn't need it, stop making people cough up cash to cover your deficits
All parents should be treated the same on who has to pay. However I do feel the rate should be capped.
Already commented on this matter previously there is no need for a repeat performance.
As above
As before
At present our family pays the entire costs for school transport. It would be fairer to share out the budget to all students at a flat rate so that the parental contribution was the same for everyone.
At these prices it needs to include travel at any time not just school travel.
Crazy amount money
Families are struggling financially and this will add to stress related to the cost of living.
Family are struggling enough with the cost of living going up
how would this encourage more environmentally friendly transport options?
I am unclear on the reasons that the council provide transportation where they are not obliged to do so. Those reasons need to be looked into and if they are deemed to be valid then those families should contribute as per any other policy requirement. Where there is no valid obligation then those family need to make provisions as per any other family.

I feel without knowledge on why the children have these funded places it is difficult to comment. BUt the method of paying a bit more to travel further seems fair and in line with services such as southern vectis
I get the sense behind it but there are parents out there that possibly won't be able to afford what is being proposed. If this leads to increased home-schooling it would be hugely detrimental to the child.
I understand the LA needs to save money, but young people with sen should have the same chances as everyone else. Having a disabled child already costs more for the parents
If it's an exception to policy, the parents should pay.
If parents can afford then yes
If people want to insist on a provision that is an exception to existing policies, they should have to fund that themselves, or alternatively choose a closer school. As a parent whose children attend a school which is not the nearest one to us now - by choice, I accept that I need to pay for that choice (though object to the disproportionate increase currently being proposed.)
If there is no statutory duty to provide assistance for transportation then why should the Council have to foot the bill? The parents should be made to contribute.
If they can afford then yes
Is this for taxis? If so think I agree if these children have been made an exception. Theres no exception for my children if they don't get a spare seat!
It is not the fault of the children or parents that the secondary school system on the iow is woefully inadequate. There is often no choice but to send a child further away to school to ensure they receive the education they are entitled to.
No. These amounts are very high. It must be understood that if a pupil has been offered transport it should be funded. Priority must be given to pupils seeking the correct education. The rural nature of the island cannot be allowed to be a barrier to this. These amounts are not realistic at this time. Hard working families are struggling.
Nothing is free
Parents should contribute to costs
Presumably the exceptions are made on a case by case basis. If exceptions need to be made then the current policy should remain in place. I'd suggest a review of the policy to determine if the parameters that define an exception are still valid.
Ridiculous costs
Same as previous answer
SEND Parents are at a disadvantage financially & in a recession is this fair?ally due to
So overpriced as it is very greedy council as normal
the cost of a weekly, monthly or annual bus pass is not dependent on how far you travel on it, so why should this be?
The government should allocate additional funding to councils for home to school transport rather than piling further financial hardship on to parents trying to give their children an education.
The school contracts with Siuthern Vectis is not git for purpose and doors not run efficiently some buses not full and more buses needed for special needs children. Other options need to be looked at.
This is substantially above the £2 cap implemented by the Government <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap#other-help-with-transport-costs">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap#other-help-with-transport-costs</a> . (about double the £2 cap, based on two trips per day over 190 days)
This should be based on something better than how far a child lives away from the school...I'm sure where this only affects 14 children then the council can cover the costs rather than hitting these poor parents with in some cases over a £1000 bill
Too expensive

Whilst I agree that the parents of the 14 children should be paying for their travel, by my maths these proposed charges even at the highest level wont cover the full £21.5k costs?
Who could afford over £100 per mile ? Outrageous.
Why should a parent pay more if the nearest school is further away than that of another person. I am sure we would all like a school our child can walk to with us if required or without us when older. This is not a fair option. Are you going to build a school within the 5 mile radius of every village on the Island to ensure fairness and access for all?
You haven't explained what the 'exceptional circumstances' might be? So it is hard to pass judgement

**(Proposal Five) – The rewording and updating of the Policy to ensure it reflects the latest Department for Education statutory guidance.**

**If you have any feedback on the changes to the Policy, please explain these here.**

Agree to inclusion of the above sections
Agree to update
Agree with additional clarity
Although some points are good, the majority are not. The policy it not an easy read, it seems to imply that we have access to a lot of regular, reliable public transport services on the Island which we dont. I think the council realise this and because you cant organise them. It also seems everything you have managed to put in place you want to charge us more for. There is nothing in this of benefit to a family who can not, through no fault of their own, have a school within the walking distances set out in the Policy
Always a positive.
Any policy that can be made easier to understand has to be a bonus.
As long as the changes benefit families as opposed to finding loop holes for the council to avoid offering free or low cost transport?
As this service is now back under the management of the Council surely the Council could directly employ drivers to deliver this key service to ensure vulnerable children receive a good education
Bring back Wightbus and have the school runs run directly by the council again
Children to travel on service buses like they did in the past. Probably cheaper.
Clarity is always a good idea!
Home to school transport should be directly delivered through the Council and not via very expensive taxis who then don't work in the evening when needed
I agree a clearer less wordy policy would be massively beneficial We have been extremely confused when choosing a school place that there was no catchment area for school but there is for transport
I feel strongly that school transport is available for children who cannot walk to school or 6th form/college.
I fully understand and accept there needs to be change as the budget is over spent and funding will only become worse. My concern is that SEN children and their families will be hit the hardest when already they are faced with so many challenges just surviving the day. School transport is essential for many and to charge excessive amounts will put many under considerable financial pressures.
I live in Havenstreet, and would be very keen to see ANY kind of buss pass through to enable my children to travel to school on pubic transport.
I see these changes as very positive and will clarify expectations for professionals and the families they support.

