

Committee:	FULL COUNCIL
Date:	13 October 2025
Agenda Item	7d

Report for Council on Senior Citizens' Outings in 2025 and Proposals for Outings for 2026.

Five outings were arranged for senior citizens in 2025, and they returned with enthusiasm, and appreciated the variety of destinations and the care offered by the coach company. The places visited were Canterbury, Greenwich, Worthing, Sheringham and Southwold, and 4 coaches went to Sheringham, Canterbury, Greenwich and Southwold, and 3 to Worthing. The total income this year was £17,110 and the total cost of the trips was £14,045 which leaves a surplus of £3065 towards offsetting the cost of the administration of the outings. The process of keeping track of bookings has been very efficiently streamlined by Ed in 2025.

Residents of Halstead are guaranteed a place on an outing if they book during the booking period in the New Year. Those living outside Halstead are placed on a reserve list at the time of booking, and then once the booking period has ended, they are offered places on any coach which is not full. In the past, the Council has always in addition held a reserve list. This was for people, either residents or non-residents, who did not book during the booking period. The practice in the past was to offer a place to those on the reserve list if there was a cancellation at any time in the period running up to the outing. It is made clear on the booking form that bookings are not transferable or refundable. This is to ensure that there are enough funds to pay for the coaches even if there are cancellations. In the 2025 season, however, a resident who obviously knows the law, told us in no uncertain terms that it was illegal to resell the tickets. It is not necessarily illegal, but it may be. The law is not entirely clear. In view of this, and of the fact that we do not need the extra income to cover the cost of the coach, it is advisable for the Council not to resell tickets, and therefore from 2026 onwards, cancellations will not be resold.

Those who took part made their choice of destinations for the following year and have come up with the destinations listed, for which we have coach prices from Kings Coaches. These have increased a little this year but are still very reasonable, and the coaches supplied all have toilets on board, and Kings staff offer a very professional service.

Destinations	Kings coaches price per coach
Cromer	£725.00
Broadstairs	£785.00
Norwich	£695.00
Hunstanton	£725.00
Windsor	£845.00
Total for 3 coaches on each outing	£11,325.00

These prices show a 5% increase on the prices in 2025, but it is our intention also to increase the cost of the trips to participants, so that there is no danger of the cost of the coaches exceeding the income.

Dates suggested

Wednesday 13 May 2026

Wednesday 10 June 2026

Wednesday 15 July 2026

Wednesday 9 September 2026

Wednesday 14 October 2026

Recommendation: That members note this report and decide:

- Whether to run the trips again in 2026
- To make the cost of the trips in 2026 for Halstead Residents and non-residents £18.50 and £22.50 (prices this year were £18.00 and £22.00) Fixing the prices at this figure would mean that HTC would not make a loss overall
- To accept the quotation from Kings Coaches, who have a proven record of being very professional and reliable, and providing the facilities needed for these outings

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Greateorex'.

Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk