

What Kent Councils Do

Kent County:

The “Travelling” link takes one to a large list of transport-related topics which includes (among others):

Cycling: further links to cycling proficiency contact details, links to other cycling bodies and shops, and information on cycle routes and holidays in Kent.

LTP: direct link to PDF files of plan and progress reports.

Disability: links to many local accessibility bodies, or their phone numbers.

Parking: Description of parking policy and links to Blue Badge scheme.

Public Transport: Links to schemes being initiated and run by KCC (follow this up). For concessionary fares there is just a link to a list of district council contact details. Easy to find link to informative school travel grants page, both for primary/secondary and further education.

Quiet Lanes: link to Countryside agency website – could be useful for those who wish to make us of the QL initiative.

Road Safety: Links to:

- National Driver Improvement Scheme.

- Institute of Advanced Motorists.

- RoSPA.

- Childlife – campaign for child road safety.

- Cycling Proficiency – link to contacts.

- Kerbcraft – links to website and KCC contacts.

- Minibuses – info on licensing requirements.

- Walking Buses – Q & A format and link to Area Road Safety Offices.

Also Sustrans link.

- Promotion of Young Driver Courses + link to Road Safety offices.

- Safety in Action courses. Not wholly relevant to transport, but interesting idea.

- Home Zones – link to International Home Zones website.

School buses: link to specific site (as above).

Walking: link to strategy document and Kent Countryside Access website.

Nothing about public advice for increasing walking.

Live Congestion Information: links to AA and TrafficMap websites.

Maps of bus, cycle and lorry routes on PDF format.

Parking: online information on spaces in Canterbury and Maidstone car parks.

Also link to other district council sites.

Public Transport: Links to;

- Kent Public Transport website - Good listing of modes and links to how to access them, including routes and timetables, plus Traveline public transport info which is an inter-modal journey planner

- South Eastern Trains

- National Rail ticketing website.

Travel Plans: Contains a brief explanation of what a travel plan is, with a good argument of the business benefits. Links to:

- DfT travel plans

- Kent & Medway eGeneration

- Energy Efficiency Best Practice

Association of Commuter Transport
Environmental Transport Association
National Travelwise Association
Kent CarShare.org.uk
Contact details for KCC travel co-ordinator.

Ashford Borough:

Transport appears to be accessible only via the site map.

Information is available on:

Car parks: locations, times and tariffs of local car parks

Bus Services: links to local bus operators, large and small. Some of the links do not work and there are only phone numbers for some of the operators.

Taxis: not much information, just a bit about licensing.

Trains: links to:

all UK train operators, so not specific

National Rail Journey Planner

Trainline.com

Network Rail general enquiries site

Also a list of estimated journey times to popular destinations.

International train journeys: links to Eurostar schedules and local trains.

Ferry Services: link to KCC site.

Coach Services: ditto.

Air: ditto.

Nothing on green travel plans.

Canterbury City:

Good, easy to find, transport plan: informative and easy to read, with good diagrams.

The transport plan refers to green travel plans, and recognises that travel plans can be integrated at the planning stage of developments, or as a retrospective measure.

School travel plans are also encouraged and safe routes to school are covered.

Park and Ride: informative page on the P & R scheme, with fares/parking charges, routes and availability.

Concessionary bus fares: there is a phone number and email address, but no web page.

Discounted Parking permits: there is a link to a page, but it is not working.

Overall, good bus info and proposed measures, but some information is sadly lacking.

Dartford District:

Good LTP, showing amendments from proposal to implementation phase.
Good understanding of issues. Nice to see that in many places the word “green” has been crossed out.

Under Business Support, there is a link to egeneration, so businesses can access information on sustainable business practices and case studies. Sustainable transport is one of the listings on the egeneration website and the information is quite broad but detailed.

Could not find anything else: no road safety, no safe routes etc. Basically not much practical help for the consumer.

Dover:

Clear and easy to find Local Transport Plan, which recognises that Dover is a rather special case due to the port and, just up the road, the channel tunnel.

Easy to find page on bus passes, travel tokens and travel vouchers. There are specific links to pages about each concession.

There is a link from the search site to “schools”, at the KCC website, for information on school travel and safety.

Gravesham:

Parking: a short list of phone numbers to ring.

Eventually one can find “Getting Around” which has a link to cap park charges and external links to Arriva, Network rail and TownCentric (about Gravesend town centre).

Very poor website: little information or links.

Maidstone:

Search for “travel” brings up Public Transport Information which lists information on:

Local stations: information on facilities and routes (no map).

Lots of links to the necessary information.

Buses: information on operators, facilities at bus stations, coach services and park and ride. Timetables, bus routes and shop mobility are also listed.

Roads: Park and Ride, car parks (live spaces updates, great if you have WAP), roadworks listings (with streetmap.co.uk link), route planner (viamichelin.com).

Route Maps: basic Kent map, Maidstone town centre map, interactive map.

Also, accessibility is high on Maidstone's priorities. Good.
Links to live traffic report websites, which are informative.

LTP not easy to find, except through search, but clear policy.

Concessionary fares pages can be accessed from the main "services" page.;
links to applications and phone number.

Overall: good travel information, but not enough on travel plans etc.

Medway Unitary:

The A-Z search for "Travel" and "Transport" throws up many references.
The school bus service page gives information on basic routes and operators
with phone numbers etc.

