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SWALE LOCAL BUS FORUM

Meeting held on Wednesday 15 October 2025 from 2.00pm, via Teams

Present:

- Chris Webber (CW) - Stagecoach
- Dan Bruce (DB) – KCC
- David Morton (DM) - Stagecoach
- Cllr Dolley Wooster (DW)
- Emma Wiggins (EW)
- Cllr Karen Watson (KW)
- Luke Naylor (LN) – KCC
- Roland Eglinton (RE) - Chalkwell
- Stephne Pay (SP) – KCC
- Tony Winckless (TW)
- Emma Casambros (Stagecoach)
- Ian Harrison – SBC
- Katherine Jones (Stagecoach)

In Attendance: Sharon Dormedy (SD) Minutes

Apologies:

- Cllr Alastair Gould (AG)
- Tim Lambkin (TL)
- Cllr Mike Baldock (MB)

NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	
1.1	Apologies received from Alastair Gould.	
2.	Minutes of Local Bus Forum – 29 July 2025	
2.1	The minutes from the meeting on 29 July 2025 were agreed and the following updates given on outstanding actions.	
2.2	3.6 KCC colleagues had been passed concerns regarding home school appeals and budget. SP and DW to liaise after meeting regarding home to school transport for pupils from the Island to Faversham.	
2.3	6.2 KW advised feedback from Sittingbourne Area Committee related more to access on trains, rather than buses and ensuring dementia friendly timetables available. KW will consult with KCC following meeting.	
2.4	6.3 Ian Harrison in attendance and will update on S106 funds for bus services during the meeting.	
3.	KCC General Updates	
3.1	Dan Bruce presented the general update for KCC: • New Chair to Enhanced Partnership Board – Spencer Dixon and introductory meeting held in August 2025 with future meeting being scheduled. Further round of full meetings of scheme boards expected for December linked to expected funding.	

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	• Visual breakdown of Capital/Revenue and BSIP Funding Position • Kent BSIP Delivery Headlines including: ○ Real time information – Phase 1 roll out being progressed ○ QR Codes installation programme commenced in September ○ Testing on Information Portal - finalising work to improve information and link into live information • Grants ○ District Shelter Grant – submissions being accessed ○ Community Transport Grant – closing end of September ○ Urban Bus Grant – Closing end October • Swale Initiatives including : ○ Bus Priority – Feasibility ○ Fares and Ticketing – Multi-Operator Ticketing Trial ○ Fares – KTS & Other promotions ○ Fares – SME Grants ○ Fares – Swale PlusBus scheme ○ Infrastructure – RTI 23/24 ○ Information – QR Codes ○ Information – Passenger Information Portal ○ ANPR Cameras – Great Easthall ○ Network – Service Support – 334 ○ Network – Service Support – 360 (Summer 2025) ○ Infrastructure – RTI 24/25 ○ Highways – Bell Rd / Sittingbourne Bus Hub ○ District Bus Shelter Grant ○ District Urban Bus Improvements Grant ○ Sheppey : Summer Sunday Service Pilot	
3.2	SP updated on the bus subsidy and services supported by: • KCC Travel Saver Capacity • KCC Bus Subsidy • BSIP Revenue Support – support 62 contracts. SP summaries the 7 services in the Swale area which would not operate without BSIP funding. SP confirmed if spare grant monies became available a criterion to priorities bus funding is applied.	
3.3	SP summarised the future ambitions for the network and the 2025-29 Delivery Plan	
3.4	RE advised the Summer Sunday 360 initiative had been successful and well used with approximately 700 journeys through the summer. RE confirmed the	

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	service of one bus a day operating every two hours on a Sunday, would not have been possible without funding.	
3.5	SP advised as at the start of the new September term, Travelmaster are the main network operator for school transport and timetables remain unchanged.	
3.6	TW highlighted the need for a 347 Sunday service from Kemsley to Sittingbourne town centre. SP this was an aspiration we all shared but not possible due to needing subsidy and unfortunately not available. EW suggested considering for future trial if funding or external funding became available.	
4.	Bus Companies Update	
4.1	RE highlighted roadworks as the biggest single issue facing local bus companies especially Grovehurst/Key Street. The closure of Blue Bell Hill also had a big impact and incredibly difficult to manage.	
4.2	RE had attended two Area Forums where good engagement had taken place and well received. Network Rail were also present at the meetings.	
4.3	CW had not been able to attend the last Sittingbourne Area Committee but happy to attend in future if needed.	
4.4	As RE from Chalkwell, highway works remain the biggest issue.	
5.	SBC Updates	
5.1	IH updated on latest S106 Agreements being drafted in the Borough including Highted, Winterborne and Bobbing and advised RE had been included in discussion along with KCC leading to assist in securing funding for bus route development. Any questions relating to specific sites should be referred to IH.	
5.2	Not relevant to any specific S106, DB feedback the importance of advising of costs, aspirations and challenges to support cases for future funding.	
5.3	RE had inputted into all major schemes with the developer. which had been an incredibly lengthy process and RE hoped would help shape and improve future bus services provision.	
5.4	IH – weekly lists are provided to Members and Members can approach Officers at early stage to discuss application and S106 questions relating to future bus provisions etc.	
5.5	EW updated the meeting on the recent announcement of the successful Pride in Place funding for Sheerness East and the future creation of a Community Board to develop the project plan. EW would welcome engagement from stakeholder if bus infrastructure included. If any further information is needed on the Pride of Place funding please contact EW.	
6.	Area Committee Feedback	
6.1	DW – Feedback on comments received from the Sheppey Area Committee including:	

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	- School transfer issue, already discussed - Wheel chair users, access to bus stops needs improving. - Wrap around services, to hospitals, Maidstone could be improved.	
6.2	TW – Feedback from Sittingbourne Area Committee: - Evening Bus services needed - Additional Sunday Service needed – already discussed during meeting.	
6.2	AG submitted a question on behalf of Boughton Parish Council regarding the bus service towards Canterbury with students and pensioners not being able to get on busses due to congestion. CW will investigate and update AG	CW/SD
7.	AOB	
7.1	EW – To enable Stagecoach to monitor and fully investigate, complaints or issues should be logged by contacting https://www.stagecoachbus.com/help-and-contact/forms/complaint-form or calling : 0345 241 8000	
Next meeting: - Schedule for January 2026		