

Findings from the Consultation on Proposed Changes to Transport

- Home to school transport policy and the impact of academies
- Age 16+ transport
- Transport to voluntary aided (denominational) schools

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Contents

	Page No.
Introduction	1
Background	1
Methodology	1
Report Overview	1
Headline Findings	2
Detailed Findings	3
Respondent profile	14
Appendix	17

Introduction

This report sets out the findings from the consultation on proposed changes to Leicestershire County Council's transport policy which took place between 25th January and 2nd April 2012.

The aim of this report is to understand different opinions on Leicestershire County Council's proposals for changes to transport policy relating to transport to academies, post 16 education and voluntary aided schools.

The consultation also covered proposals on discretionary concessionary travel provision. However, the analysis of these results are covered in a separate report.

Background

Leicestershire County Council is facing a number of challenges. The funding from national Government is reducing. At the same time demand for services, such as care for older people and waste disposal, is expected to go up.

In addition the impact of schools locally moving to academy status and coming out of council control means that the Government will transfer funding from the council's budget to support the new academies. Therefore, there is the additional implication of losing further significant funding.

The resulting impact is that the County Council has to save more. The Council's financial plan has been rolled forward a year and now includes a total of £74 million in savings for the next four years. This is on top of the £24 million that was achieved during 2011/12.

Methodology

The questionnaire (see Appendix) was made available on the County Council's website and hard copies were available on request.

Awareness of the online consultation was raised through: a series of press releases which generated coverage in the local media; through the council's twitter feed; a banner which ran on the internet home page at periods throughout the consultation; to schools via the Electronic Information System; through the county council staff intranet; and through the council's Members' Information Service.

Report Overview

This short report provides a headline summary for the findings of the consultation. The following sections are reviewed:

1. Home to School Transport Policy and the Impact of Academies
2. Age 16+ Transport
3. Transport to Voluntary Aided (Denominational) Schools

The report also identifies the views of different demographic groups and which people are more likely to be concerned about specific policy proposals.

In order to identify difference by different groups of respondents each of the demographic questions in the 'About You' section were cross-tabulated against all the questions in sections 1-3 of the consultation. Statistical tests¹ were calculated to identify significant differences. Where significant relationships are found they are explored.

Findings of importance or 'statistical significance' are reported as either being 'likely' or 'very likely'. The difference between 'likely' and 'very likely' depends on how far the number (i.e. the result to the question) is from its *predicted* value. The predicted value is determined by the statistical tests. If the number is above a certain statistical threshold (*more than expected*) then we can claim the difference is statistically more 'likely'. If the number (i.e. the result to the question) is very much higher *than expected* then we can be even more certain (statistically) by saying that the true difference is 'very likely'.

Tag Clouds² are also provided to show the frequency of words captured in the open-ended questions. A short summary follows each tag cloud highlighting the context in which the words were used by respondents.

Headlines Findings

909 responses were received to the 'Consultation on Proposed Changes to Transport' survey. In summary:

¹ Standardized residuals were calculated as a test of significance along with Chi Square.

² Tag Clouds show the most commonly reported words.

Home to School Transport Policy and the Impact of Academies

- 57% of respondents disagreed³ with the proposed policy for the provision of transport to academies (49% 'Strongly Disagreed').
- 76% agreed that students should be allowed to retain their existing travel arrangements, when a school converts to an academy, until they change school (47% 'Strongly Agreed').
- 70% disagreed concerning making a charge to allow students to retain their existing travel arrangements (53% 'Strongly Disagreed').
- 55% agreed that the Council should continue to provide free transport from the new address if a student moves during GCSE studies (31% disagreed with this).

Age 16+ Transport

- 82% of respondents disagreed with the proposal to remove the subsidy from post-16 transport (69% 'Strongly Disagreed').
- 72% agreed, with 40% 'Strongly Agreeing', that the transport service should remain available for those who wish to cover the full cost.
- 81% agreed that the Council should continue to provide transport to those in the second year of 16 plus if the subsidy is withdrawn (53% 'Strongly Agreed').

