

Motion – KCC buses

This Council believes that the decision by KCC to cut bus subsidies is a seriously retrograde step that will have a hugely negative impact on many people in our communities for the following reasons:

It goes against policies supported by both KCC and this Council to improve the use and accessibility of public transport.

It unfairly impacts the elderly, the disabled, young people those who are unable to afford their own private transport.

It will increase rural isolation and the impact of loneliness on vulnerable people.

It undermines the local plan review which, to meet the Government housing target, will need to see a significant shift from journeys being made by private motor car towards greater use of public transport and active travel.

It is contrary to Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council policies to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

For these reasons we call on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at KCC to cancel this withdrawal of bus subsidies with urgent effect.

Furthermore, we call on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at KCC to instigate a review of how bus services can be made more relevant to people's daily travel requirements, more accessible and more affordable to increase use of bus services in line with the policies cited above.

Proposed Mike Baldock
Seconded Tim Valentine