

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Kent Travel Saver Price Increase

Responsible Officer

Shane Bushell - GT TRA

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)

Shane Bushell - GT TRA

Type of Activity

Service Change

Service Change

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

No

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Growth Environment and Transport

Responsible Service

Public Transport, H&T

Responsible Head of Service

Shane Bushell - GT TRA

Responsible Director

Andrew Loosemore - GT TRA

Aims and Objectives

The KCC Travel Saver is a student bus pass scheme for children in academic years 7 - 11 plus others in older age groups qualifying for additional support through the scheme. The scheme is subsidised by Kent County Council and offers reduced cost bus travel for 25,000 passholders.

Although the scheme provides free at the point of use bus travel, in order to access it, unless for applicants qualify for a free pass, an application fee applies. This application fee represents a contribution to the cost of the pass and the scheme as a whole but in a context where the cost of the scheme to the Council is greater than the income received through application fees - the difference being the subsidised element.

The cost of the pass to applicants is reviewed annually to ensure that the scheme remains sustainable accounting for increases to operating costs and accounting for KCC's Budget. For the 2026/27 academic year, it is necessary to increase the cost of paid for passes by £35.

The purpose of the EqIA is to ensure that all impacts for groups with a protected characteristic have been identified and understood supporting any decision to increase the pass cost which is being governed by the Council's Key Decision process.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?
Yes
It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?
Yes
Is there national evidence/data that you can use?
No
Have you consulted with stakeholders?
Not Applicable
Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?
Whilst needing to be governed by KCC's Key Decision process because of the Countywide nature of the scheme, this is an operational decision around cost without an ability to offer alternatives models to be consulted on.
Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?
No
Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?
Yes
Section C – Impact
Who may be impacted by the activity?
Service Users/clients Service users/clients
Staff No
Residents/Communities/Citizens No
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
The changes proposed are required and designed to ensure that the scheme remains sustainable within KCC's funding capacity enabling it to continue. The scheme will continue to offer a benefit to all users, providing discounted but travel which will include pass holders and families from groups with protected characteristics.
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
Yes
Details of negative impacts for Age
The scheme is focussed on users from younger age groups (notably those aged 11-16), some of whom will be impacted by the increase to pass cost.
Mitigating Actions for Age
The cost increase is designed to ensure the sustainability of the scheme ensuring continued benefit for all users including those with a protected characteristic. There continues to be additional support provided in regards to Low Income Households who qualify for a reduced cost pass and children in identified 'Care' categories who qualify for a free pass such that more acute impacts for users qualifying for these are avoided.
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Steve Pay
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
Yes

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Whilst they cannot be individually identified, it is possible that users or the families of users impacted by the cost increases applicable include those from this protected characteristic.
Mitigating actions for Disability
The cost increase is designed to ensure the sustainability of the scheme ensuring continued benefit for all users including those with a protected characteristic. There continues to be additional support provided in regard to Low Income Households who qualify for a reduced cost pass and children in identified 'Care' categories who qualify for a free pass such that more acute impacts for users qualifying for these are avoided.
Responsible Officer for Disability
Steve Pay
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
Yes
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Whilst they cannot be individually identified, it is possible that users or the families of users impacted by the cost increases applicable include those from this protected characteristic.
Mitigating actions for Sex
The cost increase is designed to ensure the sustainability of the scheme ensuring continued benefit for all users including those with a protected characteristic. There continues to be additional support provided in regard to Low Income Households who qualify for a reduced cost pass and children in identified 'Care' categories who qualify for a free pass such that more acute impacts for users qualifying for these are avoided.
Responsible Officer for Sex
Steve Pay
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Yes
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Whilst they cannot be individually identified, it is possible that users or the families of users impacted by the cost increases applicable include those from this protected characteristic.
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
The cost increase is designed to ensure the sustainability of the scheme ensuring continued benefit for all users including those with a protected characteristic. There continues to be additional support provided in regard to Low Income Households who qualify for a reduced cost pass and children in identified 'Care' categories who qualify for a free pass such that more acute impacts for users qualifying for these are avoided.
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Steve Pay
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
Yes
Negative impacts for Race
Whilst they cannot be individually identified, it is possible that users or the families of users impacted by the cost increases applicable include those from this protected characteristic.
Mitigating actions for Race
The cost increase is designed to ensure the sustainability of the scheme ensuring continued benefit for all users including those with a protected characteristic. There continues to be additional support provided in regard to Low Income Households who qualify for a reduced cost pass and children in identified 'Care' categories who qualify for a free pass such that more acute impacts for users qualifying for these are avoided.

Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Steve Pay
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
Yes
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Whilst they cannot be individually identified, it is possible that users or the families of users impacted by the cost increases applicable include those from this protected characteristic.
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
The cost increase is designed to ensure the sustainability of the scheme ensuring continued benefit for all users including those with a protected characteristic. There continues to be additional support provided in regard to Low Income Households who qualify for a reduced cost pass and children in identified 'Care' categories who qualify for a free pass such that more acute impacts for users qualifying for these are avoided.
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Steve Pay
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Yes
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Whilst they cannot be individually identified, it is possible that users or the families of users impacted by the cost increases applicable include those from this protected characteristic.
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
The cost increase is designed to ensure the sustainability of the scheme ensuring continued benefit for all users including those with a protected characteristic. There continues to be additional support provided in regard to Low Income Households who qualify for a reduced cost pass and children in identified 'Care' categories who qualify for a free pass such that more acute impacts for users qualifying for these are avoided.
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Steve Pay
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Yes
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Whilst they cannot be individually identified, it is possible that users or the families of users impacted by the cost increases applicable include those from this protected characteristic.
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
The cost increase is designed to ensure the sustainability of the scheme ensuring continued benefit for all users including those with a protected characteristic. There continues to be additional support provided in regard to Low Income Households who qualify for a reduced cost pass and children in identified 'Care' categories who qualify for a free pass such that more acute impacts for users qualifying for these are avoided.
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Steve Pay
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships

Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable