

BEXLEY LABOUR GROUP PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Labour councillors press for Darent Valley 428 service to be retained

Bexley's Labour Group of councillors have expressed their concerns regarding potential cuts to the 428 bus route which forms part of a consultation launched by Transport for London (TfL) regarding bus service changes in the Crayford, Dartford and Bluewater area.

At present the 428 route serves Darent Valley hospital and Bluewater after leaving Dartford town centre. TfL's proposals would see the route terminating in Crayford with passengers asked to transfer to the 96 route to reach Dartford town centre, Darent Valley hospital and Bluewater.

Speaking after the launch of the consultation, Cllr Stef Borella, (Slade Green and Northend ward) Shadow Spokesperson for Environment, Transport and Leisure said "I am concerned that TfL are proposing cuts on this route. Residents from Erith, Slade Green and Crayford rely on this route to provide a direct service to Darent Valley Hospital. It is clear that TfL are having to deal with a £700 million a year cut to their budget by this government, but along with colleagues I shall be asking TfL to reconsider this proposal."

He continued:

"One proposal I will be suggesting to TfL will be for the 428 route to terminate at Darent Valley hospital and travel as an express route from Crayford to the hospital. This would therefore deliver some savings to TfL while still delivering a direct bus route to the hospital from Erith, Slade Green and Crayford. I would urge local residents to respond to the consultation arguing that a direct link to the hospital be maintained."

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

- For further information, please contact Councillor Stef Borella on Stefano.borella@bexley.gov.uk
- More information on the consultation can be found at <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/96-428-492/>