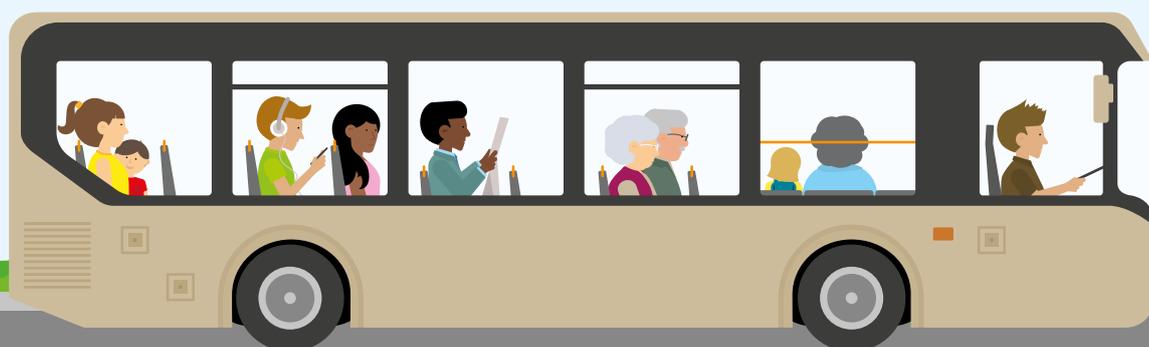


Consultation on proposals to change street lighting, supported passenger transport services and the concessionary travel scheme

Information Pack

Consultation period: 11 June – 5 August 2018



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Introduction

Hampshire County Council is asking for residents' and stakeholders' views on proposals to change street lighting, supported passenger transport services and the concessionary travel scheme.

This consultation opens at midday on 11 June and closes at midnight on 5 August 2018.

There are two parts to this consultation:

Part A: Proposed changes to street lighting

The County Council is proposing to initially save £230,000 per annum by switching off street lights for a minimum of two or more hours per night, every night, on some residential streets from April 2019. This consultation seeks views on where and when street lighting could be switched off. The County Council's preferred option is to switch off street lights for part of the night in primarily residential streets across the county. 'Residential streets' are generally roads that are used to access housing rather than commercial properties, and include housing estate roads and other similar roads.

Part B: Proposed changes to supported passenger transport services and the concessionary travel scheme

In February 2018, Hampshire County Council agreed not to remove the financial support which it provides for supporting passenger transport services across Hampshire, including public bus services, ferries, publications and information and support services. As a direct result of the views expressed by local communities, the proposed savings from this area have been reduced from £4million to £1.1million by April 2019.

Savings of £1million are also proposed from the national concessionary travel scheme which the County Council provides, of which £650,000 has already been secured.

The County Council has also taken the decision to protect the core funding which it provides to frontline community transport services (Dial-a-Ride, Call and Go and Minibus Group Hire Schemes) whilst at the same time wanting to look at how these services can be made more financially sustainable for the future.

This consultation concerns a proposal to help make the shortfall against the £1million savings target from the concessionary travel scheme, as well as helping to inform the approach towards the £1.1million proposed savings from supported passenger transport services.

In order to make these savings, the County Council is proposing:

- to make operational changes to the current public bus and ferry services which Hampshire County Council supports, including reducing the frequency and/or days of services
- to replace some supported public bus services with alternative forms of community transport, such as Taxishares and Call and Go
- to reduce the amount of printed material and make better use of electronic information
- to reduce the amount of support available to organisations that provide, promote or support transport services
- to remove the use of the Older Person's Bus Pass on Taxishares, Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go services, which is a discretionary enhancement to the national concessionary travel scheme.

Why your views are important

It is important to the County Council that the views of the public, community groups, businesses, as well as feedback from other interested stakeholders, are carefully considered.

Your feedback will help to inform a decision by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport later in the year when a decision on the proposed changes to street lighting, supported passenger transport services and the concessionary travel scheme will be made.

Serving Hampshire – Balancing the budget consultation

Last year, the County Council undertook a countywide consultation with residents to seek views on options for managing the anticipated budget shortfall of £140million by April 2019.

This shortfall is due to national austerity measures, combined with demographic and inflationary pressures. With less money available and growing demand for council services, especially statutory services, tough decisions will need to be made about what the County Council can and cannot do in the future. The Authority is required by law to deliver a balanced budget and therefore cannot plan to spend more than is available.

