

Transport Resource Sheet - July 2026

Support with Travel Costs

Support to help with the cost of transport - A general overview of national support such as concessionary bus travel, rail cards and other support for young people (Home to School, Care to Learn, 16-19 Bursaries and Discretionary Learner Support). Support is also available to those unemployed through Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card and Flexible Support Fund -

<https://www.moneyadvicehub.org.uk/debtipedia/your-financial-health/income-maximisation/benefits-entitlements/help-with-public-transport-costs>

Martin Lewis has comprehensive advice on how to save on transport costs, whether motoring, train or bus - <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/transport/>

Cost of Living (UK Government funded) £2 National Bus Fare Cap - The government has introduced a new £2 cap on single bus fares in Cornwall (and the whole of England from 1 January 2025 through to March 2027) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/2-bus-fares-from-january-2027>

Free Bus Travel for Kids (1st – 31st August) - Right across the UK **Free bus travel for kids** - For the whole month of August, kids aged 15 and under in England will get free bus travel, supporting families to choose public transport. The free travel initiative forms part of the government's wider Great British Summer Savings programme. More information - <https://costoflivinghelp.campaign.gov.uk/summer-savings/>

Alongside free bus travel, the programme includes discounts on attractions, entertainment and food aimed at helping households enjoy days out at lower cost.

School and College Transport - Cornwall Council provides free transport to schools. School Transport is generally limited to those children attending their designated school or nearest school with a place available and when certain conditions/criteria are met. Need Help? Use the simple online contact form - <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/school-and-post-16-travel/>

Post-16 Travel Assistance - Cornwall Council does not provide a universal post-16 travel assistance scheme. We expect students and parent/carers to consider how they will travel to and from their campus before applying and accepting a place - <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/collegetransport>

The cheapest way to travel - where possible, students aged 16-25 should travel to their school or college using public transport. This is likely to be the cheapest way of travelling.

- [Catch the Bus Tool Kit!](#)

- [Cornwall Public Transport](#)
- [National Concession Bus Pass](#)
- [Transport for Cornwall](#)
- [Traveline SouthWest](#)

If public transport is unavailable or unsuitable, students should contact their school or college. Many schools and colleges also offer their own transport schemes.

What Cornwall Council offers

Students Aged 16-18 - Cornwall Council provides a subsidised travel scheme for eligible students. The payment contribution for the 2026/27 academic year is £708 per student. This payment contribution is required for all students - including those with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Please ask your school or college about their 16-19 Bursary Fund, if cannot afford the payment contribution.

Students Aged 19-25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan - Cornwall Council offers free travel assistance for eligible students.

Patient Transport Service - The patient transport service is for people who can't get to their appointments because they have a medical need for special transport - <https://cios.icb.nhs.uk/health/patient-transport>

Cornwall Council provides information about some of these local transport schemes (search for community transport schemes) and voluntary car services such as TAP provide a door-to-door service which is also relatively affordable, call 01872 223388 (TAP Cornwall) or 0845 053 9100 (TAP Devon). Volunteer Cornwall also has a community transport scheme. Call 01872 265300 for more information.

Community Transport is the name given to a wide range of not-for-profit services provided to the community. They are almost always dependent on volunteers.

It is designed for people who have difficulty with access to conventional public or private transport.

Types of Community Transport:

- **Voluntary (Community) Car Schemes** – Organised lift from volunteers. They use their own vehicles to provide door to door transport. There is a rate per mile charge to cover the volunteer's expenses.

- **Community Bus Services** – Regular journey's that follow a timetable. These timetables can be found via [Traveline](#).
- **Dial-a-Ride (Demand Responsive) Services** – Door to Door services which normally require passengers to pre-book seats before they travel. Passengers will need to register beforehand.
- **Shopmobility** – A national scheme which provides mobility equipment for hire in towns or city centres. Such as wheelchairs and electric scooters. Advanced booking is advised.
- **Wheels to Work / Wheels to Learn** – Mopeds or bicycles are available for low-cost loan alongside travel advice. This is for individuals, who must be at risk of losing, or have a promise of a place at either education or work.

