

By: Anna Taylor – Scrutiny Research Officer
To: Scrutiny Committee – 23 March 2022
Subject: Call-in of Decision 21/00124 Kent Travel Saver Price Increase

Background

1. On 2 March 2022 the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation agreed to increase the cost of the standard Kent Travel Saver from £370 per academic year to £450 (Decision 21/000124 paperwork appended). Previous to this decision being taken it was discussed by members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 18 February 2022.
2. Following the decision being taken, a call-in request was submitted by Ms Dawkins, supported by Mr Hood, thus meeting the requirements for any call-in to be supported by a minimum of two Members from different political Groups.
3. The reasons of the call-in were duly considered by the Scrutiny Officer and determined to be valid under the call-in arrangements set out in the Constitution.

KCC Constitution – section 17.72

Members can call-in a decision for one or more of the following reasons:

- (a) The decision is not in line with the Council's Policy Framework,
- (b) The decision is not in accordance with the Council's Budget,
- (c) The decision was not taken in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in 8.5, and/or
- (d) The decision was not taken in accordance with the arrangements set out in Section 12.

4. The detailed reasons given by Ms Dawkins and supported by Mr Hood under the call-in criteria (listed above) are set out below.

- 4.1 (a) The decision is not in line with the Council's Policy Framework

“KCC has certain policy within its climate commitments to make a move to more sustainable modes of transport and encourage the modal shift to persuade residents to decrease the use of the car to get around.

It is my belief that this goes against this policy demonstrated in the KMLES strategy and its implementation plan as well as targets in the Environment strategy.

The decision by the administration to increase the cost of KTS is going to have a financial impact on families and therefore will need to find other means to get to school such as by car.

Kent and Medway low emissions strategy

PRIORITY 6: TRANSPORT, TRAVEL AND DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY Set up a smart connectivity and mobility modal shift programme – linking sustainable transport, transport innovations, active travel, virtual working, broadband, digital services, artificial intelligence and behaviour change

6.8 Trial and implement projects that support modal shift away from car ownership and/or reduce car dependency (Page 15)

6.1 Review business mileage, set challenging reduction targets in light of COVID ways of working and expand sustainable travel polices that reduce the need to travel, encourage modal shift to active travel/public transport or increase car sharing. (Page 16)

Kent Environment Strategy

P37 TARGETS Targets are under review, they will initially focus on monitoring modal shift to sustainable and active travel options. INDICATORS • School and business travel survey data • Rail station footfall • Traffic counts • Bus usage and smarter challenge survey”.

Process

5. The Cabinet Member and relevant Officers will be attending the Scrutiny Committee meeting to present their response to the call-in, no additional written report has been requested due to the short length of time between the approval of the call-in and the Scrutiny Committee meeting date.
6. The Scrutiny Committee should consider the reasons set out by the Members calling-in the decision and the response from the Executive, giving due attention to the information made available during questioning and discussion on this item.

Options for the Scrutiny Committee

7. The Scrutiny Committee may:
 - a) make no comments
 - b) express comments but not require reconsideration of the decision
 - c) require implementation of the decision to be postponed pending reconsideration of the matter by the decision-maker in light of the Committee’s comments; or
 - d) require implementation of the decision to be postponed pending review or scrutiny of the matter by the full Council.

Appendix

[Decision - 21/00124 - Kent Travel Saver Price Increase](#)

[Record of Decision \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)

[THE REPORT \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)

[Equality Analysis/Impact Assessment \(EqIA\)](#)

Background Documents

[Agenda for Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee on Friday, 18th February, 2022, 2.00 pm \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)

Report Author

Anna Taylor
Scrutiny Research Officer
Anna.taylor@kent.gov.uk
03000 416478