The *Serving Hampshire – Balancing the Budget* consultation included potential options around: reducing and changing services; introducing and increasing charges for some services; lobbying Government for legislative change; generating additional income; using

the County Council's reserves; increasing Council Tax; and changing local government arrangements in Hampshire.

Full details of the consultation can be found on the County Council's website.

Saving options for Economy, Transport and Environment

The Economy, Transport and Environment Department has a savings target of £15.8million by April 2019.

These consultation proposals seek to continue to deliver effective street lighting, supported passenger transport services and the concessionary travel scheme, within a reduced budget.

The County Council's consultation policy

Hampshire County Council is committed to five principles of consultation:

- to consult on key issues and proposals
- to consult in good time
- to be inclusive but with clear and appropriate limits
- to consult using clear, simple information and
- to ensure responses are taken into account when decisions are made.

Part A: Proposed changes to street lighting

The County Council is proposing to save £230,000 by switching off street lights for part of the night (two or more hours), every night from April 2019. The preferred option is to switch off street lights for part of the night in primarily residential streets where crime rates are low across the county. 'Residential streets' are generally roads that are used to access housing rather than commercial properties, and include housing estate roads and other similar roads.

It is **not** proposed to switch off street lights before midnight. These proposals would only apply to street lighting which is owned and maintained by the County Council.

What does Hampshire County Council currently spend and provide?

Currently, energy for street lighting costs approximately £2.7million per annum. The main cost that the County Council can control is energy consumption. The brightness of all

street lights in Hampshire can be varied by reducing the power, which in turn reduces the money spent on energy. Since 2010, the County Council has reduced the brightness of street lights, predominantly in residential streets and with the greatest reduction after midnight. By the end of 2018, the County Council will have more than halved its energy consumption compared with 2010, saving approximately £2million per year.

There is limited scope to save more money by dimming street lights further, but £230,000 per annum could be saved by switching off street lights for part of the night. Saving money by switching off street lights for a limited period would support the County Council to achieve its savings proposals. The alternative would be to make reductions elsewhere. We would like to ask you about your preferences for how this reduction could be implemented.

Proposal 1: To switch off street lights for part of the night (two or more hours) on residential streets

a) When street lights could be switched off at night

The County Council proposes to turn off street lights on residential streets for part of the night for a minimum of two hours, every night, from April 2019. This would mean that some areas of the county would have no street lighting for a period of the night time.

If this proposal was implemented, some street lights would be switched off for a minimum of two hours every night. Switching street lights off for longer by switching them off earlier would allow the County Council to make further savings. The earliest time that street lights may be switched off is midnight, as roads are less busy after this time.

b) Where street lights could be switched off

The County Council is proposing to switch off street lights during part of the night in residential streets. 'Residential streets' account for the majority of street lighting and are generally those streets which provide access to housing/housing estates or other similar roads, rather than commercial properties. This proposal would mean that some residential streets in the county would have no street lighting for part of the night.

This approach offers the main opportunity for savings, but the County Council could explore switching off street lights for part of the night in other areas of the county, in addition to some residential streets, including:

- **Main roads in built up areas:** generally A, B and C class roads. 'Built up' areas include locations which provide frequent access to housing or other developments. Built up areas will generally be urban in nature, but may also include villages.
- **Town and city centre areas:** generally commercial centres with shops, restaurants and other entertainment venues.

If the County Council implemented this proposal, decisions would take into account a wide range of factors when considering where and when to turn off street lights, including feedback from the public, and the needs of businesses or other critical services which may continue to require street lighting. Street lights would not be switched off in areas with high crime rates.

This proposal would mean that some other areas of the county, in addition to some residential streets, would have no street lighting for part of the night.

Part B: Proposed changes to supported passenger transport services and the concessionary travel scheme

Some 89% of bus journeys in Hampshire are provided on a commercial basis not controlled or funded by the County Council, whilst others are paid for by time-limited developer contributions or by district councils. Other services are provided as part of statutory Home to School Transport. These are outside of the scope of this consultation.

This consultation, therefore, only includes those public bus services which receive financial support from Hampshire County Council. The services which are supported by Hampshire County Council are provided in appendix one. Funding for ferry services, publicity and information, support services and the use of the Older Person's Bus Pass on community transport services, including Taxishares, are within the scope of this consultation.

What does Hampshire County Council currently spend and provide?

The County Council supports 83 of the 245 bus service routes in Hampshire (often for part of the day or route). These account for 11% of bus journeys, with the other 89% being made on commercial services in Hampshire which do not receive a subsidy from the County Council. The bus services supported by the County Council cater for around 3.3 million of the 31.5 million bus passenger trips in Hampshire in a year.