Transport to Voluntary Aided (Denominational) Schools

- 62% disagreed with the proposal to remove the subsidy from denominational support (53% 'Strongly Disagreed').
- 67% agreed (38% 'Strongly Agreeing') that the transport service should remain available for those who wish to cover the full cost.
- 18% 'Neither agreed nor disagreed'.

The results from this consultation will be used to inform the recommendations of the Cabinet Report and the subsequent redrafting of the transport policy.

³ The convention used when expressing significant findings is as follows. 'Agree' refers to a value on the rating scale in the survey where as *agreed* is used as a collective term for those that either 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree'. This convention is used consistently throughout the report.

It is clear from the results of the consultation that any change to the current entitlement is not welcomed by the majority of respondents. However, the Academy conversion agenda means that we have to restructure how eligibility to statutory free transport is considered, and in terms of the requirement to make the savings identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the majority of respondents would agree to make a contribution to retain the service.

Detailed Findings

The following sections report the overall summary findings and highlight any significant differences by demographic group. Only where statistical significance was found by different demographic group is it reported.

Home to school transport policy and the impact of academies

The first section of the consultation was entitled 'Home to School Transport Policy and the Impact of Academies'. It sought responses to the following questions:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposed policy for the provision of transport to academies? (789 responses)
2. Do you agree or disagree that when a school converts to an academy, we should allow students to retain their existing travel arrangements until they next change school? (791 responses)
3. Do you agree or disagree that we should make a charge, currently £300 for primary school and £400 for secondary

school students, to retain their existing travel arrangements until they next change school? (783 responses)

4. Do you agree or disagree that we should continue to provide free transport from the new address if a student changes address during GCSE studies? (782 responses)

Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposed policy for the provision of transport to academies?

Headlines:

- Half of respondents disagreed with the proposals (57.4%), 48.7% 'Strongly Disagreed'
- A third agreed with the proposals (30.4%)
- One in ten 'Neither agreed nor disagreed' (9.8%)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
%	12.7	17.7	9.8	8.7	48.7	2.4

Headlines by those that use Home to School transport against those who do not:

- No significance found.

Other demographic differences:

Disagree ...

- Those aged under 39 were more **likely** than expected to say this (15.2%).

Strongly Disagree ...

- Those employed by a Leicestershire school were more **likely** than expected to say this (62.7%).

Neither Agree nor Disagree ...

- Those aged over 60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (19%).
- Non parents or carers were more **likely** than expected to say this (15.2%).
- Those with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity were more **likely** than expected to say this (22.1%).
- Those with no cars or vans were more **likely** than expected to say this (18.5%).

Don't Know ...

- Those with no cars or vans were more **likely** than expected to say this (9.3%).

Question 2: Do you agree or disagree that when a school converts to an academy, we should allow students to retain their existing travel arrangements until they next change school?

Headlines:

- Three quarters agreed with the proposals (75.8%)
- 16% disagreed

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
%	47.0	28.8	6.1	5.7	10.0	2.4

Headlines by those that use Home to School transport against those who do not:

- Those who have children who use Home to School transport were more **likely** than expected to state that they 'Strongly Agree' (54.7%)

Other demographic differences:

Strongly Agree ...

- Those who have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (54.7%).

Neither Agree nor Disagree ...

- Those aged 60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (12.5%).
- Those with no cars or vans were more **likely** than expected to say this (14.5%).

Disagree ...

- Those aged 60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (12.5%).

Don't Know ...

- Non parents or carers were more **likely** than expected to say this (5.3%).

Question 3: Do you agree or disagree that we should make a charge, currently £300 for primary school and £400 for secondary school students, to retain their existing travel arrangements until they next change school?

Headlines:

- Almost three quarters disagreed with the proposals (69.8%)

- One in five agreed with the proposals (21.8%)
- One in twenty 'Neither agreed nor disagreed' (6%)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
%	6.5	15.3	6.0	17.2	52.6	2.3

Headlines by those that use Home to School transport against those who do not:

- Those who have children who use Home to School transport were more **likely** than expected to state that they 'Strongly Disagree' (60.4%)
- Those who do not have children who use Home to School transport were more **likely** than expected to state that they 'Agree' (19.9%)

Other demographic differences:

Strongly Agree ...

