

Kent County Council Public Transport Team
Review of Funded Bus Services

By e-mail only

Date: 19 May 2016
My ref: KCC-Busreview/sdc

Dear Sirs,

**Final review of KCC Funded Bus Services
Response to Consultation**

Please find attached the response of Maidstone Borough Council to the Consultation.

The Council is satisfied that the proposed changes to service 89 affecting Coxheath by the removal of direct evening services appear to be adequately compensated for by the diversion of Service 5 to serve the village in the evenings. It is understood that adding the 89 loop to the number 5 service is already in place on a Sunday and that it doesn't have a substantial impact.

As long as the changes are adequately signposted to current evening users of the service 89, and doesn't result in any loss of service (which it doesn't seem to), then Maidstone Borough Council does not object to the proposals.

It is also hoped that with identified committed development in the village of Coxheath, it may be possible in the future to reinstate 89 evening services to the village on a commercial basis.

The Council also stresses the importance of on-going dialogue with the County Council on public transport issues in particular support for improved bus services to and from Maidstone to the Rural Service Centres and larger villages which are seen as integral to the Integrated Transport Strategy and traffic mitigation proposals.

I trust you will take these comments into account.

Yours sincerely,



For Head of Planning & Development

Contact: Steve Clarke

t 01622 602418 f 01622 602972

e steveclarke@maidstone.gov.uk

12. Consultation questionnaire

This questionnaire can be completed online at www.kent.gov.uk/busreview. Alternatively, fill in this paper form and return it to: **Freepost, KENT COUNTY COUNCIL BUS FUNDING REVIEW**

Please ensure your response reaches us by the 15th May 2016.

Q1. Are you completing this questionnaire on behalf of:

Select **one** box.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yourself (as an individual)
<input type="checkbox"/>	A friend or relative – Please answer all of the questions in this questionnaire using their details and not your own.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A District/Town/Parish Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Voluntary or Community Sector Organisation (VCS)
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Business
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please specify: <input type="text"/>

Q1a. If you are responding on behalf of a Council/Business/VCS Organisation, please tell us the name of the organisation:

Maidstone Borough Council

Q2. Please tell us your postcode: ME15 6JQ
(If you are responding on behalf of a friend or relative please provide their postcode.)

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the scoring method we are using to assess the overall impact of these changes? This is summarised on page 17 of the consultation document.
Select one box.

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q3a. Please add any comments you have on the scoring method:

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation please go to question 6.

Q4. Do you, or the person you are responding on behalf of, travel on any of the bus services identified for review?

Select one box.

A summary table of the services identified for review can be found on pages 10 to 13 of the consultation document.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

If 'No' please go to question 6. If 'Yes' please tell us about your journey by continuing to question 5. If you are responding on behalf of a friend or relative please answer all of these questions using their details. If you use more than one service please use the extra response boxes provided.

Q5. Using the following questions please tell us about your journey:

Q5a. What is the number of the bus service:

Q5b. Where does your journey start?

Q5c. Where does your journey end?

Q5d. How often do you use this service? *Select one box.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Four or more days a week
<input type="checkbox"/>	One to three days a week
<input type="checkbox"/>	Once or twice a month
<input type="checkbox"/>	Once or twice a year
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please specify below:

Q5e. What is the purpose of your journey? *Select all that apply.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	To get to and from school/college/university
<input type="checkbox"/>	To get to and from work
<input type="checkbox"/>	To get to and from doctors, hospital and other healthcare appointments
<input type="checkbox"/>	To do essential food shopping
<input type="checkbox"/>	To get to and from leisure and social activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	To care for a friend or relative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please specify below:

Q5f. If this service were to stop running what would you be most likely to do instead? *Select one box.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Rely on friends / family / neighbours for lifts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drive myself
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel by taxi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel at a different time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel on a different day

<input type="checkbox"/>	Walk or cycle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not travel for the reason I currently do
<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please specify below:

*If you travel on more than one of the bus services identified for review please use the additional boxes below.
If not, please go to question 6.*

What is the number of the bus service:

Where does your journey start?

Where does your journey end?

How often do you use this service? Select one box.

Four or more days a week

One to three days a week

Once or twice a month

Once or twice a year

Other, please specify below:

What is the purpose of your journey? Select all that apply.

