

**Swale House, East Street,  
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT**  
DX59990 Sittingbourne 2  
Phone: 01795 417850  
Fax: 01795 417141  
www.swale.gov.uk



Making Swale a better place

**Appendix 2**

David Brazier  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport  
c/o Members Desk  
Kent County Council  
County Hall  
Sessions House  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XQ

1 November 2022

Dear Mr Brazier

**Re: Proposed reduction of bus services in the Swale Western Area**

I am writing to you following an issue raised at the Swale Western Area Committee on Thursday 1 September 2022. A motion was passed at the meeting to write to you concerning the impact of the proposed cuts to bus services and the impact they will have on residents living in the western area of Swale. The Committee also requested that the timetabling and routes of the remaining services be reviewed as they are not currently viable.

We consider the Swale routes to be vital to the needs of the communities and passengers they serve. The reductions in service will unquestionably have a negative impact on many of Swale Borough Council's strategies for the Borough, not least the emerging Local Plan and the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan. Set against a need to deliver against increasing housing targets, grow our economy and yet meet our ambition for the Borough to be Carbon Neutral by 2030, residents, visitors and those working in Swale need to be able to make more journeys using sustainable transport modes. Bus services are a critical component of this.

The withdrawal of these services will also disadvantage a number of communities in the western area, resulting in the demise in many areas of valued public transport connections for the rural population. This will impact on access to employment and skills opportunities, leisure and essential services, with a disproportionate impact on some of the most vulnerable, through reductions to scheduled services and particularly through the removal of the Kent Karrier service.

The reduction in services will particularly impact on the young. Many of the services proposed to be removed will impact directly on student journeys to and from schools, both primary and secondary. More broadly young people cannot, or are far less likely to have access to a car and aside from education these proposals will limit access to leisure, employment opportunities and further and higher education. Swale has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment in the south-east (currently 6.5% for 18-24 year olds) and accessibility to opportunities is consistently identified by Job Centre plus and other partner agencies as a major barrier to both skills and employment opportunities.

Yours sincerely

**Cllr Corrie Woodford**  
**Chair of the Western Area Committee**

cc Cllr Mike Baldock, Chair of the Swale Planning & Transport  
Policy Working Group

