

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport

DECISION NO:

23/00053

For publication**Key decision: YES**

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Maintain KTS Price in 23/24 and Revised Price Uplift Cap in Future Years.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport, I agree to;

- For financial/academic year 2023/24, to maintain the cost of the standard travel pass at £450 and the low-income pass at £120, through the use of funding provided by the Government's National Bus Strategy.
- To maintain the current instalments process.
- To maintain the current £10 administration fee for those paying via instalments on a standard pass,
- To maintain the current sibling offer, where family who have more than two children eligible for the KTS, will pay no charge for any additional pass beyond two.
- To maintain the current free pass arrangement for those in care, carers, and care leavers.
- For future years, increases in the cost of the standard and/or the low-income pass to match forecasted operator cost inflation. Whereas in previous years, increase in pass cost was capped at 5% of the gross costs of the scheme.

Reason(s) for decision:

In June 2015, Cabinet resolved to cap price increases to what was then the Young Persons Travel Pass (YPTP) and the Kent Travel Saver (KTS), at a maximum of 5% of the gross costs of the scheme. This key decision also established the key service offering, with instalments added as part of the scheme later, in 2017.

The recent award of BSIP funding, provides an opportunity to maintain the cost of the KTS in 2023/24, at a time of challenge for users and at no cost to KCC. However, it is only one year of funding relief and unless other internal/external funding is found in 2024/25, then potentially a significant cost increase to KTS will be required.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision is being considered by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 23 May.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

To increase the cost of the Kent Travel Saver to cover anticipated operator inflation for 2023/24 and inflation for 2022/23. This equates raising the cost of the pass by £180 to £630 based on 14,500

standard passes, with no other changes to the scheme. This would be in-line with the with County Council budget approved on 19 February 2023. However, this would be significant increase in the cost of the pass, at a time of a significant cost of living crisis and family budgets are being stretched. Under the recently approved Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) allocation, granted under the National Bus Strategy, there is an opportunity to not proceed with this price increase in 2023/24.

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