I would proceed with caution here. Children & young people with disabilities are entitled to transport by law.
It certainly needs simplifying and made clearer.
It is essential that the obligations of all parties to the agreement are clear and understood.
N
Overall the policy changes seem fair and flexible enough to work for individuals with more complex needs.
SEN should have priority as not all schools are suitable. But we should be in line across the country.
Statutory services should be provided directly by the Council as creates local jobs and service improvements
The policy does not provide sufficient information on the extra details that will be made available. There should be specific templates, processes or procedures accompanying the proposed changes so that it is clear what is being proposed .
The school named in an EHC plan is by definition the most suitable school. Thus transport should always be provided to that school for a child with SEND, regardless of proximity to home. I do not agree that there could be a 'nearer school that can meet needs' that subsequently invalidates the Local Authority's responsibility for transport. I do not agree with including this section 'Parental preference for children with Education, Health and Care Plans' in the policy.
This sounds reasonable. Anything becoming 'easier to understand is desirable.
This would be welcomed.
Try to help out all children
Updating the policy would be good - sharing out the funding more fairly though a personal transport budget for each and every student that needs transport would be better!
Use more minibuses and less expensive taxis reduces no of vehicles overall
Why would this not be the case already?
Yes, laws must be upheld. Faith is a huge issue in terms of primary school transport. The council must gain a better understanding on this topic, appreciating the differences between Catholic and CofE and non faith schools, and create a faith policy at primary school level. For example a Catholic school child may travel from Ventnor, Shanklin or Brading to Ryde for a faith education. There is no transport or funding provided for this child, and no bus service at the Catholic School on East Hill Road in Ryde, just an empty unused bus stop? They are expected to take a public bus at their own cost, with a steep hill walk each way? The public bus times do not match the school start and finish times. There is a lack of early morning services. Also, a child may wish to travel from Brading to Newport for a Catholic Secondary education, again no bus service exists for this rural child, they are expected to use two public buses each way at their own cost or walk? The council must examine the gaps in transport for rural children and better understand faith from preschool to secondary level. All schools must have a bus service that stops outside the school to aid school attendance, travel from other areas and disabled children and parents. Currently only some schools are being provided with local services and school transport services. Please review each schools access to a bus service stopping directly outside, and the bus times offered. Equality amongst schools must be reached. The school transport pick up times are poorly matched with the southern vectis times. There has been an absolute failure to combine these services for rural children. Administration costs must be decreased. Priority must go to the funding of the actual transport for the children that need it. Too many services were cut during covid, cutting school transport should never have been an option. For rural children there must be better access to the best fitting primary and secondary education, considering faith, academic and send needs. IOW has many areas that are in the bottom 5% of the country for deprivation. It has the worst school results in the country. Shockingly bad statistics, which will not be improved by removing services and punishing hard working families with price increases, during a

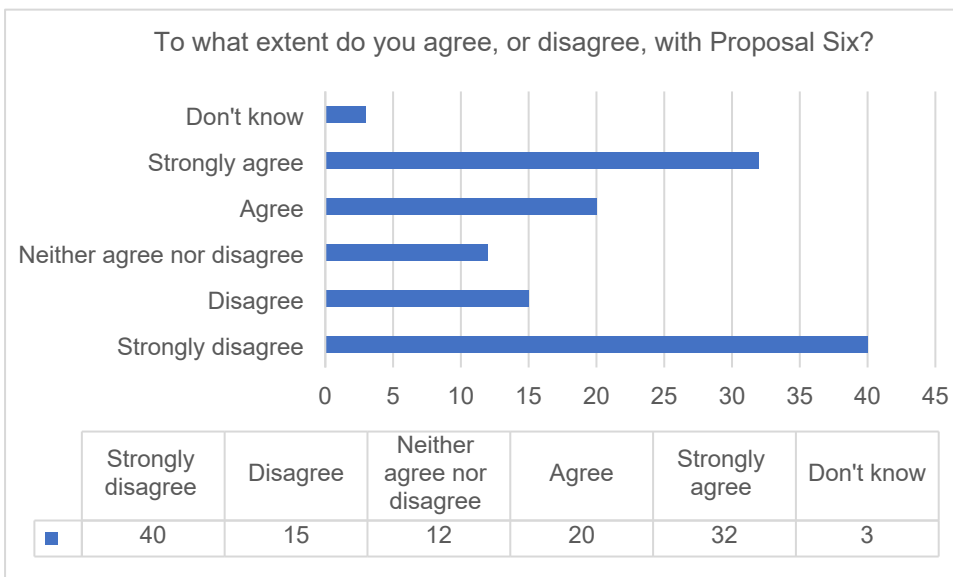
cost of living crisis. The council must support all pupils and families to stay in education. Price increases will cause extreme poverty and non attendance. Now that covid restrictions are over, the council should reinstate full services again and seek to close gaps in the transport network to provide a better service, whilst respecting faith, academic and send needs.

Yes, providing it does not differentiate between the age groups or their backgrounds.

You should be worrying about the children and parents rather than going through paper work. This is about children's education and their already struggling families and that should be the priority here.

**To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal Six: to remove the entitlement for Year 10 and 11 students who move out of the area and wish to remain at their current school?**

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with Proposal Six?	Responses	Percentage
Strongly disagree	40	33%
Disagree	15	12%
Neither agree nor disagree	12	10%
Agree	20	16%
Strongly agree	32	26%
Don't know	3	2%



**If you would like to explain your reasons for any of the answers on this page, please do so below.**

Again attempting to penalise people for their personal circumstances

Again children should be provided with transport to attend school at no cost. It might not be through choice that they have to move especially given the rental market and cost of living crisis. As I mentioned before make the oap bus passes more means tested and allocate the spare money to the children.



Although this is expensive for the council, continuity is very important for children and they shouldn't feel the need to move schools or disrupt their learning because they can't afford to travel to their school.

As a parent I have a right to choose which school to send my children to and I choose to send my children to a faith school which has a catchment area of the whole island. However, this fact that the school has a catchment area of the whole island is ignored by the council who state that because I chose not to send them to their 'local' school I do not qualify for free school transport even though the distance from home means that I would qualify if it was any other school. I am penalized and not given any help to get them to school even though in the case above would I technically qualify for free transport? This is unfair and I feel the example above, allowing other pupils to access free transport is discriminatory against us a faith family.

Charge parents or stop this service

Disruption is a debilitating factor in education. The choice of moving the availability of accommodation is not always within the control parents, particularly those in rented accommodation. It is in the communities interests that schooling is not disrupted in this way. Local schools need to be encouraged to attract students, parents that have moved should be enabled and encouraged to continue to send their child to their chosen school.

Disruption to education in GCSE years . Especially when many are forced out of area by rental crisis

Don't punish the children and their education. Stability at this age is vitally important but if they still live on the island but have moved further away from the school surely they deserve the option to stay in the same school and have available transport.

Excellent idea

I know it's unfortunate but it's far too disruptive for pupils building up to GCSE's. And why discriminate against a particular age range anyway?

I strongly disagree with this as it is a choice people can make. If people choose to move and don't want to fund the ensuing transport cost, then they need to factor that into their decision to move. Either stay where you were living - because you don't want to incur the extra transport costs involved by moving, or move and absorb those costs, as residents have to do with other factors such as commuting for work or leisure.

I think there is a danger that the wholesale removal of entitlement would disproportionately impact families whose financial situation means that they would be unable to support their child in a change of school even if it is in the best interests of the child to move schools.

I think this needs to be addressed on a case by case basis as disruption to a child's education at this age can be detrimental. Of course there are scenarios where families need to move away due to work, health etc... but it shouldn't be assumed that is always the case. Therefore I believe there should be criteria thresholds that should be met before free transport is required.

I think this should be means tested or contribution adjusted. BUT also apply to children in other years who struggle to fit in at school whether that's due to SEND or mental health. Children in 10-11 are not the only ones affected and some schools start GCSE work in year 9 so the effect would be the same

If parents move any further that is their choice generally, therefore it is correct they should cover the increased cost. However there should be some exceptions where evictions, escaping domestic abuse etc to safeguard the child & family & prevent falling into poverty therefore in these circumstances I would object.