Transport Access People (TAPS) - Door-to-door transport for people who have difficulty accessing other forms of public transport. Specialising in non-emergency healthcare appointments, trips to the library, memory cafes, meeting friends for lunch and shopping excursions.

This is a chargeable service, prices are accurate at the time of publication, April 2025. £3.60 booking fee, plus 0.45p per mile. Please call our transport helpline to receive an estimated cost - <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/cornwall/our-services/community-transport-services-5671a914-49ff-eb11-b76a-00155d5894e3/> - Telephone Helpline: 01872 223388

Personal Health Budgets (PHB) Grants – May be available to provide health benefits to individuals who suffer from physical or mental health conditions and where solutions are not available from other sources of funding. Apply through The Community Gateway - <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/cornwall/our-services/community-gateway-85830ba2-3eff-eb11-ba5e-00155d585af3/>

Phone: 01872 266383 - Email: Community.Gateway@ageukcornwall.org.uk

Travel Planning

A Travel Plan - Is an evolving document targeted at reducing solo occupant car journeys to and from a particular site(s). A travel plan aims to do this through a series of measures and initiatives often focused on sustainable travel. Cornwall Council offers support and guidance on writing and delivering plans - <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/sustainable-transport/travel-plans/>

How to get cheap train tickets - <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/travel/cheap-train-tickets/>

Here are the keyways to cut costs...

- **Book early.** Start looking about 12 weeks before you travel for the best advance fares – even first-class can be cheaper when booked ahead.
- **Split your tickets.** Buying tickets for separate parts of the same journey can cut costs. A number of special tools can help you - <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/travel/cheap-train-tickets/#needtoknow-4>
- **Get a railcard.** Buy a railcard and you can usually get a third off tickets - <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/travel/cheap-train-tickets/#railcards>
- **Travel off-peak.** Go outside of rush hours or split your trip so you only pay peak rates for the part that is. And always check if two singles can beat a return.

Carsharing - Search for people traveling to and from the same location for work, to enable you to share a lift - <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/cornwall>

Volunteer Transport Services - Community transport schemes, affordable volunteer driver car journeys, minibus, and wheelchair accessible vehicle(s):

- <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/cornwall/transport-services>
- <https://www.volunteercornwall.org.uk/transport>

Park and Ride - Cornwall has Park and Ride services available in in Truro - <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/public-transport/park-for-truro/> and St Erth (for St Ives) <https://greatscenicrailways.co.uk/stations/st-erth-park-and-ride/> - <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/public-transport/park-and-ride-services/>

Electric Vehicle Charge Points – Find charging points near you, by App or Map - <https://www.zap-map.com/location-search>

Public Transport

Older Persons Bus Passes - The Older Persons Bus Pass allows eligible disabled and elderly residents of Cornwall to travel on local buses during off-peak times anywhere in England - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-elderly-person-bus-pass>

GWR Pay as you go Smartcard - This covers all stations in Cornwall plus Plymouth and the Tamar Valley Line. You can now effortlessly tap in and out in a new travel area in whilst keeping your tickets, payments, and Railcards in one place, and never worrying about paper tickets again. The card gives access to new Anytime Day Single fares and guaranteed best price on same-day travel and will be cheapest - <https://www.gwr.com/your-tickets/smart-tickets/payg#order-smartcard>

Devon and Cornwall Railcard - Buying a Devon and Cornwall Railcard means you save a 1/3 on all Standard Class Anytime or Off-Peak tickets for journeys not starting before 08:45, which are wholly within Devon and Cornwall. The Devon and Cornwall Railcard costs just £13 a year for local residents in Devon and Cornwall aged 16 and over - <https://railcards.gwr.com> or go to your local staffed station.

