

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Mike Whiting

Cabinet Member for

Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste

DECISION NO:

18/00072

For publication

Key decision

Yes

Subject: : Thanet and Sevenoaks Bus Service changes

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste, I agree to the implementation of changes to selected bus services in Thanet and Sevenoaks effective from April 2019

Reason(s) for decision:

Within the MTFP, there is a proposed reduction to the budget for Socially Necessary Bus Services (SNBS) of £455k.

Whilst there is a statutory requirement on Local Authorities to consider the provision of funding for SNBS, there is no statutory requirement to provide the funding. KCC has historically and continues to provide funding for SNBS.

This support amounts to 3% of the total bus mileage in Kent; the remaining 97% is commercially operated.

Following constructive dialogue with bus operators, proposals were received for changes to services in Thanet and Sevenoaks which will deliver savings with minimal impact to service users through changes to commercial bus provision already in place or a revised service offer.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

On 11 March 2016, a paper was presented to the E&T Cabinet Committee outlining the need to go to public consultation on changes to three KCC funded bus services in Thanet and two in Sevenoaks

A public consultation on the proposals was carried out between 22 November to 19 December.

The proposals were taken to the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee. It was **RESOLVED** that the comments and concerns raised by Members be noted and that that the proposed decision (18/00072) to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste to implement the changes to selected bus services in Thanet and Sevenoaks effective from April 2019, be endorsed.

(Mr B Lewis asked for his vote against this decision to be recorded).

Any alternatives considered:

Service 39,42,56 in Thanet and service 404/405 in Sevenoaks were highlighted as services which could be accommodated by commercial service changes by their respective operators, when KCC Public Transport were investigating the delivery of a £455K reduction in the budget for supported bus services, for 2018/19.

KCC Public Transport invited ideas which would deliver the required budget saving, without the need to revert to the KCC supported bus funding criteria, which potentially could see 10+ contracts withdrawn to achieve the same level of saving, many of which would have been that communities only service. The proposed service withdrawals are covered by commercial changes, which provide similar journey opportunities or there are existing alternative services.

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

None

signed



Name:

date

28/1/19