If there is a closer school then parents should pay if they choose an alternative school

If they want to go out of their catchment area then yes they should pay. They should be given a place at the closest catchment school.

Impact on education and emotional wellbeing.

In normal society, one cannot deprive one group from another. All need to be educated equally, otherwise society will fail to the detriment of the Country.

<p>Isle of Wight children have enough to contend with in the current education system without being penalised for not wanting to change schools if parents have moved to a different area (whether voluntarily or not).</p>
<p>It depends on whether the move was the parents choice or not - if it was then tough! But if fleeing domestic abuse, moving due to the rental being sold or unsuitable etc then that's different so might need to be discretionary</p>
<p>It is a crucial age for those children in education and they should be supported as much as possible</p>
<p>It's not there fault they have to move</p>
<p>Lots of people cannot find place to live and have to be mobile.  You are AGAIN punishing minors for adults decision / needs.  Vital for children to stay at school where they thrive.  Your proposal is backwards and discriminating against youngsters!  No wonder why so few want to live here unless retired!</p>
<p>Many families have to move for financial or practical reasons beyond their control. Residents in certain areas of Ventnor, for example face an uncertain future. Moving home can be a traumatic enough event for some children without losing the stability and continuity of a familiar place of education and their peer support network. Children should not be penalised for the decision of the parent / carer. And families should not be penalised for events and situations necessitating a move, which are out of their control. Students at TIFS begin their GCSE programme in Y9, so to deny them access to the rest of their programme in Y10 &amp; Y11 would be unfair.</p>
<p>Moving out of the school area is a choice</p>
<p>N</p>
<p>No way.</p>
<p>No. This child may have had to move due to the cost of living crisis or for personal or financial reasons. It is not their decision or their fault. It is hugely important to allow them to continue their education during their exam years. The local school is not always the best fit in terms of faith, academic or send needs. Services to secondary schools must be improved.</p>
<p>Parents make the decision to move they should pay.</p>
<p>People move for many reasons including eviction from rented properties. They do not chose to move out of area. They still need funding.</p>
<p>Personal choice</p>
<p>Should be reviewed on a case by case basis ie what was the reason for the move. Don't have a black&amp;white rule for this.</p>
<p>Since COVID more and more children are missing school therefore all children should be able to get safely to and from a school of their choice</p>
<p>Stability and consistency is key for students especially when studying for qualifications. Disruption is likely to influence results and may impact on IoW statistics.</p>
<p>Support all children and families to attend the school they wish to attend so they can fulfil their full potential &amp; not be concerned with the costs</p>
<p>Surely if it's personal choice to move out for area then it's for them to organize transport?</p>
<p>The entitlement should be removed in line with the DoFE guidance.</p>
<p>There are currently a lack of school places in Year 10 and 11 across the Island. A lot of Secondary Schools refuse to take in Year 10 and 11 due to the difference in GCSE options as well as lack of space in certain GCSE classes, therefore the child would have to remain at their current school in order to carry on with their GCSE's. It doesnt seem fair that although a child has moved out of the area from their current school that they should then have to pay for transport to carry on attending. The whole reason for Year 10 &amp; 11 transport was to support the continuation of learning during the most important time of a child's education. To expect a child to move schools during this time and to then have to</p>

potentially pick completely new GCSE options and then have to catch is going to have a massive detrimental impact on their learning and the outcome of their GCSE results.

This would be disruptive to a child's GCSEs.

This would cause a lot of stress to those families who are already in a highly stressful situation - moving house in a GCSE year is very disruptive. Perhaps if everyone was offered a personal transport budget, this issue would not arise as everyone would be given an allocation to help with their travel to school regardless of whether they moved out of the school's catchment area or not.

Upcoming pressure on school places will be impacted by volatility if pupils are not going to their nearest school. There is also an environmental impact of students travelling unnecessary longer distances.

What if a family have had to move out through no fault of their own and the only property they can find is in another town, the Island has a serious shortage of houses available to rent. Can you ensure they can complete their GCSE's that they have studied for at another school? Or will they be forced to leave as parent cant afford to pay transport costs? At least look at keeping it for Year 11.

**Please describe what, if any, impacts the Policy for School Transport provision on the Island may have on you, people you know, or your organisation, group or business.**

1. Putting too high a price on school transport will encourage people to drive their children to school putting unnecessary pressure on the local road network each child driven to school is FOUR unnecessary journeys per day. This additional road use should be included in any consideration.

2. Pricing-out parents from shared transport will only increase the cost for the remainder and the cost to the council of providing the transport they are required to provide by statute. Surely, it is better to offer a competitive price and since it is a regular service with committed passengers the actual cost should be substantially lower than the ad hoc fare charged to every day passengers for similar routes?

3. The council would do well to rationalise routes, particularly, longer ones, so that children do not spend more than 35 minutes in a bus commuting to school - why does a bus from Ryde/Seaview/StHelens/Bembridge to The Free School have to travel around Ventnor estates already well served by local buses adding an extra 10 minutes to the already very long journey - particularly when no one uses those stops?

A big issue is that parents have to request school transport before they know what school their child will attend. There are also some parents who pay for travel and some who don't depending on the school they chose. This feels unfair. Surely all parents could pay a smaller contribution, fewer cars would be on the road and school buses could be arranged more efficiently.

Add more financial burden on an already stressed out family trying to do their best to support their SEND child.

Additional costs added to council tax in order to subsidise other peoples life choices

As a green island we should be cutting back on school transport, especially on the south of island where we have old pollution coaches and taxis, they should all be Euro 6 emission.

As before, a but through Havenstreet.

As I previously said, I have struggled to keep up with the transport costs for my two children's privilege seats this year. Previously, I was able to take them to and from school six miles away, but due to a change in my work situation, they have needed to avail of the privilege seat scheme this year, which we are very grateful for. My children attend a faith school, they always have since starting school, and this is the basis for them needing to travel for their education, and they should not be penalised financially for that. I accept that it has to be paid for, but strongly object to the rate of increase being proposed at this time of financial pressure from all sides on us consumers and tax payers. Why increase it

now after keeping it static for several years, if not only to increase revenue to fund other things? Why is education taking the hit for other causes to be prioritised? Certain children's education is being penalised in this way and that is unfair.

Child in secondary already. 2 in pre-school so won't benefit or suffer for some time on any changes as the eldest walks. However if we moved school I would accept my responsibility to drop off not expect it to be paid!