Hampshire County Council spends £4million a year on supporting passenger transport services across Hampshire, including public bus services, ferries, publications and information and support services. We propose to save £1.1million from this area.

The County Council spends £900,000 a year supporting community transport services. The County Council has taken the decision to protect the core funding which it provides to frontline community transport services (Dial-a-Ride, Call and Go and Minibus Group Hire Schemes) whilst at the same time wanting to look at how these services can be made more financially sustainable in the future.

In addition to this, Hampshire County Council spends £13.4 million a year providing the national concessionary travel scheme in Hampshire. The County Council has a legal responsibility to issue eligible people with older and disabled person's passes which provide free off peak travel on public bus services. In addition to this the County Council offers a number of discretionary enhancements for Hampshire residents. The County Council is looking to save £1 million from this area with £650,000 of this already having been secured from reduced journeys and scheme administration costs.

Proposed changes to supported passenger transport services in Hampshire (including public bus services, ferries, publicity and information and support services)

The County Council is considering four proposals to achieve the £1.1million savings target in this area.

Proposal 2: To make operational changes to the current public bus and ferry services which Hampshire County Council supports

The County Council could make changes to public bus and ferry services which the County Council supports. To do this, we propose to look carefully at trip data about passenger journeys, the cost of providing particular journeys or services, and passenger and stakeholder feedback.

This proposal may mean a change in the times or days on which public bus and ferry services operate on supported routes in the future. This may mean that some routes run on fewer days or offer fewer journeys and may be limited to links to the nearest large town. No community which currently has a passenger transport service would be left without an essential transport link.

The County Council could change:

- the number of times per day that a supported public bus or ferry service operates
- the number of days per week that a public bus service operates on supported routes
- the days of the week that a public bus service operates on supported routes.

The services which are supported by Hampshire County Council are provided in appendix one.

We would like to gather your views on the introduction of a 50p charge for single journeys made using an Older Person's Concessionary Bus Pass on public bus services

The County Council has a statutory responsibility to issue eligible people with Older and Disabled Person's Passes which provide free off peak travel on public bus services.

Subject to a change in law by Parliament, the County Council could ask people with an Older Person's Bus Pass to make a contribution towards the cost of journeys made on public bus services. If the legislation was amended, enabling the County Council to charge for off peak travel on bus services, then this would mean the additional income raised (estimated £4million per year) could help fund public bus services in the future.

The average cost of a journey undertaken on a public bus service by a bus pass holder in Hampshire is £2.16 per single trip.

Proposal 3: To replace some supported public bus services with alternative forms of community transport, such as Taxishares and Call and Go

- A Taxishare is a timetabled service operated by a taxi that requires advanced booking with fares similar to bus fares.
- Call and Go is a service that requires advanced booking and serves key destinations in a district of Hampshire.

These alternative services offer the County Council the opportunity to provide a transport service to a local community where it is not cost effective to maintain the existing public bus service. The County Council would not take this approach to services which are well-used throughout the year.

This proposal would mean that a community would not have a public bus service but would instead be served by a community transport service such as a Taxishare or Call and Go service.

This proposal may also mean a change in the frequency or the days on which the alternative form of service operates.

Please note that proposal six proposes that the discount for holders of an Older Person's Bus Pass be removed from journeys made on Taxishares, Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go.

Proposal 4: To reduce the amount of printed material and make better use of electronic information

The County Council produces and distributes 115,000 printed travel guides and maps each year which provides information on bus and train services for areas in Hampshire. The County Council also provides real time information displays at 350 bus stops, and real time and timetable information through mobile phone apps and on the internet for bus stops and services throughout Hampshire. The County Council currently spends £500,000 per year doing this, of which £70,000 is spent on printed material.

The County Council could reduce the number of printed travel guides and maps it produces or reduce the content of its guides, and instead promote this information electronically through its website. Alternatively, the County Council could rely on local transport operators to provide this information.

This proposal would mean that people would need to access transport information from the County Council's website or direct from local transport operators, rather than through a printed travel guide. If the content of the travel guides were reduced then some information, such as train or coach services, may no longer be included.

Proposal 5: To reduce the amount of support available to organisations that provide, promote or support transport services

The County Council provides financial and non-financial assistance to organisations who are involved in either providing, promoting or supporting transport services. This is provided through:

- various grant streams for organisations (£30,000 per year).
These can be viewed in more detail on the County Council's website at:
www.hants.gov.uk/grants/environment-grants
- advice and information on legal matters and good practice, for example on operating a minibus
- providing training on a range of topics relating to the provision of transport services.