- Those aged over 60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (12.7%).

Agree ...

- Those aged over 60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (27%).
- Non parents or carers were more **likely** than expected to say this (23.1%).
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (19.9%).

Neither Agree nor Disagree ...

- Those aged under 39 were more **likely** than expected to say this (9.7%).

Strongly Disagree ...

- Those employed by a Leicestershire school were more **likely** than expected to say this (67.4%).
- Those who have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (60.4%).

Question 4: Do you agree or disagree that we should continue to provide free transport from the new address if a student changes address during GCSE studies?

Headlines:

- Just over half of respondents agreed with the proposals (54.9%)
- A third disagreed with the proposals (30.6%)
- Just over one in ten 'Neither agreed nor disagreed' (12.4%)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
%	30.1	24.8	12.4	14.7	15.9	2.2

Headlines by those that use Home to School transport and those who do not:

- Those who do not have children who use Home to School transport were **likely** to state that they 'Agree' (31%)

Other demographic differences:

Agree ...

- Non parents or carers were more **likely** than expected to say this (35.7%).
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (31%).

Don't Know ...

- Non parents or carers were more **likely** than expected to say this (5.4%).

Open ended question: Please use the space below to let us know any other comments on our proposed policy for the provision of transport to academies

244 responses were received to the above question. A 'tag cloud' showing the top 30 most reported words is shown below:

afford area attend bus catchment change
charge child children choice costs council
current education faith families free increase live
miles parents pay proposed provided secondary students
travel walk work year

(words removed from data when generating tag cloud: 'home', 'school', 'transport', 'policy', 'impact', 'academies', 'academy')

The following key points provide an overview of the breadth of comments received. The objective here is to highlight each 'theme' of comment as opposed to the number of people expressing it.

A summary review of the comments reveals the following key points.

Comments on the policy in general

- Transport should come out of the academy budget not the council's.
- Parents should not be financially penalized nor should children have their education suffer when a school changes to academy status (something which is out of their control).
- Parents made their choices about their children's education (including how they would get there) before the council decided to follow new guidance on changing all schools to academies by 2014. It is unfair to penalize them retrospectively.
- If parents choose to move out of the catchment area of their local school then they are responsible for their children getting to that school.

Comments on the detail of the policy

- Walking distance is too far, neither is it safe nor practical in rural areas.
- Allowing free transport for state schools and not for faith is discriminatory. Tax payers contribute to the system and because of someone's religion you openly discriminate by charging one group and not others.

Comments on the consequences of the policy

- At rush hour local bus services will be full of school children rather than full fare paying passengers who are going to work.
- Policy will result in more parents driving their children to school which means more congestion.

- State schools will be over-subscribed with the extra demand of displaced children.
- Many children will be missing out on school because their parents cannot afford bus fares.

Suggestions regarding the policy

- A concession should be made for academies that do not change their admissions arrangements or catchment area. Then, if the academy wanted to change the catchment area in future, the proposed change would apply from that stage.

Age 16+ transport

The second section of the consultation sought responses to the following questions:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposal to remove the subsidy from post-16 transport to colleges? (785 responses)
2. Do you agree or disagree that if the subsidy is removed the transport service should remain available for those who wish to cover the full cost of the transport (approximately £429)? (777 responses)
3. Do you agree or disagree that, if the subsidy is withdrawn, we should continue to provide transport to those in the second year of 16 plus in the 2012/13 academic year? (771 responses)

Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposal to remove the subsidy from post-16 transport to colleges?

Headlines:

- Four out of five respondents disagreed with the proposals (81.7%)
- Just over one in ten agreed (12.9%)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
%	4.2	8.7	4.3	12.4	69.3	1.1

Headlines by those that have post 16 students in their household who use transport to education against those who do not:

- Those who have post 16 students in their household who use transport to education were more **likely** than expected to state 'Strongly Disagree' (87.9%)

Other demographic differences:

Agree ...