Children struggling to get places on the buses

Children with complex health needs do not come in one size fits all, their needs will differ so they need to be treated as individuals. I am hoping the policy updates will be clearer for parents to use. I previously paid for transport for my child for several years because transport couldn't be provided for them by the LA, it's not something I could afford but I was determined they were entitled to an education, a personal transport budget would have helped me at the time. Sharing transport can also cause problems of it's own depending on the behaviour of the young people. My child is a wheelchair user but we live where there is no accessibility so we have no other option but to use taxi's

Cost for families, sudden increases of cost, improvements on extending existing council routes to cover areas which would generating money for the council reducing environment impact and congestion of numerous vehicles going to the same sites, good care provision of firms guaranteed, children travelling for less time and with security and friends

**FAITH:** This is a huge issue. There is no council policy on faith at primary level. This must be reviewed. Pupils of all ages must be able to access education from preschool, to primary, to secondary within their faith. The distinctions between Catholic, CofE and non faith must be better understood and observed. **ACCESS:** School and public bus services that stop directly outside every school, not just chosen schools on selected routes. This is for the benefit of all in particular disabled persons and those with young children. Unused bus stops must be brought into use, if they are located close to a school. Routes must be adjusted to enable school transport. **AVAILABILITY:** School bus and public bus times that match school start and finish times. Increase early morning and afternoon services on public and school buses. Improve combination services. Reinstate removed services during covid. **RURAL ISOLATION:** A better understanding is needed over pupils wishing to access schools, not in their immediate area. Routes must be assessed and improved to permit the best fit in terms of faith, academic and SEND needs. **ADMINISTRATION:** Admin costs should be reduced where possible. Funds must be used to improve services for pupils. Transport should not prevent education.

**FINANCIAL BURDEN:** School transport must be where possible subsidised or kept to a minimum cost, to remove the financial burden on hard working families Greater consideration on the Island's areas of deprivation, poor school results, and the cost of living crisis.

Future plans to close some schools will impact on level of transport needed

Having 2 children of school age (one Primary and one Secondary at present), this policy will have a significant impact on me and my family. If funding was offered at a flat rate to everyone as part of a personal transport budget, it would be a much fairer system. At present I have to find £450 per term (£1350/yr) for one child to attend an allocated high school place (allocated to him by the local authority). Next year this will rise to £900 (2,700/yr) as his brother will be of high school age. However, this will not happen as our family cannot afford this. Instead, we will have to drive our car twice daily, along with the 44 other pupils from our area who are also attending the Free School, to Ventnor from Freshwater and back twice per day. The carbon footprint of this is terrible and contradicts the IWC environmental and sustainability policies. IWC could make a big difference by levelling up the funding and encouraging the use of shared transport.

I am aware it will impact people's finances, ability to work if they have to incorporate taking their child to and from school.

I am concerned about the removal of Free Transport for 4 Year Olds. Although they are not legally school age until the term after their 5th birthday they are still expected to attend

school the term following their 4th birthday. I have a daughter who is not currently school age but we live in the Newchurch Area, as I understand from the current policy my daughter would be entitled to Free Transport to Newchurch Primary as it is her nearest Primary School and it is an unsafe walking route. We are friends with parents who are currently accessing this transport at the moment which is why I am aware of it, however looking at the new policy my daughter would not be eligible for this transport until the term after her 5th birthday which would be the September. We don't have access to a car and there are no buses where we live in Newchurch that we can access so does this mean my daughter is going to have to miss out on an entire year of education due to her not being eligible to access transport even though she will be expected to start school when she is 4? Also will Newchurch Primary keep my daughters school place open for a whole year whilst we wait for school transport to be put in place the term following her 5th birthday? If they aren't going to hold the place open then my daughter could potentially lose a place at her nearest Primary School and then be expected to attend a school that is not her nearest.

I am concerned that my children and those of other parents may struggle to get their children educated at the school of their choice without some sort of council provided/funded travel assistance in place especially given the expense/poor state of public transport on the island. I would extend this particularly to children with special/behavioural needs.

I currently have 2 children of school age that use school transport provision

I feel that changes could adversely affect families who do not live close enough for children to walk to school or have SEND needs. This service is relied on by many families.

I feel that this is not a reflection of how to empower or prioritise children. We have seen other areas in the county removing local transport for children with disabilities & this is unacceptable & unjust.

I have 3 children with ehcp who all attend different schools, 2 use a shared taxi with an escort, and despite the clearly laid out policy every school year I have to fight and get social services involved to get the provision set up again for the following academic year, which transport dept themselves the always leave till the 11th hr before letting us know who the service operator is and the arrangements. I have enough stress and difficulties without a straight forward process being made so difficult

I have a child with severe learning disability who attends St George's. It is not my local school so I need a transport provision that also makes it possible to work rather an assumption that I wish to rely on benefits.

I have children who go to secondary and primary school and we live in a rural area.

I have one child at High School currently and another who will start High School in 2026

I have two children with SEND but transport them at my own cost currently so limited impact on me, but I know some parents who rely on the transport

I need this essential service as a service. Why is the Council using expensive taxis companies rather than internal provision. More taxis or cars on our road networks means more road congestion and pollution.

I was refused home school funding because I moved out of area due to tenancy ending. To change schools every year would be costly to the LEA and very disruptive for the children. About time policies took the needs of the children into account.

I work at a special school where the majority of students benefit from school transport. Some of the changes will cause additional stress to both families and professionals. it may also impact on outcomes and school attendance.

I'm a parent of a year 7 child. This will impact myself and my peers.

If parents drive then they should expect to take the child to school themselves if practical, if not then they should make a contribution to the service. I do not think it is the council's responsibility to pay for transport for a child if the parents move, for example. Funds for this service could be allocated to other sections of people on the Island, i.e. elderly.

If the cost of spare seats increases I will not be able to afford to send my children on the school bus and will be forced to consider them getting the public bus from East Cowes to Newport and walking up to CKC. I'm not happy about this at all, especially in inclement weather, dark winter morning and afternoons and given the crime and general antisocial behaviour in Newport, especially around Church Litten and the bus station. Otherwise I will need to add to the congestion and pollution between East Cowes and Newport twice a day at rush hour by taking them to and from school.

I strongly ask that the council run a public/parent consultation to see if it is feasible to provide paid bus services for all pupils (not running the current spare seat option) for school buses, especially on routes where a 'home to school door' service is not available on public buses eg East Cowes to Christ the King and Carisbrooke college. Schools such as Medina are much more accessible by public bus. The Carisbrooke schools are difficult as buses terminate at the bus station and the service from there to the Carisbrooke schools is very intermittent.

This could mean more pupils paying towards the cost of the bus whilst also allowing as currently for free transport pupils to travel on the bus.

Also please consider allowing sixth form students on the bus services, more income for the council and they can act as a responsible example to other pupils.

Impact on many children & families at school

Improving the value for money positively on my council tax contributions.

It doesn't help many students

It has a terrible impact as the cost of school transportation is a large sum of money that comes from our family earnings

It is key that all vulnerable children are enabled through transport provided by the Council to attend school to receive a quality education programme aligned to their individual needs

It is likely to mean gathering yet more evidence to support entitlement to school transport and further use of the appeal process

It just sounds to me like you want to dissolve and remove all the transport that you currently provide that is essential by pricing it out of parents reach.

