

Transport

Key findings

The second Hampshire Perspectives survey focused on transport and considered how the journeys people make around Hampshire have changed during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and whether these patterns are likely to be temporary or permanent

Between 14 October and 28 October 2020, over 800 residents shared their perspective to help the County Council to consider, understand and respond to changes in transport patterns and to better support public and community transport operators as part of the Covid-19 recovery in Hampshire.

Overall, respondents revealed that:

- Both the number of people using public transport, and the level of use amongst those who continue to do so have declined during the pandemic – predominantly due to concerns about exposure and social distancing on board.
- Firm reassurance that the virus is under control will be required to encourage people to return to public transport. Over half will not use trains or buses until they feel safe and 16% felt that their use would never return to previous levels.
- Respondents were increasingly walking and cycling for health and pleasure – recognising its importance for physical and mental wellbeing at the current time.
- New social distancing schemes introduced to enable walking and cycling have encouraged this – although more so for the former than the latter.
- Respondents generally expected that their increased levels of cycling and walking would be maintained once things settle into a ‘new normal’.

The survey findings have been shared directly with the County Council’s transport team, COVID Recovery Group and with Elected Members. They are reflective of journey data that shows people are preferring to stay and shop locally, making shorter distance trips. The findings will now be used to inform projects supported by [£3.28million Emergency Active Travel funding](#) and early stage development of the next Local Transport Plan – both of which will be subject to further consultation during 2021.

Formed in September 2020, Hampshire Perspectives is the County Council’s online residents’ forum – a diverse group of people who share their views to help the County Council to shape services and make decisions that are right for local residents. As yet, the forum is not fully representative of the Hampshire population, so findings are indicative, rather than generalisable to the county as a whole. For further information contact insight@hants.gov.uk