

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

*Peter Osborne, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport*

**DECISION NUMBER:**

26/00020

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**Executive Decision – key****26/00020 - Kent Travel Saver- Price increase**

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**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport, I agree to

**APPROVE** the increase in the price of KTS and

**DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director to take all relevant actions and decisions necessary for its implementation.

**Reasons for decision:**

To ensure the Kent Travel Saver scheme remains sustainable and deliverable within the Council's medium-term financial planning assumptions, by addressing inflationary cost increases and supporting value for money aligned to the Strategic Statement

**Financial implications:**

The Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2026/27 identifies inflationary pressures of £479k on the Kent Travel Saver scheme arising from higher operator reimbursement costs, alongside additional net costs associated with increased pass numbers.

A £35 increase in pass fees is estimated to generate £575k of additional income and, together with continued use of Department for Transport Bus Grant funding, will ensure the scheme remains financially deliverable while supporting the school bus network.

The net cost to KCC of delivering the scheme in 2026/27 is estimated at £4.79m, representing a total subsidy to passholders of £6.89m.

**Legal implications:**

The Kent Travel Saver is not a statutory scheme, therefore there are no perceived legal implications by increasing the application fee for the selected cohorts

**Equalities implications:**

**Positive:** The price increase helps ensure the Kent Travel Saver scheme remains financially sustainable, so discounted travel can continue to be offered to all users, including those with protected characteristics.

**Negative:** Increasing the cost by £35 may reduce affordability for some families, which could lower take-up and access to bus travel for some children and young people, including those within protected groups.

**Data Protection implications:**

There are no data protection implications by increasing the application fee scheme

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The proposed decision was considered by the Growth, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 5 May 2026 and endorsed by majority vote.

Mark Hood formally requested his disagreement with the decision is noted as at the budget setting meeting, the Green Group made it clear, the preference was to freeze the Kent Travel Saver and therefore any increase should be a percentage increase as the least damaging offer.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

1. Greater cost increase to the full payers and low-income cohorts but rejected due to the financial impact on families.
2. Introduction of charges for young carers and care leavers cohort but such measures require public consultation and carry potential implications for other KCC Directorates.
3. Increase to the administration fee relating to Direct Debit applications but rejected as this would unfairly target increases on those able to pay in full, up front.
4. Greater contribution from DFT Bus Grant allocation but rejected due to the disparity of usage of grant and the requirement to protect local bus services designated for all residents across the county.

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Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed

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Date