It may effect those outlined below most

It will have no direct impact on me, but certainly will have an impact on Island society if the IOW Council discriminates against certain children from certain backgrounds and ages.

It would mean more parents having to sacrifice work to drive children in. More traffic etc!  
It's always been a battle to get a seat and it needs to be safe transport to school. The council  
Need to play a part in this.

Limiting School Transport provision to children of compulsory school age may have significant impact on primary schools which have 4 year old children who are reliant on school transport provision. If they are not entitled to it and parents have no option to get their child to school then they may be kept at home until they reach compulsory school age. This would have a detrimental impact on the child's development and a negative financial impact on school funding.

More council tax I would have to pay to prop up the breeders.

My child has no other way to get to sch as we do not drive. She feels anxious about public transport and we are happy she gets to school safely. We pay for a privilege seat for both our children and wish this service to still be available at a reasonable price.

My child has SEN and is receiving taxi transport (without PA) to and from school. This gives him independence which is vital for his continuing life journey. Also it enable me to work in a school and earn a wage. Without this work I would not be able to provide all the other things he needs

My child takes assisted transport (Southern Vectis) to their SEND placement school.

my child who is autistic & non-verbal did not qualify for transport as we are just below the required distance. This has forced us to reduce our hours of work - to pick her up.

My children are just about to go to high school so will probably have to get a bus to school. Whilst I am not struggling financially I imagine a lot of people are. I strongly believe that you should not have to pay for a basic education, transport to the school included. It is not fair to say it's compulsory to go to school and then that you have to pay to do so. I think that to get more money in the council ( or government) should change the council tax system - it is ridiculous that you pay £200 for a large house in ventnor but only £30 for the same house in niton. I read that in wales they are rectifying their system- this is better 'levelling up' strategy and would ensure that people with bigger houses are paying their fair share- I dare say they can afford it. Also review giving oap 'a bus passes when again many of them have loads of money- my parents are eligible but have no need for it. I had an 'islander card' when I was young which allowed me to travel free on a bus after 6pm as a teenager, this was invaluable to me and allowed me to see my friends, I think given the mental health crisis our youth are experiencing something like that would actually really help- they could see their peers and socialise more.

My children both have transport as their schools are in two seperate areas and they both attend specialist provision.

I personally think you should look at the amount of mileage you are paying parents to take their children to school, when they could easily use transport that has been made available to them for this purpose, many of these parents claiming mileage have mobility cars for their children, which any repairs etc are covered by the mobility scheme.

My daughter gets a school minibus provided by the council. Without this she wouldn't go to school. I have carers in the morning who don't drive and she is not able to walk safely to school bus stop. She also has ADHD/ASD and has no idea about time. I would not be able to take her to the bus stop myself.

Need to consider potential future school closures and impact this may have on future school transport provision requirements

No current impact based on these changes

No impacts on myself personally, only the people I represent as a councillor

None apart from hopefully saving the Council money.

None other than as a Council Tax Payer, resident of this Island and as a caring human being.

None.

On an island with quite a poor public transport system, the council need to be helping children get to their desired school.

Parent of a child with additional needs. The changes proposed which include additional charges will be worrying for some.

Positively impact children we know with SEN. Negatively impact children in isolated areas of the island with regards to supporting Y10 & 11 in change of schools, due to necessary relocations. Negatively impact students at TIFS who start GCSE programme in Y9. Negatively impact low income households who would not be able to afford new transport costs to child's current school.

School budgets are largely determined by a PAN and primary schools that survive this year's cuts will be hoping to attract new pupils in order to increase that PAN and make their future more secure. If these proposals do anything to deter new arrivals in a particular school they would be hugely detrimental.

SEND children should be priority to receive support to regularly attend school. Currently too much home schooling in place

Should be fairer fir everyone

St George's school transport for students with SEND.

Stop discriminating children.  
Let them have access to schools.  
So few to choose from.

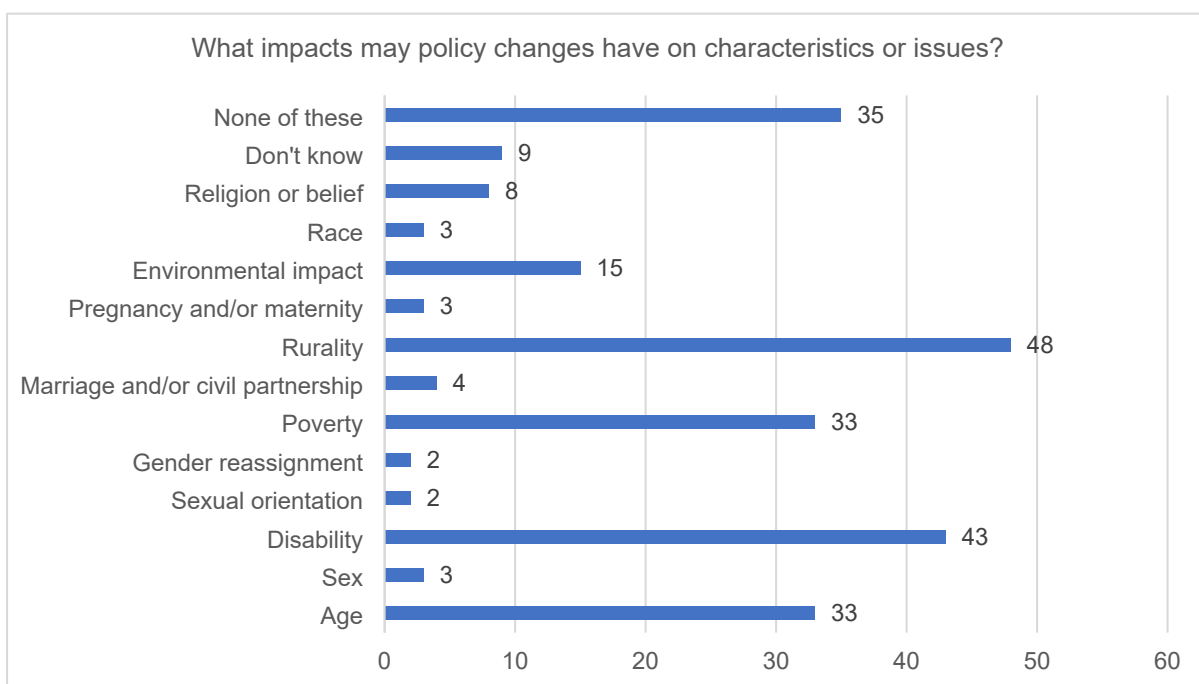
<p>Many have been below standard / Ofsted so no wonder why parents chose schools far away. If all your schools were good then less transport time. Many issues with schools. Standard seems to have gone a bit up in general. YET according to article I beleive 2023 or 2022 loW ranked the absolute worst place in the UK for school! Reflect on your own policies before punishing the few of us who remain with children here. I personally cannot wait to leave this backward thinking island with my children.</p>
<p>The Policy for School Transport should remain as is. None of the proposals benefits users. Stop penalizing parents of Children with Special Needs.</p>
<p>The Southern Vectis school unit is run by a pair of clowns who haven't got a clue what they are doing and costing the IW Council thousands plus most school buses are running around half or quarter full which is wasting taxpayers money</p>
<p>The transport policy says 5-16 but we live in Chale and my youngest starts school September, Will I not get transport because they are 4? Does the school hold the place until they turn 5 and can access transport?</p>
<p>There may be families at our setting who may need to use the school transport system in the future.</p>
<p>Those living in rural areas have less transport options and the school transport provision should encourage bus travel where possible. Parents taking children to school in private vehicles creates congestion.</p>
<p>Too much money being spent on taxis clogging up roads and damaging the environment. Surely the council could lease electric minibuses and then employ drivers themselves to take our children to school.</p>
<p>Travel training is a welcome addition and could reasonably help reduce costs while providing a lifelong benefit to young people with SEND.</p>
<p>Denying transport to schools named in EHC plans should not be policy, given the named schools have been judged to provide the best outcome for the children concerned. It seems very unlikely that there are nearer alternatives that are equally suitable; for why would a parent object to a nearer placement being named in the plan, if it was truly suitable? Such a policy risks further disadvantaging and marginalising families who are already struggling on many fronts.</p>
<p>Vulnerable children should receive support to travel to school to enable parents to work and contribute to society. Risk of more vehicles on road.</p>
<p>Vulnerable children should receive transport</p>
<p>Why would you review a policy prior to key decisions on school closures? Surely this needs to be done once school provision is agreed upon</p>

