

Bus Service Review 2024

Introduction:

- The bus network in Cheshire East plays a key role in providing access to jobs and services by connecting people to places.
- The local bus network is made up of 37 bus services, of which 21 services are fully supported by the Council (57%), a further 8 are partially supported by the Council (22%), such as evening journeys. 8 services (22%) operate on a fully commercial basis.
- This review looks for opportunities to encourage more bus use and get more supported services operating commercially, tweak services to improve performance and passenger uptake and get better value out of what the Council is spending.

Objectives:

Maximise opportunities in areas of greatest need;

Ensure services complement, not compete with commercial services;

Develop stronger partnership working with commercial operators; and

Identify opportunities to modernise flexible on-demand transport options

Summary of conclusions from data analysis:

- Nantwich rural services (70,72,73) and the Macclesfield-Poynton-Stockport (391/392) service are the lower ranking supported services.
- Parts of Poynton and Nantwich are identified as having limited accessibility to key service centres.
- Low levels of bus service provided during evenings and Sundays across the borough.
- Poynton is identified as an area with the potential for more people to use bus services if a better level of service was provided.
- Potential bus demand is also evident in locations at the edge of towns/villages e.g. around Nantwich, Alsager, Middlewich, Congleton and Wilmslow.

Proposals:

Nantwich
Rural Service
Modification

391/392
Service
Upgrade

Flexible
Transport in
Cheshire East

Proposal 1: Nantwich Rural Services

Service	Current Timetable	Proposed Timetable	Mitigation
70: Nantwich-Tiverton	2 journeys in each direction per day.	Fixed route service to be withdrawn and replaced with flexible transport.	Propose flexible transport as an alternative (see proposal 3) for affected communities in Bulkeley and Bunbury.
72: Nantwich-Wrenbury-Audlem-Nantwich	6 journeys Nantwich-Wrenbury-Audlem-Nantwich per day.	7 journeys Nantwich-Wrenbury per day. Lightwood Green and Burleydam no longer served. 4 journeys extended via Middlewich Rd to Leighton Hospital.	Propose flexible transport as an alternative (see proposal 3) for affected communities in Lightwood Green and Burleydam.
73: Nantwich-Audlem-Wrenbury-Nantwich	4 journeys Nantwich-Audlem-Wrenbury-Nantwich per day.	6 journeys Nantwich-Audlem per day. Lightwood Green and Burleydam no longer served. 4 journeys extended via Middlewich Rd to Leighton Hospital.	Propose flexible transport as an alternative (see proposal 3) for affected communities in Lightwood Green and Burleydam.

Proposal 2: 391/392 Macclesfield-Poynton-Stockport Service

Service	Current Timetable	Proposed Timetable	Mitigation
391/392: Macclesfield - Poynton - Stockport	Every 2 hours on the whole route.	Increased to hourly between Middlewood-Poynton-Stockport using an additional vehicle. Providing increased frequency to Hazel Grove, Stepping Hill Hospital and Stockport area.	No communities are adversely affected by the proposal compared to the existing service provision.

Proposal 3: Flexible Transport

- The proposal is to combine the FlexiLink and Go-Too services into a single, bookable service from the end of March 2025 that will be:

Available to all age groups (where no alternative and/or suitable public transport is available)

Available Monday - Friday during the day (9.30 am – 2.30 pm) and in the evenings (4.30pm – 9.00pm)

Available Saturdays (9.00am – 6.00pm)

Chargeable (£4 full fare and £2 concessions)

Booked using an online app, or by telephone

Consultation:

- The consultation will take place for 8 weeks between **Tuesday 7th May** and **Wednesday 3rd July 2024**.
- The consultation can be found here: <https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/BusServiceReview2024/>
- Paper copies of the survey are available in libraries and at customer contact centres across the borough.