

Reference Number: MFOI003954

Request:

Dear Medway Council,

I am gathering information on bus and public transport provision as part of the Save our Buses campaign, which maps cuts to bus services across the country. We know that the Government has made deep cuts to local authority budgets, and that this is having an effect on the provision of local bus services. We would like to gather a national picture of bus cuts, so that we can explain to central Government exactly how their decisions are having an impact across the country.

My questions are as follows (in each case I am only after the information for your authority):

1. What is the agreed total budget for supported bus services in the fiscal year 2018/19
2. What was the total spend for supported bus services in the fiscal year 2017/18?
3. What was the total spend for supported bus services in the fiscal year 2016/17?

Note: This refers to the Department for Transport's definition of a supported bus service as: "one where a local transport authority has invited tenders for the operation of a service (not e.g. seats on a bus or subsidised tickets etc), and a contract exists as a result of that tender". Please, exclude extra sources of funding such as Section 106/developer funding, Community Infrastructure Levy, local authority staffing and publicity, RTPI expenditure and revenue, the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG), Local Education Authority funding for home to school transport, NHS-funded non-emergency patient transport, social services transport, voluntary transport and other central and national government grants or income streams.

4. How many and which supported routes are likely to have cuts in services in the fiscal year 2018/19 (for example loss of weekend or evening services)?
5. How many and which supported routes have had cuts in services in the fiscal years 2016/17 and 2017/18 (for example loss of weekend or evening services), listed for each year?
6. How many and which supported routes are likely to be completely withdrawn in the fiscal year 2018/19?
7. How many and which supported routes have been completely withdrawn in the fiscal years 2016/17 and 2017/18, listed for each year?
8. How many and which of the previously supported routes have been taken on commercially?

Our campaign also seeks to promote examples of councils which have protected bus services, sometimes in innovative ways. Please do feel free to share any information you feel is relevant on how your council has protected bus services.

Thank you.

If you wish to receive further information in regards to this request or wish to submit a Freedom of Information Request please forward your request to freedom@medway.gov.uk or Information Governance Team, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 & Environmental Information Regs. 2004



Yours faithfully,

Chris Todd

Campaign for Better Transport

Response:

1. What is the agreed total budget for supported bus services in the fiscal year 2018/19

£953,885

2. What was the total spend for supported bus services in the fiscal year 2017/18?

£964,277

3. What was the total spend for supported bus services in the fiscal year 2016/17?

£1,064, 988

4. How many and which supported routes are likely to have cuts in services in the fiscal year 2018/19 (for example loss of weekend or evening services)?

Not known at this stage (if any)

5. How many and which supported routes have had cuts in services in the fiscal years 2016/17 and 2017/18 (for example loss of weekend or evening services), listed for each year?

Between 15/16, and 16/17

- N1/N2 ASD service- Night Bus Service on Friday and Saturday nights (very poor usage)
- 196 early morning service between Grain and Chatham (duplication of service)

Between 16/17 and 17/18

- 121 Saturday Service between Rainham- Darland- Chatham
- 130- Twydall to Maidstone- loss of 2 journeys – am and pm
- 132/141- Strood- Hempstead Valley- last evening service
- 145 – Chatham – Warren Wood- Evening service after 9.30
- 164- Chatham – Chatham Grove- last early evening journey withdrawn
- 177- Chatham- Walderslade- 1 early evening journey
- Some cuts in School bus services

6. How many and which supported routes are likely to be completely withdrawn in the fiscal year 2018/19?

Not known at this stage (if any)

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7. How many and which supported routes have been completely withdrawn in the fiscal years 2016/17 and 2017/18, listed for each year?

Between 15/16, and 16/17

- N1/N2 ASD service- Night Bus Service on Friday and Saturday nights (very poor usage)
- 196 early morning service between Grain and Chatham (duplication of service)

Between 16/17 and 17/18

- 121 Saturday Service between Rainham- Darland- Chatham

8. How many and which of the previously supported routes have been taken on commercially?

- 101 evening service – Twydall- Maidstone
- 182- Sunday service- Twydall- Chatham
- 132 Sunday service Hempstead- Chatham– now commercial
- 141/141 Sunday service- Strood- Chatham- now commercial

I trust this information is to your satisfaction, however, if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Information Governance Manager, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR., or email freedom@medway.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

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