**Please indicate below if the impacts you have mentioned above relate to any of the following characteristics or issues:**

Changes to policy impacting on characteristics or issues:	Responses	Percentage
Age	33	14%
Sex	3	1%
Disability	43	18%
Sexual orientation	2	1%
Gender reassignment	2	1%
Poverty	33	14%
Marriage and/or civil partnership	4	2%



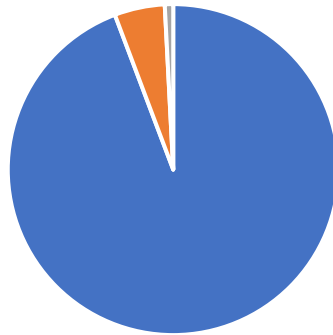
Rurality	48	20%
Pregnancy and/or maternity	3	1%
Environmental impact	15	6%
Race	3	1%
Religion or belief	8	3%
Don't know	9	4%
None of these	35	15%



**Is this a personal response, or are you responding on behalf of an organisation, group or business or as a democratically Elected Representative?**

Personal, organisation or democratically Elected Rep	Responses	Percentage
Individual	115	94%
Elected Representative	6	5%
Organisation, group or business	1	1%

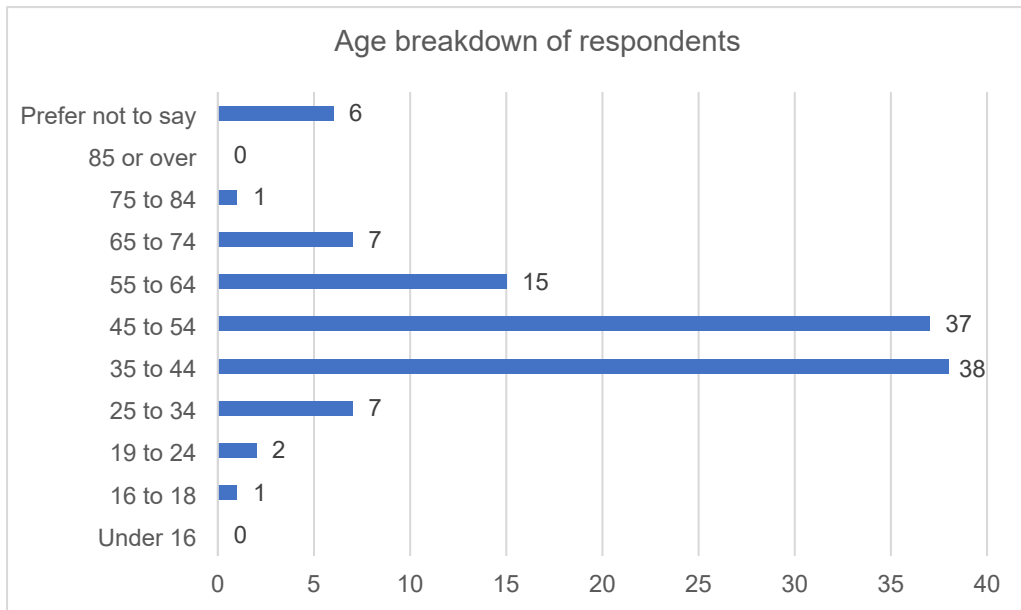
Personal response, organisation, group or business or as a democratically Elected Representative



■ Individual ■ Elected Representative ■ Organisation, group or business

### What was your age on your last birthday?

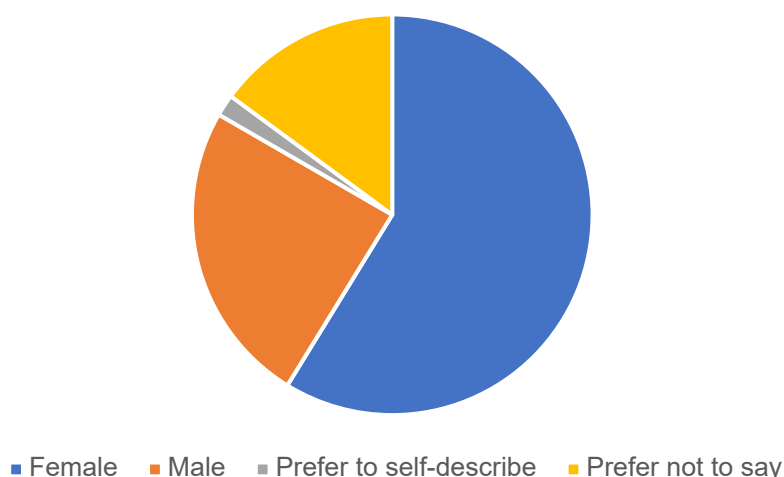
Age breakdown	Responses	Percentage
Under 16	0	0%
16 to 18	1	1%
19 to 24	2	2%
25 to 34	7	6%
35 to 44	38	33%
45 to 54	37	32%
55 to 64	15	13%
65 to 74	7	6%
75 to 84	1	1%
85 or over	0	0%
Prefer not to say	6	5%



### Which of the following best describes your gender?

Gender identification breakdown	Responses	Percentage
Female	67	59%
Male	28	25%
Prefer to self-describe	2	2%
Prefer not to say	17	15%

