

Motion to Full Council – supported bus services

This Council notes:

- That Kent County Council is the local highway authority and has responsibility for supported bus services across Kent.
- The support the government has given to bus travel through £78m in funding to KCC and the extended bus fare cap.
- Ongoing concerns from Swale residents regarding the reliability, frequency, and coverage of local bus services, particularly in rural areas and outside peak hours.
- The importance of accessible public transport in supporting employment, education, healthcare access, social inclusion, and reducing carbon emissions.

This Council believes:

- That reliable and affordable bus services are vital to the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of Swale.
- That poor bus provision disproportionately affects young people, older residents, disabled residents, and those without access to a car.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Lobby Kent County Council to:

Protect existing bus services in Swale from further reductions;

Work with bus operators to improve reliability, frequency, and coverage of services across the borough;

2. Prioritise connections between neighbourhoods, rail connections and communities with limited or no public transport.

3. Requests that the Leader of the Council and relevant committee chair writes formally to Kent County Council setting out the Council's concerns and requesting urgent engagement.

Proposed: Cllr Dolley Wooster

Seconded: Cllr Ashley Wise