

April 24, 2012

Have your say on the future of transport

An eight-week public consultation is being launched to gain the views and ideas of people who use public transport.

Starting this Friday, the public will be consulted on proposals to review the bus services, which Cheshire East Council subsidises.

The consultation will look at those routes that are under-used, and see if flexible and community transport can better meet their needs.

The responses will be used to shape the Council's future decisions on how the available budget is spent and which services the council should continue to subsidise.

Councillor Rod Menlove, Cabinet member with responsibility for environmental services, said: "This review is all about looking at our public transport network with fresh eyes and with a reduced budget in mind.

"We want to hear all about how we can modernise the network, so that people in rural areas that don't currently have access can tell us what their needs are.

"It's also about looking at under-used bus routes and tapping into those communities to see if other forms of transport, such as community car schemes, could work more effectively."

The review of the Council's support for public transport has been triggered by recent changes in central government allocation of funding, which has increased pressure on local authority budgets.

The Council needs to reduce the amount it spends on public transport by approximately 18 per cent over the next twelve months.

Despite a challenging budget position and the need to reduce spending on public transport, the Council is still committed to spending £1.8m per year on supporting public transport.

The consultation provides the opportunity for local people and partner organisations to have their say on how the Council should support public transport in future and this will shape the Council's future plans.

Further details about the consultation and how to take part will be available on the Council's website (www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/travel) from Friday, April 27, 2012. The consultation ends on Friday, June 22, 2012.

Alternatively, the consultation material will be made available in local customer contact centres and libraries. A number of drop-in sessions are being held in towns across the borough during the consultation period.

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The dates and locations for the consultations are listed as follows:

Where	Date	Times	Venue
Sandbach	09 May	1.45 - 3.45pm & 4.30 - 6.30pm	Sandbach Library, The Commons, Sandbach, CW11 1FJ
Alsager	10 May	2 - 4pm & 5 - 7pm	The Hall, Wesley Place Methodist Church, Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2RU
Wilmslow	14 May	1.45 - 3.45pm & 4.30 - 6.30pm	Wilmslow Library, South Drive, Wilmslow, SK9 1NW
Macclesfield	16 May	2 - 4pm & 5 - 7pm	The Whitaker Room, Heritage Centre, Macclesfield, SK11 6UT
Nantwich	18 May	2 - 4pm & 5 - 7pm	Council Chamber, Brookfield Hall, Shrewbridge Road, Nantwich, CW5 7AD
Crewe	21 May	1.45 - 3.45pm & 4.30 - 6.30pm	Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe, CW1 2BH
Poynton	22 May	2 - 4pm & 5 - 7pm	Council Chamber, Poynton Civic Hall, Park Lane, Poynton, SK12 1RB
Congleton	24 May	2 - 4pm & 5 - 7pm	Social Room, New Life Church, West Road, Congleton, CW12 4EY

Middlewich	28 May	2 - 4pm & 5 - 7pm	Main Hall, Middlewich Community Church, 34-36 Brooks Lane, Middlewich, CW10 0JG
Knutsford	11 June	1.45 - 3.45pm & 4.30 - 6.30pm	St John's Wood Community Centre, Longridge, Knutsford, WA16 8PA