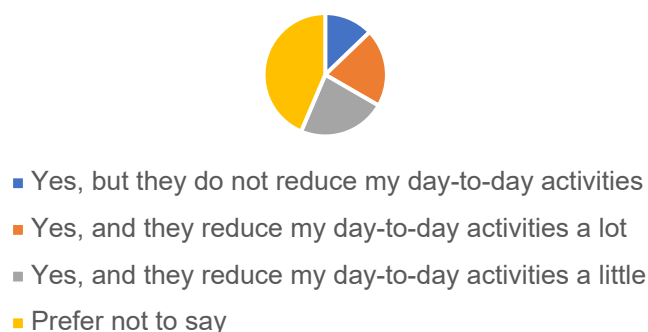
Gender identification breakdown of respondents



**Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?**

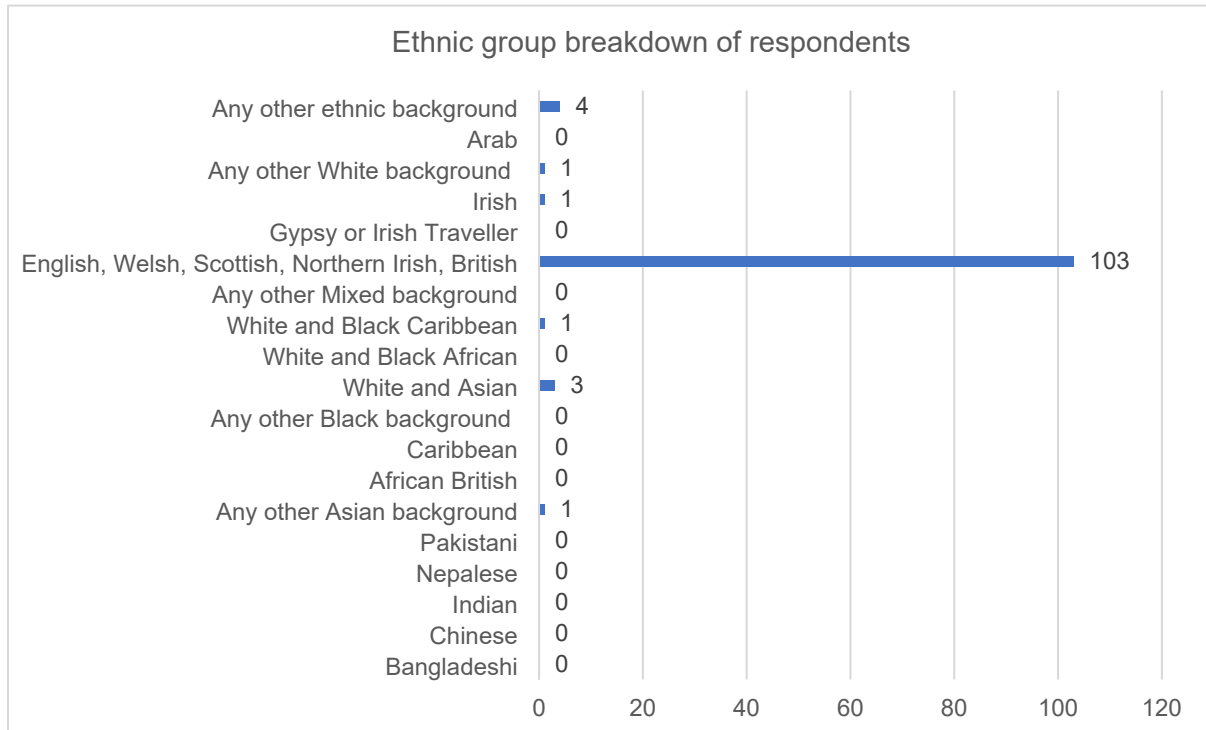
Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?	Responses	Percentage
Yes, but they do not reduce my day-to-day activities	5	4%
Yes, and they reduce my day-to-day activities a lot	8	7%
Yes, and they reduce my day-to-day activities a little	9	8%
Prefer not to say	17	15%
No	75	66%

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?



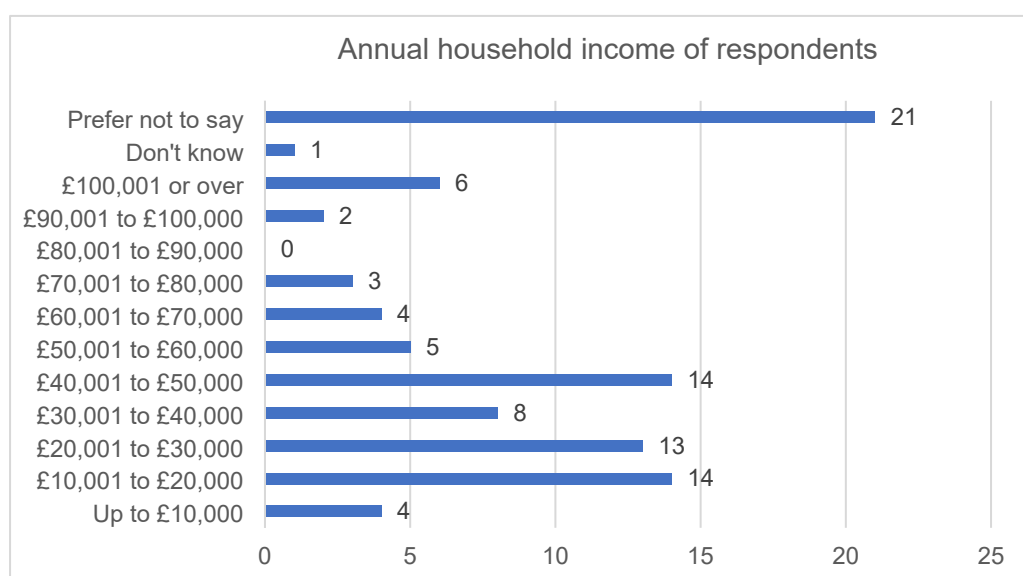
## What is your ethnic group?

