

Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee – 9 November 2023

Agenda Item 4 – Public Questions

1. How are climate change and air quality impacts taken into account in the development and implementation of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy?

- Heather Haydock

2. As a Young Expert Citizen appointed by the Centre for Education and Youth, I have conducted research into the issues facing young people who use wheelchairs when using public transport travelling to school and college in Buckinghamshire. This area of study is close to me personally, having experienced issues with getting on and off the bus with my wheelchair when travelling to college in Buckinghamshire. The findings of my research found:

- There is a lack of training for bus drivers in how to assist passengers, given the wide variety of different types of wheelchairs, when getting on and off the bus for school and college. Currently bus drivers struggle to assist wheelchair users through lack of knowledge on how to operate different types of wheelchairs.
- There is no mechanism to warn bus drivers of a change to a regular users' wheelchairs and how this change requires a different approach to assisting the user getting on and off the bus.

My recommendations, based on these findings, are the requirement for more wheelchair training for bus drivers and a new mechanism for regular passengers travelling to school and college, who use wheelchairs, to notify bus drivers of a change to their wheelchair and how the new wheelchair operates. How can the council address the findings from my research?

- A Young Expert Citizen appointed by the Centre for Education and Youth