

Consultation on the draft criteria for assessing Lancashire County Council subsidised bus services

What is the consultation about?

Lancashire County Council has developed a new method for assessing subsidised local bus services and wishes to consult on this proposed new criteria. We are consulting with all interested parties over the next 7 weeks and welcome views on the draft criteria.

All feedback will be treated confidentially. The feedback will be taken into consideration and where appropriate, changes will be made in line with comments received. We aim to have an agreed bus service assessment criteria in place by September 2014, which will then be published on our web pages.

Please refer to the proposed bus services criteria and criteria explanation which can be found on the 'Draft criteria for assessing subsidised bus services' consultation page at www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay .

1. Please read the instructions carefully.
2. Please use a blue or black pen to fill in the questionnaire.
3. Please check you have answered all the appropriate questions.
4. Please return your completed questionnaire by **31 July 2014** to Have your say, Lancashire County Council, County Hall, PRESTON, PR1 8XJ.

Journey purpose, business growth

A key priority for LCC's subsidised bus services will be to consider the principal purpose of the bus service and how it is used. A score will be allocated (up to a maximum of 10) based on whether services provide access for employment (5), followed by education (4), health/medical/welfare (4), shopping (2), personal business and leisure (1).

Q1

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the suggested categories and scores?

Please tick ü one box only

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Q2

If you disagree, please tell us why you disagree.

Please write in below

There is no acknowledgment of Social Isolation or Rural Accessibility within the scoring criteria and given that we are an aging population in Lancashire and many parts of it are rural, already with limited transport access. Members feel that this should be reviewed.

Q3

Are there any other categories you think should be included?

Please tick ü one box only

Yes

No

Don't know

Q4

If yes, what categories should we include and what score should they be given?

Please write in below

Social Isolation
Rural Accessibility
Both categories a minimum scoring of (4)

Sustainable economic growth

We will allocate a score to bus services based on how many trips they make that serve employment areas, including business parks, town and city centres.

Q5 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the suggested options and scores?

Please tick ü one box only

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Q6 If you disagree, please tell us why you disagree.

Please write in below

Some businesses operate 24 hours, and do not just operate between the hours of 9am to 5pm, five days a week. They often operate well into the evening or early in the morning and are not necessarily located in designated business parks or centres. Many residents work shifts, therefore the bus service needs to be available at times outside 9am-5pm, so that employees can get to work. Any scoring needs to reflect this.

Q7 Are there any other options you think should be included?

Please tick ü one box only

Yes

No

Don't know

Q8 If yes, what options should we include and what score should they be given?

Please write in below

Access to rural businesses and service centres (location)
Access to businesses outside of core hours (time)
Both categories a minimum scoring of (2)

Impact on carbon emissions

We will allocate a score to bus services based on proximity to Air Quality Management Areas and congestion hotspots.

Q9

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the suggested options and scores?

Please tick ü one box only

Strongly
agree

Tend to
agree

Tend to
disagree

Strongly
disagree

Don't
know

Q10

If you disagree, please tell us why you disagree.

Please write in below

Q11

Are there any other options you think should be included?

Please tick ü one box only

Yes

No

Don't know

Q12

If yes, what options should we include and what score should they be given?

Please write in below

Operational service days

We will allocate a score to bus services based on the days and frequency of operation. Those services operating on Monday to Saturday daytimes, where no alternative commercial service is available, will be given higher priority.

Q13

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the suggested options and scores?

Please tick ü one box only

Strongly
agree

Tend to
agree

Tend to
disagree

Strongly
disagree

Don't
know

Q14

If you disagree, please tell us why you disagree.

Please write in below

Some assessment needs to be undertaken on usage, to identify where there may be lulls in requirement, for example, at lunch times, mid-morning or mid-afternoon. Consideration needs to be given to a reduced service at these times. However, this reduction should be compensated by the provision of services in the evenings and at weekends to ensure that adequate services are running at these times to meet demand.

Q15

Are there any other options you think should be included?

Please tick ü one box only

Yes

No

Don't know

Q16

If yes, what options should we include and what score should they be given?

