

Appendix B - Outcomes of the Public Consultation

Update – As identified in the main report, due to statutory timescales associated with this policy review and the cabinet committee schedule, it was necessary to compose the Cabinet report shortly before the conclusion of the public consultation. KCC received six additional comments between the production of the report and the end of the consultation period. The responses followed similar themes so do not affect the proposals found in the main report.

The appendix below has been updated to represent the final response dataset.

KCC held a public consultation on the proposed Post 16 Transport Policy Statement which ran from 10 January 2022 until 20 February 2022.

Current and future potential pass holders and their parents have been contacted to provide an opportunity to respond to this consultation. Schools, colleges and learning providers have been consulted and also asked to inform their students to increase awareness. Public Transport have also been included in the consultation.

It was promoted in the following ways:

- Emails to schools, Further Education providers and other stakeholders for circulation amongst school roll
- Emails to existing KCC 16+ Travel Saver pass users
- Emails to potential future KCC 16+ Travel Saver pass users
- Electronic invites sent to registered users of KCC's consultation directory, based on their preferences

The consultation has its own page on KCC's consultation directory which holds the proposed policy statement, Equality Impact Assessment and questionnaire: www.kent.gov.uk/post16transport.

There was a total of 280 visitors to the consultation, with responses from 50 contributors.

Of these responses:

94% of responses were received from parents/carers

2% of responses were received from a pupil/student

4% of responses were received from other parties

Comments about the Policy

Some respondents commented on more than one theme or made no direct comment, which explains discrepancy in numbers:

The most frequent comment related to the requirement for children to remain in education or employment-based training by law until they are 18, however, central government support for free school transport ceases at the end Year 11. As a result, queries about the cost of the pass also featured, with people feeling the cost is too high. (19 comments)

The next most frequent response (15 comments) expressed support for the 16+ Travel Saver pass, identifying that it increases the opportunity for young adults to travel to more places of learning or work.

5 comments were made about the poor levels of service in the public bus network. This related to overcrowding, lateness and perceived unhelpfulness drivers.

The lack of inclusion of rail travel on the card was also raised (4 comments).

1 comment identified the usefulness of active travel options.

A small number of comments were made that did not relate to the scope of this consultation, so were not included in this summary.

Equality and Diversity

Responses to the consultation were consistent across different groups.

Where these numbers do not aggregate to the total number of submissions, it is as a result of the respondent choosing not to answer the question.

The assessment from the consultation shows that of those responses received, the following ethnic groups took part:

White English	82%
Other (not specified in the list)	12%
Prefer not to say	2%

The following responses identified their gender as follows:

Female	88%
Male	10%
Prefer not to say	2%

When asked if the responded considered themselves disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010:

Yes	16%
No	78%
Prefer not to say	6%