

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10 OCTOBER 2019

**Question to Helen Fisher
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

By Charlotte Atkins

Question

What student discount travel schemes now operate within Staffordshire? Which companies operate them and which routes are covered? How do the discounts compare to the discontinued Your Staffordshire Card Scheme? Are there any districts / boroughs within Staffordshire where no concessionary travel schemes operate for young people?

Reply

There are 18 bus companies that operate in Staffordshire and they all operate their own commercial fare structures. In general, they all offer discounts for regular bus users of all age groups.

85% of Staffordshire bus journeys are taken on bus routes operated by Arriva, First, Midland Classic, or D&G buses. Each one of these companies have their own student discount schemes for regular users.

As members will recall the Your Staffordshire Card scheme was brought in to encourage bus companies to bring their own schemes forward and to encourage young people to use public transport. It was ended as pass holder numbers and YSC bus trips had been in a terminal decline for several years. The available evidence suggested that this was due to young people voting with their feet and switching to alternative, better value, commercial products offered by the bus companies that were right for them in their area.

I am not aware of any areas of Staffordshire where buses are operated which don't have some form of commercial discount fare structure for regular bus users.