

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Question to Philip Atkins OBE  
Leader of the Council**

**By Kyle Robinson**

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**Question**

The decision to scrap the 'Your Staffordshire Card' scheme will have an adverse effect on the ability of Staffordshire's young people to access education, training and work. It will also put more pressure on hardworking parents and carers to plan extra journeys, putting more cars on Staffordshire's busy roads. Can the Leader give details of conversations the council has had with private bus operators to provide schemes with similar benefits to the 'Your Staffordshire Card'?

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**Reply**

The Your Staffordshire Card (YSC) is a non-statutory service that was introduced by the current administration some 7 years ago to encourage use of public transport and to demonstrate to bus operators the advantages of similar products.

The number of YSC holders and the number of bus journeys undertaken by pass holders has seen a significant decline in recent years, and this decline in usage is possibly due to the growth of commercial bus fare products from some operators that offer better value for money, and it is right that non-statutory services such as the YSC are kept under review to ensure that they offer value for money for the Staffordshire tax payer.

I am aware that on some routes, it is likely that the existence of the Your Staffordshire Card has influenced and impacted on available commercial products across Staffordshire. This has been raised with all the main bus operators in Staffordshire and they have agreed to review their available commercial products prior to the YSC scheme ending this summer.