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Dirprwy Brif Weithredwr
Deputy Chief Executive

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful
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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Croesawn alwadau yn y Gymraeg
We welcome calls in Welsh

Dyddiad/Date: 19th January 2018

Ein Cyf./Our ref:
Eich Cyf./Your ref:

Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:
Llinell Uniongyrchol/Direct Line:
e-bost/e-mail:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Post 16 Transport Provision to College/School

Public Consultation.

On the 13th December 2017 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council approved a recommendation to carry out a public consultation exercise on possible changes to the provision of free transport for Post 16 learners in Merthyr Tydfil with a view to exploring potential efficiency savings. The consultation will run for 12 weeks from Monday 22nd January 2018 to Monday 16th April 2018.

Why do we need to make efficiency savings?

As a result of ongoing austerity measures the Council has seen a reduction in its core budget for 2018/19 with further cuts expected in the coming years.

Why are we looking at Post 16 Transport?

The provision of free post 16 transport is a discretionary service that the Council is not legally required to provide.

The Council currently provides free transport to post 16 pupils attending the following colleges/schools;

Coleg Y Cymoedd (Aberdare, Ystrad Mynach and Nantgarw), Bridgend College, The College Merthyr Tydfil, Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun, Lewis School Pengam, Lewis Girls Comprehensive School, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, St John's Baptist Church in Wales and Cardinal Newman Roman Catholic School.

The cost of this service is approximately £189,751.

We are considering options to reduce these costs of providing post 16 transport and would like your views on the ways in which this could be done and what the impact might be.

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi. Rhowch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to a delay. Let us know your language choice if Welsh or bilingual.

In considering making any changes it is paramount that we seek the views of pupils, parents/carers, schools/colleges, Merthyr Tydfil residents and other key stakeholders on any proposed changes and also to seek any alternative proposals which have not yet been considered.

All stakeholders will be able to contribute to the consultation online via the CwmTaf Consultation hub at www.cwmtafhub.co.uk and www.merthyr.gov.uk. Alternatively paper copies of the consultation can be obtained from corporatcommunications@merthyr.gov.uk

A number of drop-in sessions will also be run in conjunction to the online consultation and these will take place at the following venues:

The College, Merthyr Tydfil on Wednesday 31st January from 4pm – 7pm.

Bedlinog RFC on Wednesday 28th February from 4pm – 7pm.

Theatre Soar on Thursday 15th March from 4pm – 7pm.

Secondary schools will also be asked to contribute the view of pupils via their school councils or other appropriate forums and the Council will liaise directly with schools regarding this.

Following completion of the consultation exercise a report will be presented to the Council who will determine if there are to be any proposed changes in the provision of this service.

A copy of the final consultation report will also be made publicly available.

Yours sincerely

Alyn Owen
Chief Officer Community Regeneration

Sue Walker
Chief Officer Learning

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