What is your ethnic group?	Responses	Percentage
Bangladeshi	0	0%
Chinese	0	0%
Indian	0	0%
Nepalese	0	0%
Pakistani	0	0%
Any other Asian background	1	0.9%
African British	0	0%
Caribbean	0	0%
Any other Black background	0	0%
White and Asian	3	2.6%
White and Black African	0	0%
White and Black Caribbean	1	0.9%
Any other Mixed background	0	0%
English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British	103	90%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0%
Irish	1	0.9%
Any other White background	1	0.9%
Arab	0	0%
Any other ethnic background	4	3.5%



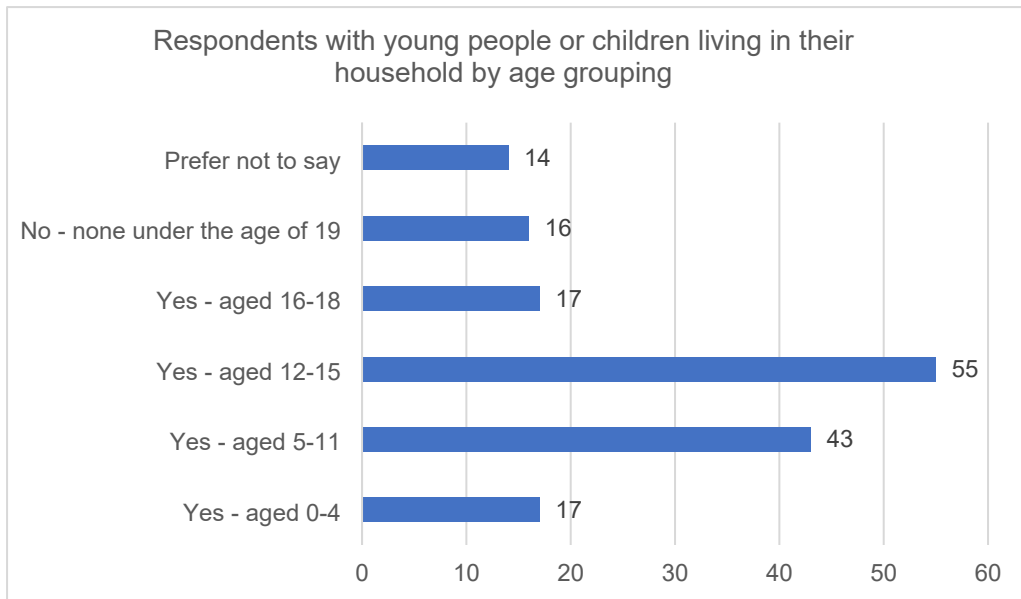
## What is your total annual household income, from all sources, before tax and other deductions?

What is your total annual household income, from all sources, before tax and other deductions?	Responses	Percentage
Up to £10,000	4	4%
£10,001 to £20,000	14	15%
£20,001 to £30,000	13	14%
£30,001 to £40,000	8	8%
£40,001 to £50,000	14	15%
£50,001 to £60,000	5	5%
£60,001 to £70,000	4	4%
£70,001 to £80,000	3	3%
£80,001 to £90,000	0	0%
£90,001 to £100,000	2	2%
£100,001 or over	6	6%
Don't know	1	1%
Prefer not to say	21	22%



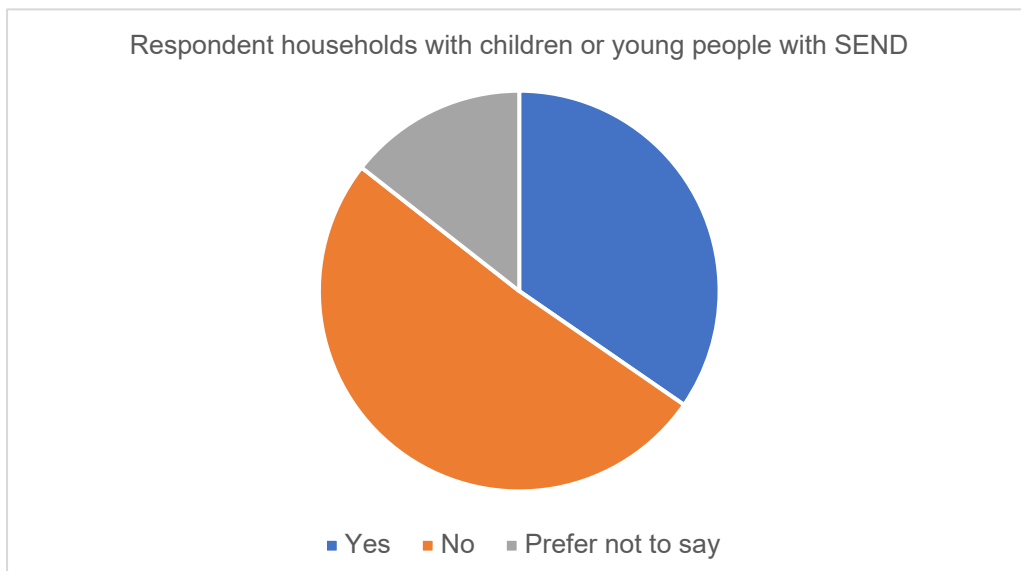
## Are there any children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household (including yourself)?

Are there any children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household (including yourself)?	Responses	Percentage
Yes - aged 0-4	17	10%
Yes - aged 5-11	43	27%
Yes - aged 12-15	55	34%
Yes - aged 16-18	17	10%
No - none under the age of 19	16	10%
Prefer not to say	14	9%



**Do any of the children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)?**

Do any of the children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)?	Responses	Percentage
Yes	36	35%
No	53	51%
Prefer not to say	15	14%



**Do any of the children or young people under the age of 19 living in your household currently receive School or Post-16 Transport provided by the Isle of Wight Council?**

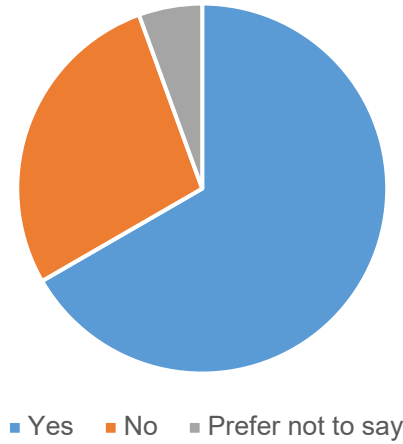
Transport provided by the Isle of Wight Council?	Responses	Percentage
Yes	24	67%
No	10	28%

Prefer not to say

2

6%

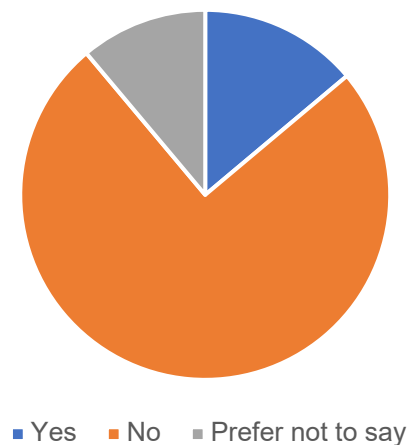
Isle of Wight Council provides transport to children or young people within respondent households



### Do you currently pay a contribution towards the School Transport provided by The Isle of Wight Council?

Do you currently pay a contribution towards the School Transport provided by The Isle of Wight Council?	Responses	Percentage
Yes	5	14%
No	27	75%
Prefer not to say	4	11%

Respondents whose households pay a contribution towards school transport provided by the local authority





**Does the School Transport support you currently receive from The Isle of Wight Council include any of the following?**

Does the School Transport support you currently receive from The Isle of Wight Council include any of the following?	Responses	Percentage
A mileage allowance for you to take the child or young person to school;	5	15%
A Passenger Assistant / School Escort on the transport;	12	35%
Neither of these;	15	44%
Not sure;	2	6%