The level of support available could be reduced.

This proposal could mean that some organisations who currently receive support would need to find other ways of supporting their activities or look elsewhere for their information, advice and training.

Proposed changes to the concessionary travel scheme

The County Council is proposing to save £1million from the administration of the national concessionary travel scheme, £650,000 has already been achieved, and the proposal set out below is intended to contribute to the remaining savings.

The national statutory scheme provides eligible older or disabled residents with a pass entitling them to free off peak travel (09:30-23:00 Monday to Friday and at anytime weekends and public holidays) on public bus services.

Proposal 6: To remove the use of the Older Person's Bus Pass on Taxishares, Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go services

People with an Older Person's Bus Pass can use this to travel for free on Taxishare services and for half fare on most journeys on Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go services in Hampshire. This is in addition to free public bus travel and is funded by Hampshire County Council as an **enhancement** to the statutory scheme for Hampshire residents. This provides Hampshire residents with a concession on a service that is already subsidised by Hampshire County Council and its funding partners.

The County Council could remove the discount for holders of an Older Person's Bus Pass on Taxishare, Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go services. This would mean that people would no longer be able to use their Older Person's Bus Pass on these services and would instead have to pay a fare for the service. This could mean passengers using a Taxishare service paying a subsidised fare of £2.50 or £3.50 per single journey. Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go users would on average pay £4.50 per return journey.

The use of the Older Person's Bus Pass on Taxishares, Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go services costs the County Council £240,000 per year in addition to the cost of providing the service.

This proposal would not affect the times and days on which existing Taxishare, Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go services operate.

It would also not affect people with a Disabled Person's Bus Pass, Companion Bus Pass or Travel Vouchers who would still be able to use these on Taxishare, Dial-a-Ride and Call and Go services as they do now.

Appendix one

Service	Route	Annual cost to Hampshire County Council	Annual passenger journeys
Aldershot, Farnborough and Fleet area services			
7	Hartley Wintney to Aldershot	£168,703	120,145
9	Cove to Farnborough	£19,396	18,786
41/42	Ash to Farnborough (part developer contributions and Surrey County Council)	£97,183	29,444

Andover area services			
5	Thrupton to Andover (part funded by school transport)	£55,177	27,241
7/7A	Andover to Newbury	£50,086	47,321
10	Picket Twenty to Andover (developer contributions)	£85,527	76,203
12	Sheep Fayre to Andover (developer contributions)	£80,034	17,023
13	Picket Piece to Andover (developer contributions)		26,444
14	East Anton to Andover (developer contributions)	£227,602	40,825
15	Stockbridge to Andover (developer contributions)	£82,279	17,049
16	Broughton to Winchester (not school journeys) (dev cons)		6,394
87	Salisbury to Andover (developer contributions) (Middle Wallop to Andover supported)		12,120
C1/C5/C5A	Cango – Kimpton to Andover	£115,693	8,069
C3/C8	Cango – St Mary Bourne to Andover		7,256
C4	Cango – Barton Stacey to Andover		1,624
C6	Cango – Vernham Dean to Andover		1,579
86	Whitchurch to Winchester (Journeys via Barton Stacey during school holidays)	£7,681	802

Service	Route	Annual cost to Hampshire County Council	Annual passenger journeys
Basingstoke area services			
4	Basingstoke to Chineham (developer contributions)	£233,303	101,555
12	Hatch Warren to Basingstoke	£48,583	124,223
14 / 15	14 Basingstoke to Tadley and 15 Basingstoke to South View	£132,737	122,010
74	Overton Local Service	£13,648	6,240
76	Andover to Basingstoke (late evening journeys supported)	£11,387	8,856
C41	Basingstoke to Alresford	£36,490	3,851
Basingstoke and Deane Council directly supports services 3B, 16, 55, 59 and the Centre Shuttle. They also support late evening journeys on town routes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 and Sunday services on routes 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11. Basingstoke and Deane will be reviewing their transport contracts later in 2018.*			

Eastleigh area services			
X6/X7	Eastleigh to Hiltingbury (partial Eastleigh Borough Council) (supported Chandlers Ford to Hiltingbury)	£13,133	48,578
X9	Eastleigh to Bishops Waltham (supported Allbrook to Waltham Chase)	£123,120	108,153
X10	Bishops Waltham to Southampton (supported Bishops Waltham to Moorgreen)		43,278
X15	Eastleigh to Hamble (partial Eastleigh Borough Council)	£27,958	14,674
E1	Eastleigh to Winchester	£70,568	107,909
E2	Eastleigh to Winchester		
Eastleigh Borough Council directly supports late evening journeys on services 2, 3, 6, X7 and X8. They also support the Sunday service on routes X4, X7 and X9. *			

