

Smarter Bus Travel in East Lothian

East Lothian Council is using the Young Scot National Entitlement Card (NEC) to deliver smart school travel across the region. Saving both time and money.

East Lothian Council provides free school transport for pupils who live more than two miles away from their local primary or secondary school.

Working in partnership with the local bus companies and Transport Scotland, East Lothian Council have moved from paper 'show and go' to SMART ticketing using the Young Scot NEC.

The Objectives

- » Improve the process of distributing and handling concessionary school transport for everyone involved
- » Save money on unused tickets
- » Provide support to pupils without stigmatization.

The tickets are managed by East Lothian Council through the Ticketer web-portal. This allows different tickets to be created per route or for different purposes using ITSO numbers on the Young Scot NEC.

For eligible school pupils, a 190-day school day only pass, operating between the hours of 0730 – 1700, is provided on every Young Scot NEC.

Around 1200 pupils across East Lothian are using the system for concessionary school travel.

Monthly updates from Transport Scotland mean that the team can monitor and remove cards that are no longer entitled.

If pupils are not entitled to free transport, Prentice Coaches and Eve Coaches offer a smartcard tickets, used by pupils living outside of the entitlement areas.



The Impact

Monthly spreadsheets are provided via the Transport Scotland HOPS and are matched to operator invoices.

By reducing the number of pre-paid for 'paper tickets' East Lothian Council has saved money. With school non-attendance in East Lothian at 9%, the Council saves at least £50K over the course of the school year. This is before un used tickets due to parental pickups or after school activity are considered.

The system is also used to allow pupils to attend vocational courses reducing the need for taxis and minibuses, saving East Lothian Council further money.

An added benefit is quicker and safer boarding for pupils as they no longer rush to show their tickets. It also embeds the use of a Smart card technology in the community for the future.

Conclusion

East Lothian Council's use of the Young Scot NEC for NEC fits into the Transport Scotland smartcard project and creates new opportunities for future projects aimed at tackling inequality and boosting attainment.

With over 670,000 Young Scot NEC across Scotland and a nationwide smart travel network, the Young Scot smart NEC is a great option for Local Authorities looking to manage school transport.

For more information on how to leverage smart card travel for young people travel in your area please contact East Lothian Council, Transport Scotland or Young Scot.