

Outcomes of the Public Consultation

KCC held a public consultation on the proposed post 16 transport policy which runs from 20 February to 23 March.

As of 17 March 2017, there were a total of 91 responses to the consultation, which is a significant decline from last year, in spite of similar consultation methodologies being used. This is probably as a result of there being no change in policy in the last 4 years and so it is widely accepted. Responders were asked to categorise the aspects of the Transport Policy Statement on which they wished to comment into 4 themed areas. Some respondents commented on more than one theme which explains discrepancy in total comments.

- Eligibility criteria for applying for support (13 comments)
- The 16+ Travel Card (76 comments)
- Types of Travel Available (14 comments)
- Another aspect of the policy (8 comments)

Of these responses

81 responses were received from parents/carers
8 responses were received from a pupil/student in Yr12 -14
1 response was received from a pupil/student in Yr7 – 11
1 response was received from other parties.

100% of the 81 parent/carers that took part in the consultation had children that currently use the travel card. Similarly, all pupils that responded identified as currently using the card.

Comments about the Policy

The majority of the 74 responses given about the policy felt the cost of the card was too expensive (40 comments). Comparisons between the Young Persons Travel Pass and the Kent 16+ Travel Card were made especially by parents who have students in school using both passes.

The next single biggest issue was the requirement for children to remain in education by law (19 comments).

The inclusion of rail travel on the card was also a theme (3 comments). Because of the difficulties for some students, living in rural areas, to travel to school/college using the bus network, the use of the Travel Card on trains is considered to be as important for students to be able to access their education.

12 comments were made about the poor levels of service in the public bus network, This related to overcrowding, lateness, unhelpful drivers and a general lack of usable information.

8 comments suggested that they would prefer to be able to pay for the card on a monthly or instalment basis.

1 comment stated that it was unfair that every student was charged the same amount as travel requirements vary.

3 comments stated that the process was too long, or should not include the school.

1 comment suggested the card should have reduced cost when transporting to the child's nearest faith school.

10 comments supported The Travel Card especially with the extended use at weekends and holidays.

Application process

Parents were asked about the application process, generating the following responses:

Would prefer to apply to KCC	41%
Would prefer to apply to education provider	25%
No preference	30%
Don't know	2%
Not applicable	2%

Equality and Diversity

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:

White English	77
White Welsh	1
White Irish	1
White Other	3
Mixed: White and Asian	1
Asian or Asian British: Other	1
Chinese	1
Prefer not to say	4

The following responses identified their gender as follows:

Male	19
Female	67
Prefer not to say	3

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

Yes	6
No	82
Prefer not to say	2