

# **County Council**

## **Tuesday, 8 July 2025**

### **ADDENDA**

#### **17. Motion from Councillor Liz Brighthouse (Pages 1 - 2)**

The Children's Society notes that transport poverty exacerbates other inequalities, with children from low-income families potentially missing out on school trips, extracurricular activities, or suffering poor school attendance. A 2025 report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies similarly identified that young people's mobility is closely tied to long-term social and economic outcomes.

This Council, being aware of the levels of child poverty in this county and the effect this has on the ability of families and young people to travel by public transport, asks the Cabinet to set up a Cabinet Advisory Group to consider a scheme to provide free or significantly reduced bus travel for children and young people up to age of 18.

Such a scheme could be funded from fines from ANPR enforcement and would enable children and young people to get to school and college settings by enabling bus companies to develop routes to school that better meet the travel needs of families and children.

This Council notes West of England Mayor Helen Goodwin has funded free travel for children up to 16 this summer.

*Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.*

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# Agenda Item 17

## Amendment from Councillor Levy

“The Children’s Society notes that transport poverty exacerbates other inequalities, and a 2025 report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies identified that young people’s mobility is closely tied to long-term social and economic outcomes.

The Council notes that it is working with bus companies to improve services in Oxfordshire and thanks them for their support for its schemes to make bus services more reliable, quicker and more extensive. It would welcome the opportunity to make services more accessible to young people and others.

This Council notes that there are many transport disadvantaged groups who could significantly benefit from targeted support with public transport, such as those under 18, care leavers and asylum seekers.

This Council asks the Cabinet to consider a scheme for the whole county to provide free or significantly reduced bus travel for children and young people up to the age of 18 where the money for such scheme would require substantial funding to be viable and longterm and that this will require funding from central government in addition to Oxfordshire making a contribution were a Workplace Parking Levy to be introduced.”

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