To get to and from school/college/university

To get to and from work

To get to and from doctors, hospital and other healthcare appointments

To do essential food shopping

To get to and from leisure and social activities

To care for a friend or relative

Other, please specify below:

If this service were to stop running what would you be most likely to do instead? Select one box.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Rely on friends / family / neighbours for lifts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drive myself
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel by taxi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel at a different time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel on a different day
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walk or cycle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not travel for the reason I currently do
<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please specify below:
<input type="text"/>	

If you travel on more than two of the bus services identified for review please continue below.
If not, please go to question 6.

What is the number of the bus service:

Where does your journey start?

Where does your journey end?

How often do you use this service? Select one box.

	Four or more days a week
	One to three days a week
	Once or twice a month
	Once or twice a year
	Other, please specify below:

What is the purpose of your journey? Select all that apply.

	To get to and from school/college/university
	To get to and from work
	To get to and from doctors, hospital and other healthcare appointments
	To do essential food shopping
	To get to and from leisure and social activities
	To care for a friend or relative
	Other, please specify below:

If this service were to stop running what would you be most likely to do instead? Select one box.

	Rely on friends / family / neighbours for lifts
	Drive myself
	Travel by taxi
	Travel at a different time
	Travel on a different day

	Walk or cycle
	Not travel for the reason I currently do
	I don't know
	Other, please specify below:

Q6. Please tell us how the proposed changes could affect you or the person / group you represent.

If you have provided details for more than one service in question 5, please clearly identify in your response below the service number for each journey / route you are commenting on.

The Council is satisfied that the proposed changes to service 89 affecting Coxheath by the removal of direct evening services appear to be adequately compensated for by the diversion of Service 5 to serve the village in the evenings.

It is understood that adding the 89 loop to the number 5 service is already in place on a Sunday and that it doesn't have a substantial impact. So as long as the changes are adequately signposted to current evening users of the 89, and doesn't result in any loss of service (which it doesn't seem to), then Maidstone Borough Council does not object to the proposals.

It is also hoped that with the anticipated/committed development in the village of Coxheath, it may be possible in the future to reinstate 89 evening services to the village on a commercial basis.

The Council would welcome and stresses the importance of on-going dialogue with the County Council on public transport issues in particular support for improved bus services to and from Maidstone to the Rural Service Centres and larger villages which are seen as integral to the Integrated Transport Strategy and traffic mitigation proposals.

Other than the above the only comment some Members have made is that a disproportionate number of bus users are folk over 65. And on average only around two thirds of men over 65 and only 54% of women over 65 have Internet access. Therefore a predominantly on-line consultation feels inappropriate.

*If you are responding on behalf of an organisation please go to question 9.
 If you are responding as an individual or on behalf of a friend or relative please continue to question 7.*

Kent Karrier is a dial-a-ride service. It can take you from your home to set locations, such as the nearest town centre or supermarket. You are eligible to join if you have a medical condition that makes travelling on public transport difficult, you live in a rural area more than 500 metres from a bus route or railway station or are aged 85 or over.

Q7. Are you a member of the Kent Karrier scheme?

Select **one** box. *If you are responding on behalf of a friend or relative please answer using their details.*

Yes

No, I was not aware of the scheme but may be eligible

No, I am not eligible for this scheme

Q8. Do you travel using any of the following bus passes?

Select **all** that apply. *If you are responding on behalf of a friend or relative please answer using their details.*

Older Persons (English National Concessionary Travel Scheme)

Mobility Impairment (English National Concessionary Travel Scheme)

Companion (English National Concessionary Travel Scheme)

Young Persons Travel Card

Kent 16+ Travel Card

No, I do not use any bus passes

Other, please specify:

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Q9. We have completed initial Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) on our scoring approach and for each of the service routes identified for review. An EqIA is a tool to assess the impact any service change, policy or strategies would have on age, disability, gender, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership and carers' responsibilities. We welcome your views.

The EqIAs are available online at www.kent.gov.uk/busreview or on request.

Please write any comments here:

The key is to ensure that elderly/disabled persons are not unduly disadvantaged by the proposed changes. Given that a replacement service for the withdrawn 89 is to be provided, it is anticipated that this may be achieved.

Future Engagement and Communication

Q10. If you would like to receive feedback on this consultation please provide your contact details below.

Our preferred method of communication is by email, however if you do not have an email address then please provide your postal address.

Name:

Steve Clarke

Email address:

steveclarke@maidstone.gov.uk

Postal address:

Maidstone Borough Council
Spatial Policy Team
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone
ME15 6JQ