

Essex County Council
Commercial STC
Passenger Transport
County Hall
CHELMSFORD
Essex CM1 1QH

Dear Sirs

Re: Commercial fares for bus services to the Joyce Frankland and Saffron Walden County High Schools from September 2017.

From September 2016 a number of bus services serving the Joyce Frankland and Saffron Walden County Higher schools that had been run under contract to Essex County Council were taken over commercially by Stephenson's of Essex. These include the following services:

Bus Services 413, 414, 417, 418, 419, 438, 441, 446, 451 and 453

As part of this process, the operator, Stephenson's of Essex, increased the bus fares to a commercial rate, which was significantly higher than the rate charged by the County Council.

To help families manage the increase in fares, the County Council agreed a transitional arrangement whereby the County Council funded half of the cost of the increase in fares for the first year. This arrangement ceases for journeys being undertaken from September 2017 onwards and the full commercial fare will apply.

Students entitled to free transport will continue to have this funded by the Council and there will be no changes to these arrangements. Letters to confirm arrangements from September will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Having contacted Stephenson's we understand that the annual fares from September 2017 will be as follows;

If paying by direct debit:

- Local Zone £775,
- Zone A £875,
- Zone B £975.

If paying on a three termly basis:

- Local Zone £790,
- Zone A £890,
- Zone B £990

If paying on a daily basis. There is some variance but the day ticket prices are likely to be:

- Local zone £4.60,
- Zone A £5.20,
- Zone B £5.80

However potential purchasers are strongly advised to check the Stephenson of Essex web site at: <http://www.stephensonsofessex.com> to check on fare prices.

The following services are still operated under contract to Essex County Council, but under a nett cost arrangement, whereby the operators keep and set the fare: Bus Services 301, 313 & 6.

These services were not included in the original transition arrangements and are currently charging commercial level fares. However potential customers are also strongly advised to check Stephenson of Essex website for the latest fare information.

Yours sincerely

Passenger Transport Team.

Please reply to:	Passenger Transport
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