

Outcomes of the Public Consultation

KCC held a public consultation on the proposed Post 16 Transport Policy Statement which ran from 10 February 2020 to 29 March 2020.

Current and future potential pass holders and their parents have been contacted to provide an opportunity to respond to this consultation. Schools, colleges and learning providers have been consulted and also asked to inform their students to increase awareness. Public Transport have also been included in the consultation.

It was promoted in the following ways:

- Emails to schools, FE providers and other stakeholders for circulation amongst school roll
- Emails to existing KCC 16+ Travel Saver pass users
- Posters to be used by learning providers to promote the consultation to students
- Electronic invites sent to registered users of KCC's consultation directory, based on their preferences

The consultation has its own page on KCC's consultation directory which holds the proposed policy statement, Equality Impact Assessment and questionnaire: www.kent.gov.uk/post16transport.

There was a total of 117 responses to the consultation questionnaire, a small increase on the 114 responses to last year's consultation. Responders were asked to categorise the aspects of the Transport Policy Statement on which they wished to comment into 4 themed areas. Some respondents selected more than one theme which explains discrepancy in numbers:

- Eligibility criteria for applying for support (selected 15 times)
- The 16+ Travel Card (98 times)
- Types of Travel Available (28 times)
- Another aspect of the policy (14 times)

Of these responses:

81.2% of responses were received from parents/carers

16.2% of responses were received from a pupil/student in Yr12 -14

0.9% of responses was received from a pupil/student in Yr7 – 11

0.9% of responses were received from a learning provider

0.9% of responses were received from other parties

The majority of parent/carers and pupils/students who took part in the consultation currently use the travel card or purchase the card for their dependents.

Comments about the Policy

Responses to the consultation were consistent across the five different respondent types.

For the first time, the most frequent response (24 comments) was from people that supported the 16+ Travel Saver pass, especially with the extended use at weekends and school holidays.

The second most frequent comment about the policy related to the cost of the card as too expensive (21 comments). Comparisons between the KCC Travel Saver Pass and the KCC 16+ Travel Saver pass were made especially by parents who have students in school using both passes.

The next biggest issue was the requirement for children to remain in education or employment-based training by law until they are 18, however, central government support for free school transport ceases at the end Year 11. (20 comments).

14 comments were made about the poor levels of service in the public bus network. This related to overcrowding, lateness and perceived unhelpfulness drivers.

3 comments requested that parents be given the option of purchasing a 16+ Travel Card that had the same limitations at the Kent Travel Saver pass (excluding weekend and evening travel), but at a reduced cost.

2 comments requested that the scheme considered reduced costs where multiple children within a family require passes and for this consideration to be applied across both the Kent Travel Saver pass and the Kent 16+ Travel Saver pass. 1 comment requested the removal of the admin charge associated with instalments.

The lack of inclusion of rail travel on the card was also raised (2 comments).

Equality and Diversity

Responses to the consultation were consistent across different groups.

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 took part:

White English	56.4%
White Other	1.8%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	1.8%
Asian or Asian British: Other	1.8%
Black or Black British: Caribbean	0.9%

Black or Black British: Other	0.9%
Mixed: White and Asian	0.9%
Prefer not to say	0.9%

Following further development of the equality impact assessment (EqIA) through the consultation, it became clear that BAME families are under-represented in the uptake of the KCC 16+ Travel Saver pass, and this is mirrored in the response rate to this year's consultation. The EqIA action plan includes contingencies to address this in future consultations.

The following responses identified their gender as follows:

Male	8.6%
Female	55.6%
Prefer not to say	0.9%

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

Yes	3.6%
No	59.8%
Prefer not to say	1.8%