

MINUTES

LOCAL BUS FORUM

Meeting held on Tuesday 29 July 2025 from 2.00pm, via Teams

Present:

- Chris Webber (CW) Stagecoach
- Dan Bruce (DB) - KCC
- David Morton (DM) - Stagecoach
- Dolley Wooster (DW)
- Emma Wiggins (EW)
- Karen Watson (KW)
- Luke Naylor (LN) - KCC
- Mike Baldock (MB)
- Roland Eglinton (RE) - Chalkwell
- Stephne Pay (SP) – KCC
- Tony Winckless (TW)

In Attendance: Sharon Dormedy (SD) Minutes

Apologies: Alastair Gould (AG)

NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	
1.1	Apologies received from Alastair Gould.	
2.	Minutes of Local Bus Forum – 30 January 2025	
2.1	Item 3.2 – Update on Kent bus portal to be given during meeting. Item 3.8 – Update on Parish Rural Shelter grant to be given during meeting.	
3.	KCC General Updates including Funding Update	
3.1	<p>Dan Bruce update on the Kent BSIP headlines since January 2025 and following the extraordinary meetings in February to form Delivery Plan highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25/26 Delivery Plan submitted to DfT in March 2025 and raised at last Forum. Following clarification from DfT, grant determination letter released and signed by KCC. Funding received in June 2025 to support over next 12 months. DB thanked everyone for their input in achieving this. Kent Bus Information Portal to be formally launched over coming weeks for all journey planning and displaying real time info and reporting tool. Testing taking place to ensure fully functional before going live. Update on major projects in Dover and Canterbury District Shelter Grant Scheme for 25/26 launched. Wider District Grant Scheme to follow shortly. <p>DB explained the real-time bus information available on the portal will take into consideration planned/scheduled road closures and information will be as live as information provided to Highways.</p>	

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3.2	DB gave a breakdown of the revenue spend for 25/26, including Promotions and Plus Bus Expansion to be introduced to Swale. RE was not aware Plus Bus Expansion was not administered in Swale and DB and RB will discuss outside of meeting.	
3.3	DW raised a question regarding the additional Summer 360 Leysdown bus route and DB will update DW following the meeting.	KCC
3.4	SP summarised the 2025/2026 Capital initiatives including Parish Rural Shelter Grant where Parish Councils can bid for match funding to refresh or install bus shelters. The grant had been made available to all Parish Clerks across the County and will be part funded from capital element through BSIP.	
3.5	SP updated on the bus subsidy and available funding including schools transfer element and the shared aspiration to provide additional and enhanced initiatives.	
3.6	MB raised concerns regarding KCC's future funding for home to school transport within next year's budget. SP advised home to school transport is a different budget as statutory responsibility and will request information from colleagues in Education regarding budget and home to school transport appeal positions.	KCC
3.6	SP advised engagement around these forums is in respect of BSIP funding and whatever we deliver needs to be consistent with the Delivery Plan.	
3.7	SP reminded the meeting that Government support is extremely important as funding through BSIP Revenue and Capital is only secure for this financial year. Currently waiting for spending announcement for next year and future impact to 62 services funded from BSIP.	
3.8	DW raised additional questions via the teams chat facility and KCC will respond following the meeting.	KCC
4.	Bus Companies Update	
4.1	RE advised main issue is around the challenging road closures at Grovehurst and on the Island. A shuttle bus is being introduced for the planned closure of Key Street.	
4.2	CW – thanked the meeting for the invite to attend. No additional items to raise other than issues already highlighted during the meeting.	
4.3	TL from Travelmaster had been invited to the meeting but unable to attend.	
5.	SBC Updates	
5.1	Mike Knowles looking at capacity to bid under District Shelter Grant and has information available to submit application.	
5.2	DB advised Alan Millard from KCC Highways could attend a future meeting and Ian Harrison from SBC planning will attend if available.	

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6.	Area Committee Feedback	
6.1	DW – Feedback from Sheppey Area Cttee included in chat and KCC to update following meeting.	KCC
6.2	KW – Sittingbourne AC have met and raised concerns regarding accessibility for customers with dementia/zimmer frames and waiting for response from bus companies.	Bus Co
6.3	EW – Western AC – S106 funds provided for bus services and KCC hold the money. EW to look at ways to show S106 allocation for buses.	EW
6.4	EW – Eastern AC – Representative from Faversham Town Council should sit on Swale Local Bus Forum and suggested Cllr Gould is the rep as already on the Group.	EW
6.5	DW invited RE to attend future Sheppey Area Committee to update on Summer Bus Service.	DW
7.	AOB	
7.1	Next meeting to be held end of September/beginning of October 2025. Outstanding Action and responses information be prepared and circulated.	SD
7.2	SP updated on the Enhancement Partnership Board which had not met due to the change of administration and cabinet members. An inaugural introduction board meeting is being scheduled for August and SP will forward update bulletin to stakeholders once taken place. SP conscious regular meeting has not been held allowing Scheme Monitoring Groups to report back.	
Next meeting: - Schedule for end of September/beginning of October 2025.		