- Males were more **likely** than expected to say this (13.2%)
- Those aged over 60 were **very likely** (more than expected) to say this (32.3%).
- Non-parents or carers were **very likely** (more than expected) to say this (22.8%).
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport were **very likely** (more than expected) to say this (17.4%).
- Those with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity were more **likely** than expected to say this (15.9%).

Neither Agree nor Disagree ...

- Those with no cars or vans were **very likely** (more than expected) to say this (17.3%).
- Those with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity were more **likely** than expected to say this (12.2%).

Strongly Disagree ...

- Those aged 40-60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (76.1%).
- Those who have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (79.5%).
- Those with post-16 students in their household were more **likely** than expected to say this (87.9%).

Question 2: Do you agree or disagree that if the subsidy is removed the transport service should remain available for those who wish to cover the full cost of the transport (approximately £429)?

Headlines:

- Almost three quarters respondents agreed with the proposals (72.3%)
- More people 'Neither agreed nor disagreed' than those people who disagreed with the proposals (12.7%)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
%	40.0	32.3	12.7	4.0	7.9	3.1

Headlines by those that have post 16 students in their household who use transport to education against those who do not:

- No significance found.

Other demographic differences:

Strongly Agree ...

- Those who have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (47.8%).
- Those aged 40-60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (45.2%).

Agree ...

- Non parents or carers were more **likely** than expected to say this (44.4%).
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (47.8%).
- Those aged over 60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (12.9%).

Neither Agree nor Disagree ...

- Those aged under 39 were more **likely** than expected to say this (18.7%).

Strongly Disagree ...

- Those with no cars or vans were **very likely** (more than expected) to say this (24%).

Question 3: Do you agree or disagree that, if the subsidy is withdrawn, we should continue to provide transport to those in the second year of 16 plus in the 2012/13 academic year?

Headlines:

- Four out of five respondents agreed with the proposals (80.8%)
- Fewer than one in ten disagreed (7.6%)
- Fewer than one in ten also 'Neither agreed nor disagreed' (9.2%)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
%	53.4	27.4	9.2	3.2	4.4	2.3

Headlines by those that have post 16 students in their household who use transport to education against those who do not:

- Those who have post 16 students in their household who use transport to education were more **likely** than expected to state 'Strongly Agree' (73.8%)

Other demographic differences:

Strongly Agree ...

- Those who have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (64.1%).
- Those with post-16 students in their household were more **likely** than expected to say this (73.8%).

Agree ...

- Those aged over 60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (49.2%).
- Non parents or carers were more **likely** than expected to say this (39.0%).
- Those with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity were more **likely** than expected to say this (15.9%).
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (35.8%).

Neither Agree nor Disagree...

- Those aged over 60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (23.7%).
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (14.0%).
- Those with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity were more **likely** than expected to say this (17.1%).
- Those with no cars or vans were more **likely** than expected to say this (22.4%).

Open ended question: Please use the space below to let us know any other comments on our proposals for 16+ transport

299 responses were received to the above question. A 'tag cloud' showing the top 30 most reported words is shown overleaf:



(words removed from data when generating tag cloud: 'age', '16', 'travel', 'sixth', 'form', 'transport')

The following key points provide an overview of the breadth of comments received. The objective here is to highlight each 'theme' of comment as opposed to the number of people expressing it.

A summary review of the comments reveals the following key points.

Comments on the policy in general

- It is extremely inappropriate to withdraw support for post-16 transport when the school leaving age has been raised and the Education Maintenance Allowance has already been abolished.
- Young people are being encouraged to stay on at school to improve their employment chances. It is therefore hypocritical to price them out of their schooling.
- We shouldn't discriminate against people with special education needs but your proposal is discriminating against anyone without special education needs.
- If the government want the current generation of children (our future workforce) to grow up as well-educated individuals then they need to make it as simple as possible for those children to attend school.

