

Seb Dance
Deputy Mayor of London for Transport
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London
E16 1ZE

Friday 12th June 2026

Dear Seb Dance,

I am writing to you regarding reports that Transport for London (TfL) is considering changes to bus services connecting the London Borough of Bexley to Darent Valley Hospital and the Bluewater Shopping Centre.

It is deeply disappointing that Bexley Council was not informed that the 96, 428, and 492 routes were under review, and that this was only communicated to us following media reports and public discussions at Dartford Borough Council. This is particularly concerning given how hard Bexley Council fought to ensure the 96 bus route stopped at the hospital.

I understand that services are at risk because KCC has requested a “significant” increase in the contribution that TfL pays to use the Fastrack busway between Darent Valley Hospital and Bluewater.

This situation is alarming. Thousands of Bexley residents receive treatment at Darent Valley Hospital and rely on TfL bus routes to travel to appointments or to visit sick family and friends.

Given the car parking pressures at the hospital, regular direct bus routes from Bexley are essential. If TfL were to terminate these routes at Dartford town centre or reduce these services, it would increase patients’ and staff’s journey times and could result in passengers paying two fares to complete their journeys. No one wants to see sick and elderly residents stuck waiting on a bus or paying more to travel for medical treatment.

Bexley residents also rely heavily on these services to travel to the Bluewater Shopping Centre for shopping or work. Without these direct bus connections, the journey will take longer and cost more. It will also add to the congestion caused by the shopping centre.

When the Ultra Low Emission Zone was expanded without Bexley residents’ support, we were promised improved bus connections. While the Superloop SL3 route is welcome — albeit the route excludes Bexley Village — we have not seen the scale of improvements required, including a very disappointing funding allocation for our bus priority schemes. If these services were cut, it would be a significant blow.

I urge you to work constructively with KCC to secure the future of these bus routes, communicate with Bexley Council, and invest in local bus services rather than cut them. I have written separately to Kent County Council to ask the same.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Cameron Smith
Deputy Leader of Bexley Council
Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Infrastructure