Passenger Assist (Rail Travel) - Provides free assistance for disabled and older rail passengers, including boarding, alighting and station support. Assistance can be booked up to two hours before travel. This is particularly useful for people with disabilities, long-term health conditions and hidden disabilities - <https://www.passengerassist.com>

Journey planners - There are several journey planners for all modes of public transport:

Travel Line - National Journey Planner site for all modes of public transport - <http://www.traveline.info>

Transport for Cornwall - is the partnership between Cornwall Council and transport operators across the county - <https://www.transportforcornwall.co.uk/plan-your-journey>

Download the Transport for Cornwall app - <https://www.transportforcornwall.co.uk/app>

Accessible Travel - Contains information on wheelchair access, mobility scooters, assistance dogs, priority seating and accessible bus travel across Cornwall - <https://www.transportforcornwall.co.uk/accessible-travel>

Cornwall Mobility Hubs Service - Cornwall Council's information pages now signpost residents to Cornwall Mobility Hubs, providing independent advice on accessible transport and mobility options - <https://www.cornwallmobility.co.uk/>

Traveline SouthWest (also known as National Public Transport Information) - <https://www.travelinesw.com/>

Local Timetables - Timetables and fare information for Cornwall are available, as well as timetables to download:

- Transport for Cornwall is the partnership between Cornwall Council and transport operators across the county): <https://www.transportforcornwall.co.uk/services>
- National Rail (Train): <https://nationalrail.co.uk>
- National Express (Coach): <https://www.nationalexpress.com/en>

Cornwall Council Community Transport Directory - Cornwall Council maintains a directory of local schemes across the county which helps people find services in their own locality, including:

- Dial-a-Ride services
- Community buses
- Volunteer car schemes

- Wheels to Work initiatives
- Local services operating in specific communities across Cornwall

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/public-transport/cornwalls-transport-services/community-transport/>

Alternative Travel Options

Active Travel - Walking and Cycling - Information encouraging the adoption of more active travel options, for different areas of Cornwall - <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/sustainable-transport/active-travel-walking-and-cycling/>

Go Ride – Off-road cycling programs for young people under 18 of all abilities. Additional information about getting into cycling as an adult, commuting by bike, and riding with your family - <https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/go-ride>

Sustrans - The National Cycle Network provides a vital backbone to the country, connecting communities to each other and helping neighborhoods come to life - <http://www.sustrans.org.uk>

Cycle Scheme - An employee benefit scheme encouraging employees to cycle to work and save money on the cost of a bike, plus associated clothing and safety equipment - <http://www.cyclescheme.co.uk>

Wheels 2 Work South-West - Providing subsidised 2 wheeled transport to enable people to get to work across the South-West. Affordable 3 month hire of eBikes and 125cc scooters at a fixed monthly rate. eBikes are available to Cornwall residents 18+ and scooters 17+ (both require financial guarantor for under 25s) - <https://www.wheels2worksouthwest.org/>

Beryl Bikes and E-Bikes - Shared bike and e-bike services operate in some Cornwall towns and are increasingly being promoted as part of sustainable transport options through the Transport for Cornwall partnership - <https://passenger.tech/news/new-passenger-app-for-transport-for-cornwall/>

Car Parks

Disabled parking - Disabled parking permits for people with certain disabilities, plus how to get a disabled parking bay outside your home - <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/blue-badge-disabled-parking-permits/>

Find a Car Park - Find car park locations, charges and facilities - <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/parking/cornwall-council-car-parks/>

Just Park App - Cornwall Council car parks can be paid for by this smart-phone application.

Register online - <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/parking/pay-for-parking-with-your-mobile-using-justpark/>

BuzzPay - is now available in most Cornwall Council Car Parks and gives you the option to pay quickly and easily without the need to download an app or create an account - simply pay as you park.

If you spot anything that needs removing, adding or amending please email

inclusionHub@cornwall.gov.uk