The Park and Ride page gives a basic description of the local service, a
contact phone number and general enquiry email address, but no web link.
Bus Cards are provided by Medway council, for use outside of peak times, to
give a fare of 30p for those over 60. Contact details are phone and email.
Accessibility transport page is a bit brief with a general email address and
contact phone number.

The trains page is poor compared to many others. There are links to train
operators' websites etc, and a general enquiries email address and phone
number.

Road Safety can be accessed from "Community" in the site index. This page
is not very useful, but the links at the foot of the page go to:

Travel Safety Education: basic page with email and phone contact details at
the council.

Safety: reference to school travel plans and contact details.

- Safer routes to school: information on why, but not much on how.
Contact address, email and phone number.
- School Travel Plans: More detailed explanation of why and a bit on
how (www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sd/managers/travel).
- Walking bus: council help with route planning and assessment etc.
Contact numbers etc.
- Cycle training: an outline of when courses are offered and what they
encompass. Contact phone number and email address at the Council.
- Young driver courses: outline of what the course contains and contact
details at the Council.

The council has instigated a company travel plan for its staff, in accordance
with its own LTP. The plan is a good example of the implementation of a
company travel plan.

Train station accessibility is addressed on a specific page which describes the
facilities at each of the local stations.

School travel allowances are accessed via “schools”, “more”, and “transport”. There is an interesting “spare seat” policy on school buses.

Overall: not bad, but relies heavily on phone/email access to council staff.

Sevenoaks District:

The public transport page has links to:
General bus information, which takes one to the KCC site.
Arriva.
Metrobus.
Link to Traveline journey planner website.
KCC railworks information site.
Concessionary fares, with online request form.

Under Taxis and Private Hire, there is information on those companies which offer disabled accessible vehicles.
The Council car park page gives information on the locations, opening times and tariffs, but no maps.

There is a whole mass of information links to sustainable transport, road safety and public transport accessible via <http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/code/content.asp?contentid=337&pid=337>
But this is not easy to find, even using a search. Using Google brought the page up. The assumption appears to be that only the young need information about public transport, road safety etc.
Almost all the links are to external bodies who specialise in their respective fields.

No LTP could be found, except as part of the KCC document.

Overall: most information is outsourced.

Shepway District:

A very strangely organised website. The A-Z directory does not list the pages that are available on the website, so is rather a waste. The search facility works slightly better, but overall there is little information on the site.

Concessionary travel: very basic information, together with an application form (PDF).
Road safety: nothing through search, but under community safety there is a link to the SEFEG community safety website. This includes car and cycle safety, as well as other stuff.
Roadworks: a link to KCC roadworks website. Link to Highways Agency Traffic Map website.
Car parks: There is information on season tickets for council car parks and contact details.

No evidence of a LTP.

Overall: very poor.

Swale Borough:

Transport and Travel takes one to a series of links to:

Arriva.

Eurostar.

Just for Kent Travel Information – link does not work.

National Express.

Traveline.

National Rail Enquiries.

Thetrainline.

KCC Travelling in Kent.

Travel Enquiries only goes to the tourism website, which does not have any information relevant to sustainable transport.

Under Community Issues, there are links to:

Cycle routes in Swale, which then goes to:

 Cycling to school – very basic

 Cycle routes – very basic

 Cycling and health – fairly basic

Walking Bus: very basic description and post/phone contact details, for help.

A search for Concessionary Fares only takes one to a contact address, number and email address – not very helpful.

A simple but potentially effective sustainable transport plan (recognising the need for integration with the built environment) can be found by searching for “transport plan”.

Overall: public transport part is good (though outsourced), the rest is rather poor.

Thanet:

On the Out and About page there are links to:

Concessionary bus passes – good explanation and PDF of application form.

Car parks – information on tariffs, times, facilities, number of spaces and addresses. Also, there is information about on-street parking.

Roadworks – a list of current, and future, roadworks in the Thanet district.

Useful Information for road users – links to:

- Highways Agency
- KCC highways
- DfT

- Multimap.com
- Theaa.com
- There is also a link to Safe Routes to school (strange place to put it).
- Ditto, Walking Bus.

The LTP is pretty comprehensive and can be found via “bus strategy” on the concessionary bus passes page.

Overall: not great.

Tonbridge and Malling:

Concessionary fares: fairly comprehensive page giving contact details and downloadable forms.

Parking: a long list of car parks with details of charges, but not clear what the time restrictions are for each car park. Some season tickets available.

Disabled parking: separate link to KCC page.

Eventually, via:

“Local business”

“Business advice”

”Improve your business”

“Health, safety, premises”

“Health, safety, premises site map”

“Maximise energy efficiency”

“Sources of advice and financial help”,

there is information on sustainable transport from the EST and ActionEnergy.

There does not appear to be anything for the general public with regard to sustainable travel.

An LTP could not be found.

Overall: rather poor.

Tunbridge Wells:

No page for cycling, only a phone number and email address.

No page for walking, only a phone number.

Ditto, taxis (except licensing).

Ditto, public transport.

Ditto, disabled access.

Parking has a phone number and email address. There is also a list of car parks and the facilities available.

Roads and roadworks, link to Highways.

The LTP (or 2strategy”) is available via a search. The plan is pretty comprehensive. Overall: extremely poor.