

Appendix 3

Outcomes of the Public Consultation

KCC held a public consultation on the proposed post 16 transport policy statement which ran from 19 February to 7 April 2019.

Schools, colleges and learning providers have been consulted, as have their students. Neighbouring local authorities and Public Transport have also been included in the consultation, as have parents.

It was promoted in the following ways:

- KELSI bulletin
- Emails to schools, FE providers and other stakeholders
- Emails to existing 16+ Travel Card users (now known as the KCC 16+ Travel Saver pass)
- 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

There was a total of 114 responses to the consultation a modest increase on the 91 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 commented on more than one theme which explains discrepancy in total comments.

- Eligibility criteria for applying for support (18 comments)
- The 16+ Travel Card (92 comments)
- Types of Travel Available (21 comments)
- Another aspect of the policy (19 comments)

Of these responses

100 responses were received from parents/carers
7 responses were received from a pupil/student in Yr12 -14
2 response was received from a pupil/student in Yr7 – 11
3 responses were received from a learning provider
2 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 different groups.

The largest number of the 114 responses that left comments about the policy felt the cost of the card was too expensive (30 comments). Comparisons

between the Young Persons Travel Pass (now known as the KCC Travel Saver Pass) and the Kent 16+ Travel Card (now known as the KCC 16+ Travel Saver pass) were made especially by parents who have students in school using both passes.

An equal number of respondents (30 comments) supported The 16+ Travel Saver pass, especially with the extended use at weekends and holidays.

The next biggest issue was the requirement for children to remain in education by law (21 comments).

21 comments were made about the poor levels of service in the public bus network. This related to overcrowding, lateness, unhelpful drivers and a general lack of usable information.

11 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

The inclusion of rail travel on the card was also a theme (8 comments). Because of the difficulties for some students, living in rural areas, to travel to school/college using the bus network, the use of the Travel Card on trains is considered to be as important for students to be able to access their education.

8 comments suggested that they would prefer to be able to pay for the card on a monthly or instalment basis. 5 comments requested that parents be given the option of purchasing a 16+ Travel Card that had the same limitations as the Kent Travel Saver pass (excluding weekend and evening travel), but at a reduced cost.

3 responses highlighted that some Post 16 learning providers were less able to support learners that require bursary support following the transition to online payments.

Equality and Diversity

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	68
White Other	4
Black or Black British: African	3
Black or Black British: Other	1
Mixed: White and Asian	1
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	1

White Northern Irish	1
Prefer not to say	4

The following responses identified their gender as follows:

Male	20
Female	64
Prefer not to say	0

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

Yes	3
No	78
Prefer not to say	3