

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

TITLE:*	Discretionary Transport Charges Increase																																															
Decision Taken By:	<i>Rachel Hill – Strategic Director for Economy & Infrastructure</i>																																															
Cabinet Member	<i>Karl Perks</i>																																															
Decision Made*	<i>Approval to increase the cost of the Severncard and Vacant Seat Pass prices for the start of the Academic year September 2026 and use the Retail Price Index (RPI) rate for future annual price increase.</i>																																															
Is this Report Exempt as per Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	NO																																															
Decision taken under the following delegation:	<i>The decision is an operational decision and is already covered under the Home to School Transport Policy</i>																																															
Division(s) Affected	All																																															
Date of Decision*	3 March 2026																																															
Summary of Decision*	<p>To increase the price of the Severncard student pass and the Vacant seat charge and Post 16 contribution by 40% for the start of the Academic year September 2026. Below Table outlines the change</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Severncard</th> <th>Current</th> <th>New</th> <th>Current</th> <th>New</th> <th>Current</th> <th>New</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Pass term</th> <th>Zone 1</th> <th>Zone 1</th> <th>Zone 2</th> <th>Zone 2</th> <th>Zone 3</th> <th>Zone 3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>£310</td> <td>£434</td> <td>£495</td> <td>£693</td> <td>£600</td> <td>£840</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Termly</td> <td>£110</td> <td>£154</td> <td>£175</td> <td>£245</td> <td>£210</td> <td>£294</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Half termly</td> <td>£60</td> <td>£84</td> <td>£95</td> <td>£133</td> <td>£110</td> <td>£154</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Debit</td> <td>£37</td> <td>£52</td> <td>£58</td> <td>£81</td> <td>£70</td> <td>£98</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Severncard	Current	New	Current	New	Current	New	Pass term	Zone 1	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 3	Annual	£310	£434	£495	£693	£600	£840	Termly	£110	£154	£175	£245	£210	£294	Half termly	£60	£84	£95	£133	£110	£154	Direct Debit	£37	£52	£58	£81	£70	£98
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<p>Reason(s) For Decision*</p>	<p data-bbox="539 689 1461 925"><i>The Home to School Transport (HTST) budget has faced sustained pressure in recent years, driven by rising demand and increasing unit costs. By contrast, charges for the Severn Card and vacant seats have only risen marginally, widening the gap between the cost of provision and the funding available. As a result, Worcestershire now lags behind neighbouring authorities in recovering transport costs for non-eligible pupils. See table:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="539 954 903 1149"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Warwickshire</td> <td>£930</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Herefordshire</td> <td>£1,030</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gloucestershire</td> <td>£950</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shropshire</td> <td>£1,140</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Warwickshire	£930	Herefordshire	£1,030	Gloucestershire	£950	Shropshire	£1,140							
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<p>Alternative Options Considered and Rejected</p>	<p data-bbox="539 1283 1445 1384"><i>Holding current prices was considered and rejected, as this would simply widen the gap between the cost of delivering transport and the recouped income.</i></p>															
<p>Summary of any financial implications</p>	<p data-bbox="539 1435 1437 1503"><i>Increasing the cost of the pass would result in circa £400K additional income towards the provision of HTST</i></p>															
<p>Summary of any legal implications</p>	<p data-bbox="539 1570 1382 1637"><i>This fall under the general provision of charging for discretionary services under s93 Local Government Act 2003</i></p> <ul data-bbox="587 1659 1469 2029" style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• a Local Authority may charge for a service for which there is no duty to supply;</i> <i>• that the person being charged agrees.</i> <i>• that, taking one financial year with another, the income from charges under that subsection does not exceed the costs of provision.</i> <i>• the duty to calculate that charge applies separately in relation to each kind of service.</i> <i>• the Local Authority may, if it so wishes, charge only some persons for providing a service and charge different persons different amounts for the provision of a service.</i> 															

Consultation process and results	<i>Consultation is not required because the seat price increase results from market-driven cost changes beyond the Local Authority's control, rather than a discretionary decision between different options or a reduction in service.</i>
Equality duty Implications	<i>A Joint Impact Assessment has been completed and approved, and Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.</i>
Social Value Implications	<i>None</i>
Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted*	<i>None</i>
Background documents*	<i>Joint Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment attached</i>
Signature	
Reference/Date Published	03 – 16/03/2026
Monitoring Officer Review needed	Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

*Legal Requirement