East Hampshire area services			
13	Liphook to Basingstoke (supported Liphook to Alton on Monday to Friday)	£40,428	114,350
18/618	Aldershot to Haslemere (part funded by school transport) (supported Whitehill to Haslemere)	£130,002	127,028

Service	Route	Annual cost to Hampshire County Council	Annual passenger journeys
East Hampshire area services (continued)			
X17	Bishops Waltham to Petersfield	£7,695	2,288
28	Bordon Local Service (funded by Government Grant)	£52,134	5,490
38	Alton to Petersfield	£109,095	57,946
71	Froxfield to Petersfield	£5,575	1,495
94	Buriton to Petersfield	£58,657	21,949
206	Alton to Bentley	£16,207	7,582
208	Alton to Meadstead		
240	Ropley to Alresford	£13,954	4,160
250	Liphook Local Service	£10,828	3,666

Fareham and Gosport area services			
11	Fareham to Alverstoke (Monday to Friday only)	£43,325	36,495
20	Fareham to Wickham	£78,396	56,777
21/21A	Fareham to Hill Head	£48,384	60,148
28/28A	Fareham to Whiteley	£99,993	50,917

Havant area services			
27	Rowlands Castle to Emsworth (developer contributions)	£79,912	35,382
D1/D2	Waterlooville to Hambledon (developer contributions)	£120,989	85,601

New Forest area services			
H1/H2	Netley View to Applemore Tesco	£79,105	9,857
T3/T4	Cadnam to Totton		9,098
X2	Lymington to Bournemouth (partial Dorset County Council) (Gore Road New Milton to Walkford supported)	£20,785	14,296
6	Lymington to Southampton (only certain journeys supported)	£68,904	57,781
C32/C33	New Milton to Lymington	£96,770	13,987
49	Damerham to Salisbury (partial Wiltshire Council)	£3,368	1,612

Service	Route	Annual cost to Hampshire County Council	Annual passenger journeys
New Forest area services (continued)			
112	Hythe/Beaulieu to Lymington (part funded by school Transport)	£74,570	18,798
125	Christchurch to Ringwood (partial Dorset County Council)	£27,189	9,026
119	Lymington to New Milton	£62,356	42,405
191	Chatsworth Park to New Milton		6,252
193	Barton-on-Sea to New Milton		3,361
Hythe Ferry	Hythe Pier to Southampton	£77,062	176,433

Romsey area services			
5	Romsey to Eastleigh (certain early morning and evening journeys only)	£8,721	12,193
X7R	Southampton to Salisbury (partial Wiltshire Council) (Romsey to Salisbury supported)	£24,111	56,316
35	Braishfield to Romsey (part funded by school transport)	£57,046	15,348
36	Lockerley to Romsey	£18,981	724
39	Nomansland to Romsey (partial Wiltshire Council)	£18,981	2,240

Winchester area services			
6A	Abbotts Barton to Winchester	£19,372	1,671
63	Owslebury to Winchester		4,398
46	Winchester to North Baddesley	£46,148	15,358
67	Winchester to Petersfield (part funded by school transport) (some school journeys are commercially operated)	£196,200	62,911
95/96	East Stratton to Winchester (only Tuesdays and Thursdays)	£16,006	845
Winchester Town Forum supports the late night services on routes 3 and 5A. *			

*These services are considered outside the scope of this consultation

How to have your say

You are invited to give your views on these proposals. Please read the information contained in this document carefully.

**This consultation will run for eight weeks from 11 June to 5 August.
Please note that responses received after this date will not be included in the findings report.**

The consultation Response Form is available to download or complete online at www.hants.gov.uk/consultations

You can also email your Response Form directly to Hampshire County Council using the email address: environment.bus.review@hants.gov.uk

To obtain a paper copy of the Information Pack and Response Form, or to request this information in another format such as large print, audio or Braille, or if you have any queries about the consultation, please contact the County Council by email to: environment.bus.review@hants.gov.uk or call **0300 555 1388***

Please return your completed consultation Response Form in the Freepost envelope provided. If you do not have a Freepost envelope, please post your response to: Freepost HAMPSHIRE and write 'Passenger Transport Group' on the back of the envelope.

*0300 calls are usually included in most landline and mobile call packages, and if not, are charged at no more than a local rate call.