

Passenger Transport Review & Concessionary Travel Scheme 2015/16

Economy, Transport and Environment
Select Committee

23 October 2014

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Head of Passenger Transport

Background to the Review

- County Council on 20 February 2014 agreed overall budget and savings guidelines
- All areas of spending affected
- For passenger transport equated to £1.5 million
- 12 month process, 13 week consultation
- Consultation to prioritise spending to reflect community priorities
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Contracts either re-tendered or renegotiated

Scope of the Review

- Subsidised bus services £4.7 million
- Community transport services £0.9 million
- Ferry services £150,000
- Enhancements to the national concessionary fare scheme for older residents £300,000
- Electronic and printed information and bus stop improvements £500,000

Wider Environment

- Bus use 31.5 million, close to a 20 year high
- Bus networks becoming fewer routes but more frequent, polarising service provision
- Several small operators have ceased trading
- Bus tender prices are still rising – some tenders have had to be re-issued
- Commercial routes have ceased – pressure to fund replacement e.g. 12 Basingstoke
- Growth in college bus networks and changes in school popularity can undermine local buses

Consultation Options

- Reflecting the different areas of expenditure:
 - Reducing/ceasing funding for Sunday services
 - Reducing/ceasing evening services after 7pm / CT 5pm
 - Only allowing older persons bus pass to be used after 9:30am weekdays – we currently fund from 9am
 - Reducing the frequency and/or days of services
 - Replacing bus services with Taxishares or CT services
 - Reducing the amount of printed publicity with a greater use of electronic information
 - Suggestions from respondents – offers of funding!
- Social care and statutory school transport out of scope**

Our aims

- Results properly reflect community priorities.
- The aim is that any community that currently has transport will still have a transport option.
- Residents will still be able to access key destinations.
- We live within our means.



Passenger Transport Review

Have Your Say!

Continuing cuts in Government funding mean that we have to save money in all areas.

We want our spending on passenger transport to match community priorities, so please take part in our consultation.

Most bus services in Hampshire are provided without council funding and are paid for by passenger fares – they are not part of this review. Around 1 in 7 journeys are on services which do not cover their costs and are funded by the County Council so are included in this review.

Hampshire County Council spends £4.7 million each year on local bus and ferry services and £1 million on community transport services such as Dial-a-Ride. The council also spends £300,000 on enhancements to the national concessionary travel scheme for older and disabled residents and £500,000 on bus stop improvements, timetable books and information to increase public transport access and use.

Hampshire County Council needs to save £1.25 to £1.5 million from public and community transport spending by 2015/16 and this consultation aims to collect the views and preferences of individual users and organisations so that our spending reflects community priorities.

Taking part is easy

- Consultation forms are available at local libraries, many village shops and Post Offices
- Visit our website at www.hants.gov.uk/transportconsultation2014
- Email us at environment.bus.review@hants.gov.uk or
- Ring us on 01962 846785 and we will send you a form.
- Scan the QR code below to visit the dedicated web page that lists the services funded by the council, and lets you download the consultation form.



Please return your completed response by 31 May 2014

Passenger Transport Group, Hampshire County Council, Capital House, 48-52 Andover Road, Winchester SO23 7BH

Individual Responses: 3217

- Gender:

Female	1809	56.2%
Male	992	30.8%
No Reply	416	12.9%

- Age:

17 years or less	72	2%
18 - 24	77	2%
25 - 34	113	4%
35 - 44	248	8%
45 - 54	210	7%
55 - 64	391	12%
65 - 74	969	30%
75 +	700	22%
No Reply	437	14%

- Concessionary pass held?

Older Person's bus pass	2130	66%
Disabled person's bus pass / vouchers	147	5%
None	940	29%

- How took part:

Online	1805	56%
Paper	1412	44%

How often do you travel?

Totals:	Most Used	2nd Most Used	3rd most Used	Totals:	
Everyday / most days	753	145	42	940	21.19%
2 - 3 times a week	874	335	107	1316	29.67%
Once a week	306	217	93	616	13.89%
A few times a month	420	387	191	998	22.50%
A few times a year	190	229	147	566	12.76%
Base	2543	1313	580	4436	

- 30% of respondents travelled on 2 or 3 days a week with 23% travelling a few times a month, 21% daily or most days, and 14% once a week.

Journey Purpose

Travelling to / from shops for essential shopping (e.g. food / collecting prescriptions)	20%
Travelling to / from shops for non essential shopping (e.g. clothes)	19%
Attending hospital / doctor / dentist / other health appointments	18%
Visiting leisure / recreational facilities	14%
Visiting friends / relatives	13%
Travelling to / from work / work related training	6%
Other	4%
Travelling to / from community & day centres	3%
Travelling to / from school / college / university	3%

- Shopping and collecting prescriptions accounted for 39% of journeys, health appointments for 18%, and work or training 6% according to respondents.