Please write in below

Monday – Saturday daytime – consistent usage at all times (5)

Monday – Saturday day time – variable usage (4)

Daily evening score (3)

These scores would support rural isolation and access to work for people who work on shifts.

Accessibility – travel choice

We will allocate a score based on whether there are alternative public transport solutions available in the vicinity within 800m radius of current subsidised bus services. Areas not served by alternative public transport will receive a higher score.

Q17 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the suggested options and scores?

Please tick ü one box only

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Q18 If you disagree, please tell us why you disagree.

Please write in below

Happy with the concept of reasonable alternative but feel that County are failing to acknowledge that the alternative offered may mean that the person has to undertake a convoluted route which can often have additional cost and time implications for the user.

Q19 Are there any other options you think should be included?

Please tick ü one box only

Yes

No

Don't know

Q20 If yes, what options should we include and what score should they be given?

Please write in below

Alternative within 2 hours during daytime within no more than 800 metres (similar route and duration as far as is reasonably possible (duration no more than half the distance again)) (6)

Alternative within 2 hours during daytime at same location (similar route and duration as far as is reasonably possible (duration no more than half the distance again)) (5)

Alternative within 1 hour during daytime within no more than 800 metres (similar route and duration as far as is reasonably possible (duration no more than half the distance again)) (4)

Alternative within 1 hour during daytime at same location (similar route and duration as far as is reasonably possible (duration no more than half the distance again)) (2)

Access for older and disabled people

We will allocate a score to bus services based on how many people with older or disabled persons ENCTS passes are carried, giving a higher priority for those carrying a greater number of pass holders.

Q21 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the suggested options and scores?

Please tick ü one box only

Strongly
agree

Tend to
agree

Tend to
disagree

Strongly
disagree

Don't
know

Q22 If you disagree, please tell us why you disagree.

Please write in below

Q23 Are there any other options you think should be included?

Please tick ü one box only

Yes

No

Don't know

Q24 If yes, what options should we include and what score should they be given?

Please write in below

Service usage

We will allocate a score to bus services based on the overall number of passengers carried each year.

Q25 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the suggested options and scores?

Please tick ü one box only

Strongly
agree

Tend to
agree

Tend to
disagree

Strongly
disagree

Don't
know

Q26 If you disagree, please tell us why you disagree.

Please write in below

Q27 Are there any other options you think should be included?

Please tick ü one box only

Yes

No

Don't know

Q28 If yes, what options should we include and what score should they be given?

Please write in below

Overall

Lancashire County Council currently assesses its subsidised local bus services purely on financial grounds - 40% of the cost of the provision should be met through fares income, including both that paid by passengers on bus together with the reimbursement of funding from the carriage of older or disabled persons ENCTS concessionary travel pass holders .

The proposed new criteria takes into consideration operational aspects of the subsidised bus services and also the county council's priority themes.

Q29

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the suggested options and scores?

Please tick ü one box only

Strongly
agree

Tend to
agree

Tend to
disagree

Strongly
disagree

Don't
know

Q30

Do you have any further comments to make on the proposed criteria?

Please write in below

Assessments of the all the routes should be undertaken to ascertain the level of provision needed, to ensure that the right size of vehicle is used. This will help to reduce costs, otherwise there is the strong possibility that in some cases the 40% contribution will not be met.

About you

Q31

Are you responding to this consultation...?

Please tick ü one box only

As a member of the public

On behalf of an organisation/business

Q32 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation/business, what is the name of the organisation you are responding to this consultation on behalf of?

Please write in below

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Chorley Council

Q33 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation/business within your organisation, which of the following best describes your position?

Please tick ü one box only

- Operational
- Management Senior
- management
- Other

Q34 Please provide your postcode. We are asking for this so we can consider responses based on location.

Please write in below

PR7 1DP

How do I share my views with you?

The formal consultation period will run from 12 June 2014 – 31 July 2014.

You have until this date to send us any comments you wish to make.

Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Have your say
Lancashire County Council
County Hall
PRESTON
PR1 8XJ

If you have any queries about this consultation, please email them to haveyoursay@lancashire.gov.uk or call 0808 1443536 (free from landlines) and leave a message.

Thank you for taking part in this consultation