Comments on the detail of the policy

- £429 per student is a considerable sum. Parents are already under economic pressure and this cannot be allowed to impact students half way through their studies.
- The policy especially affects rural communities and villages who do not have schools within walking distance or public transport to get children to school.

Comments on the consequences of the policy

- If people cannot afford the bus fare then they are simply not going to send their children to school.
- 16+ students are being charged course fees at FE College and later at university and there is little part time work available in the current climate to help fund such expenses.
- It would leave poorer students unable to study post 16, and would push them into the Job Centre with little chance of finding employment. Ultimately, this will lead to higher levels of crime, as witnessed in last summer's riots, and the disintegration of society.
- With school leaving ages being raised it again would amount to a tax on children, hitting the poorest hardest.

Suggestions regarding the policy

- There must be an option to pay the fee in stages and by Direct Debit.
- Transport must be provided for those that cannot afford it.
- Subsidies should continue for those who have already commenced their course/study. Parents will most likely have been influenced in their choice of school based on its 16+ travel provision.

Transport to voluntary aided (denominational) schools

The third section of the consultation sought responses to the following questions:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposal to remove the subsidy from denominational transport? (776 responses)
2. Do you agree or disagree that if the subsidy is removed the transport service should remain available for those who wish to cover the full cost of the transport (approximately £490)? (770 responses)

Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposal to remove the subsidy from denominational transport?

Headlines:

- Three-fifths disagreed with the proposals (61.9%)
- A quarter of respondents agreed (25%)
- One in ten 'Neither agreed nor disagreed' (10.6%)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
%	12.8	12.2	10.6	8.5	53.4	2.6

Headlines of those who have children who use voluntary aided transport against those who do not:

- Those who have children who use voluntary aided transport were **very likely** (more than expected) to state that they 'Strongly Disagree' (92%)
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport to denominational schools were **very likely** (more than expected) to state 'Strongly Agree' (18.9%).

Other demographic differences:

Strongly Agree ...

- Males were more **likely** than expected to say this (20.9%)
- Those aged over 60 were more **likely** than expected to say this (22.2%).
- School governors were more **likely** than expected to say this (24.2%)
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport to denominational schools were more **likely** than expected to say this (18.9%).
- Those with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity were more **likely** than expected to say this (21.2%).
- Those of no religion were more **likely** than expected to say this (24.1%).
- Those of 'Other' religion were more **likely** than expected to say this (18.8%).

Agree ...

- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport were **very likely** (more than expected) to say this (20.9%).

- Those of no religion were **very likely** (more than expected) to say this (24.8%).
- Non parents or carers were more **likely** than expected to say this (20.5%).
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport to denominational schools were **very likely** (more than expected) to say this (19.6%).

Neither Agree nor Disagree ...

- Those with post-16 students in their household were more **likely** than expected to say this (18.9%).
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport to denominational schools were more **likely** than expected to say this (16.5%).
- Those of no religion were more **likely** than expected to say this (17%).
- Those of Christian religion (all denominations) were more **likely** than expected to say this (21.2%).

Disagree ...

- Those of BME origin were more **likely** than expected to say this (20%).
- Those of 'Other' religion were more **likely** than expected to say this (14.8%).

Strongly Disagree ...

- Those of Roman Catholic religion were **very likely** (more than expected) to say this (89.2%).
- Those who have children who use the home to school transport to denominational schools were **very likely** (more than expected) to say this (92%).

- Those who have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (61.1%).

Question 2: Do you agree or disagree that if the subsidy is removed the transport service should remain available for those who wish to cover the full cost of the transport (approximately £490)?

Headlines:

- Over two-thirds of respondents agreed with the proposals (67.2%)
- One in ten respondents disagreed (11.3%)
- One in five 'Neither agreed nor disagreed' (17.9%)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
%	38.1	29.1	17.9	2.9	8.4	3.6

Headlines of those who have children who use voluntary aided transport against those who do not:

- Those who have children who use voluntary aided transport were **likely** to state that they 'Strongly Agree' (47.7%)

Other demographic differences:

Strongly Agree ...