Alternatives

No alternative	1066	21%
Personal car / vehicle	831	17%
Lift with friends / family members	682	14%
Walking	649	13%
Taxi	597	12%
Train	290	6%
Use local services (e.g. local corner shop instead of city supermarket)	277	6%
Use internet shopping / online services	257	5%
Cycling	172	3%
Use Community Transport services (e.g. Dial a Ride)	148	3%
Car sharing scheme	37	1%

(Could select multiple options for this question)

- 21% had no travel alternative other than when the bus was available, next largest group, 17% had own car, 14% could get a lift and 13% would walk.

Top Priority for Funding

No reply	975	30%
Maintaining the current days a service operates i.e. Mon - Fri	742	23%
Maintaining the current frequency of services i.e. hourly	581	18%
Maintaining use of public buses (rather than taxishares or other community transport services)	470	15%
Maintaining the 9am start for the older person's bus pass	190	6%
Maintaining existing evening services after 7pm	148	5%
Maintaining existing Sunday services	72	2%
Maintaining existing community transport services after 5pm	19	1%
Maintaining existing community transport services on a Sunday	12	0.4%
Maintaining the current level of printed publicity	8	0.25%

(Could only select one option for this question)

- Weekday daytime services remain top priority for those who answered as in 2011: meets widest range of travel needs

Proposals

Proposal - Concessionary Travel

- Propose cease addition of 9am start (statutory scheme: 9.30am) for older persons passes to save £300,000 a year
- £13.5 million: a fifth of Roads & Transport revenue spend
- 66% respondents pass holders; top priority for 6%
- 7 of 11 neighbours offer 9.30am start
- 9am exception possible for specified journeys on infrequent routes (22 of 245)
- Disabled Person's pass - no change proposed

Proposals -Evening/Sunday Buses

- Used by 16 and 21% of respondents respectively
- Made top funding priority by 5% and 2%
- 15 evening and 12 Sunday services out of 164
- 2.6% and 1.9% of subsidised passenger trips
- Cost £265,000 per annum
- Proposal: cease funding to reflect consultation priority to support weekday daytime services as meeting most needs

Responses - Community Transport

Reducing or ceasing funding for community transport after 5pm or on a Sunday:

242 (93%) out of 259 people that used these services made a comment (7% of total respondents)

Common responses:

- I would not travel
- I would have to pay for a taxi

Further analysis of CT uses at those times

Appears that many people may have misunderstood what community transport is.

- Detailed analysis of Dial-a-Ride use in the two areas which have evening or Sunday services.

Proposals - Community Transport

- £0.9 million budget
- Evening and Sunday Dial-a-Ride reviewed with other services funded at those times
- Operates in two districts – Basingstoke and Eastleigh. Jointly funded with districts
- Proposal: Retender in Basingstoke to remove contract requirement; retender group hire scheme at same time; agree change in Eastleigh
- Reduce funding by £25,000
- Group hire an alternative for some trips

Proposals - Weekday daytime buses

- 1 in 7 passenger trips subsidised
- Weekday daytime services - bulk of funding
- Top priority for funding (23%) of those who answered
- Shopping and collecting prescriptions accounted for 39% of journeys
- 30% of respondents travelled on 2 or 3 days a week
- Proposal: some services to cease, run fewer days of the week or be replaced by Taxi-shares

Proposals - Travel Information

- £500,000 budget
- New Real Time signs Government funded
- Proposal: reduce Traveline costs, merge or simplify printed publicity
- Budget saving £60,000

Conclusion

- Negotiations ongoing – challenging process
- Wide-ranging consultation, good response
- Reflecting community priorities
- Changes to travel patterns, commercial services, education flows, supplier market
- Economies in all areas: operator efficiencies, back office savings
- Any community which has a passenger transport service will retain an essential transport link

Consultation Numbers

- Passenger Transport Forums across Hampshire 9 forums, autumn and spring, 1,800 mailing list - 445 attendees
- Passenger Transport Reps Conference – 250 invitees, 54 attended
- Written to 1,036 organisations – councils, resident and user groups
- Posters on buses with QR code, web, postal address, phone no. 5,399 consultation forms distributed:
 - 2,862 to bus passengers at bus stations and to passengers on 40 services we fund, bulk supplies to 9 bus companies
 - 1,080 to 55 Post Offices across the county
 - 480 to Libraries
 - 530 to 29 convenience stores across the county
 - 316 to 15 other locations from doctors, laundrettes, hospitals...
 - 130 to Parish Councils
- Could be returned by email, post or through local libraries

Location of Passenger Transport Consultation

