

Cabinet Response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board – Torbay Inclusion Strategy

The Board on 12 February 2025 made the recommendation that Cabinet be recommended to approve the draft Inclusion Strategy for Torbay for 2025-2030 subject to the following:

Recommendation 1:

Consider how the MyBay benefits can be expanded to help young Carers who do not drive, for example a free bus pass.

Response/Update:

Officers have been tasked to approach Stagecoach to see if they would offer a discount for MyBay holders but that would likely be on longer term tickets options, perhaps matching a corporate offer they have for businesses and may not be best suited to young carers.

In considering this recommendation Officers have cross-referenced our young carer cohort with those who receive a school bus pass, allowing travel throughout the week. We have 348 open young carers aged 11-18, but only 5 young carers receive a bus pass via Home to School Transport.

Officers have previously discussed discounts with Stagecoach, but they did not agree to any fare reductions. For example, they wouldn't change the home to school transport bus pass cost when we requested a reduced price for a 5-day pass. For travel training, they offered 6 bus tickets for the price of 5, potentially saving £23 per ticket, but this required purchasing 6 at a time, which was not viable for the Council.

Considering the cost of a bus pass in the next financial year, the new price for a home to school bus pass, usable 7 days a week, is £936 per year. If we were to award the remaining 343 young carers aged 11 and over a bus pass, it would cost £321,048 per year. We also cover transport costs for young carers attending the Orchard Forest School sessions, which amounts to approximately £5,000 per year.

Recommendation 2:

Request that the Director of Adult Services to liaise with the local cemeteries providers to see how they have considered providing suitable provisions for all religious communities.

Response/Update:

Officers have been in discussions with the Westerleigh Group, who manage Torbay Cemeteries. They have indicated that suitable provision for all religious communities is linked to a wider issue with the availability of burial space in Torbay. Officers are working with the Westerleigh Group to address the issue and have included space for all religious communities as a key consideration. The issue has also been raised with Officers leading the review of the Local Plan for consideration as part of that process.