

Date: 19/10/2022
Please contact: Transport Team

E-Mail: edtransport@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



**People Directorate
New Shire Hall,
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Alconbury Weald,
PE28 4YE**

Dear Parents / Carers

You may be aware that Stagecoach have announced their intention to withdraw a number of bus services from key routes from 30 October 2022. These routes are included as an appendix at the end of this letter. Public transport services are the responsibility of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). The CPCA is working to address the situation through tendering for other operators to cover the routes listed in the appendix.

Following the contract standstill period, the outcomes of the current tendering process will be published on or soon after the 24 October on the CPCA website at the below link.

[News - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority \(cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

We are aware from a statement, at the following link, released by the CPCA late yesterday, that the Combined Authority has found bus operators to continue the majority of the routes:

[Combined Authority Board to hear outcomes of tendering process for withdrawn bus services - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority \(cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

However, a small number of routes have not yet been matched with a new operator and although work is continuing to find a replacement, they may not be in place from October 30 when Stagecoach withdraws. This also means there will unfortunately be insufficient time for the County Council's transport team to launch, evaluate and award its own tenders in time for when students return to schools and colleges after the half-term break.

As a result, if after 31 October the public bus route your child currently uses (with a pass provided by the County Council) is either unavailable or not scheduled to run at times compatible with the start and end of their school/college day, **you will need to make temporary arrangements for them to get to and from school/college until the County Council is able to make new transport provision.** Whilst the team will urgently prioritise this procurement, this could take up to 4 weeks.

For students who are affected as above by a route not running and who are entitled to transport assistance under the County Council's Transport policy, **a mileage allowance will be payable to cover your temporary arrangement at a rate of 40p per mile for 4 single journeys a day (Home to school and return at the beginning and end of the school day).**

Parents should keep a record of the journeys undertaken and email the Social Education Transport Team (SETT) for a mileage allowance refund form at edtransport@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. Please clearly mark in the

subject box of your email **Public Bus Network – Temporary mileage allowance claim** to allow us to prioritise these requests.

For those pupils and students who are not entitled to free or subsidised transport assistance via the County Council, we will endeavour to replicate services whereby students will be able to pay to travel to access their provision. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee how soon these services will be available. Families should, therefore, be prepared to make interim transport arrangements for these young people. We are extremely mindful that many families rely on the public bus network to access both statutory school age provision and also Post 16 education. We are working closely with the Combined Authority to ensure that future planning is in place to reduce the risk of these circumstances reoccurring.

The County Council is deeply disappointed with the decision by Stagecoach to withdraw these services, and apologise for the disruption it will inevitably cause. However, because public transport is the responsibility of the Combined Authority, you will appreciate there is little we can do until new tenders for the withdrawn routes have been finalised.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'fap'.

Assistant Director: Education Capital and Place Planning