

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

**Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport**

**DECISION NO:**

16/00027

**For publication**
**Key decision\***

N/A

**Subject: Title of Decision**

To approve consultation on a range of measures (bus service changes) required to reduce KCC expenditure of KCC funded bus services.

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport, I agree to: approve consultation on a range of measures (bus service changes) required to reduce KCC expenditure of KCC funded bus services.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

From April 2016 the budget for supported bus services will reduce from £6.6m to £5.6m. This follows a previous reduction of £0.75m from 2014/15. Public Transport has identified £0.26m of services, which will remain unchanged, but will be returned to commercial bus operation in April 2016 and these changes have been agreed with the relevant operators. Furthermore efficiency savings of £0.32m have been identified, which can be delivered in 2016/17. This means that in the financial year 16/17/ a further £0.4m in savings from this budget needs to be found.

To deliver the £0.4m saving in 2016/17 Public Transport has been engaging bus operators to identify further, low impact opportunities to save funding through rationalisation and commercialisation of services. In conjunction with operators, a range of measures (identified on the attached appendix) have been identified where it is possible to withdraw or reduce the subsidy committed to the services through changes or reductions to the current provision. The changes take account of KCC's criteria for the support of bus services and of Equality Impact Assessments' that have been completed and will be updated throughout the consultation process.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

Members of Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee will consider the proposed consultation at their meeting on 11 March.

It is proposed to run public consultation from 21 March until 15 May with changes being implemented in August/September 2016.

**Any alternatives considered:**
**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