

Outcomes of the Public Consultation

KCC held a public consultation on the proposed Post 16 Transport Policy Statement which ran from 25 January 2021 until 5 March 2021. Due to the pre-election period, the outcome of the consultation was considered at an earlier Committee meeting than usual. As a result, the initial Committee report was based data collected until 26 February. An addendum will be circulated shortly before the meeting to update statistics and key themes so that all response data from the consultation up to 5 March is considered.

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, Further Education providers and other stakeholders for circulation amongst school roll
- Emails to existing KCC 16+ Travel Saver pass users
- Emails to potential future KCC 16+ Travel Saver pass users
- 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 178 responses to the consultation questionnaire, a significant increase on the 117 responses to last year's consultation.

Of these responses:

72.5% of responses were received from parents/carers
2.8% of responses were received from a pupil/student in Yr12 -14
2.2% of responses was received from a pupil/student in Yr7 – 11
1.7% of responses were received from a learning provider
20.8% of responses were received from other parties

Comments about the Policy

Responses to the consultation were consistent across the five different respondent types. Some respondents commented on more than one theme and a number made no direct comment, which explains discrepancy in numbers:

The majority of responses (63 comments) expressed support for the 16+ Travel Saver pass, identifying that it increases the opportunity for young adults to travel to more places of learning or work.

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. As a result, queries about the cost of the pass also featured, with people feeling the cost is too high. (55 comments)

11 comments related to concerns about travelling during the pandemic.

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

5 comments requested further improvements in the availability of active travel options.

The lack of inclusion of rail travel on the card was also raised (3 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	63.5%
White Other	4.5%
Asian or Asian British Indian	1.7%
Mixed: White and Asian	1.7%
White Irish	1.7%
Black or Black British Caribbean	0.6%
White Welsh	0.6%
Prefer not to say	2.2%

The following responses identified their gender as follows:

Male	27.5%
Female	50.6%
Prefer not to say	0.0%

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

Yes	11.2%
No	65.7%
Prefer not to say	1.1%