- Those who have children who use the home to school transport to denominational schools were more **likely** than expected to say this (47.7%).
- Those of Roman Catholic religion were more **likely** than expected to say this (48.6%).

Agree ...

- Non parents or carers were more **likely** than expected to say this (39.4%).
- Those who do not have children who use the home to school transport were more **likely** than expected to say this (37.9%).

Don't Know ...

- Those of no religion were more **likely** than expected to say this (7.7%).

Open ended question: Please use the space below to let us know any other comments on our proposals for transport to voluntary aided schools.

314 responses were received to the above question. A 'tag cloud' showing the top 30 most reported words is shown below:



(words removed from data when generating tag cloud: 'Transport', 'voluntary', 'aided', 'denominational', 'schools', 'school')

The following key points provide an overview of the breadth of comments received. The objective here is to highlight each 'theme' of comment as opposed to the number of people expressing it.

A summary review of the comments reveals the following key points.

Comments on the policy in general

- It is wrong to discriminate against those wanting to attend a school on the basis of their religion.
- If subsidies are withdrawn from faith schools then surely all schools should be treated in the same manner
- The council is making me choose between my family's faith and the cost of living which is very unfair.
- The choice for parents to send their children to a denominational school is just that - a choice. It is not a choice everyone can have, and it is not essential. If parents wish to send their child to a denominational school, they should pay for that privilege.
- Education should be secular and the state should not fund any faith school.

Comments on the detail of the policy

- This policy essentially privatises education for low-earning families who are not quite low enough to be classed as low income.
- £490 for approx 210 days transport sounds good but the buses are often late and unreliable.
- This policy fails to recognise that Catholic schools have a large catchment area and that the nearest school could be at least 20 miles away.

Comments on the consequences of the policy

- I think it is a disgrace that the council would even consider to remove the subsidy. This will create more traffic with cars which will create more pollution. The council should encourage more people to travel on buses. This will not happen if the cost becomes £490.

- Putting eleven year olds on public transport is not safe.
- This will be extremely disruptive to children's education and faith if they are forced to move schools due to financial reasons.

Respondent profile

The demographic profile of respondents (see following tables) shows that there is an over representation of responses (using comparable data where available) from county residents who are:

- Female
- Those aged 40-59
- Those of White ethnic background

Further, there is a under-representation from county residents who are:

- Males
- Those aged under 40 and those aged over 60
- Those of Asian or Asian British ethnic background

To test for representativeness, a breakdown of the respondents to the survey follows. Each table reviews the demographic profile of respondents against that of the latest information (where available).

Gender

	Mid-2010 population estimates (%)	Transport Consultation
Male	48.9	30.3
Female	51.1	69.7

Age

Age band	Mid-2010 population estimates (%)	Transport Consultation (%)
Less than 40 years old	30.9	14.7
40-59	37.1	64.6
Over 60	32.1	20.7

Parent/Carer

Are you a parent/carers of a child or young person?	Transport Consultation (%)
Yes	71.8
No	28.2

Employed by a school in Leicestershire

Are you employed by a school in Leicestershire	Transport Consultation (%)
Yes	16.5
No	83.5

School governor

School governor	Transport Consultation (%)
Yes	8.2
No	91.8

Children use Home to School Transport

Do you or your children use Home to School transport provided by Leicestershire County Council

	Transport Consultation (%)
Yes	53.7
No	46.3

Post 16 students in household

Are there any post 16 students in your household who currently use our transport to voluntary aided

	Transport Consultation (%)
Yes	18.6
No	72.8

Children who use voluntary aided transport

Are there any children who currently use our transport to voluntary aided

	Transport Consultation (%)
Yes	31.6
No	68.4

Long standing illness, disability or infirmity

	2001 Census (%)	Transport Consultation (%)
Yes	15.5	15.6
No	84.5	84.4

Leicestershire County Council Employee

	Transport Consultation (%)
Yes	15.9
No	84.1

Ethnicity

	Mid-2009 estimates (%)	Transport Consultation (%)
White	90.6	95.9
Mixed	1.3	0.6
Asian	5.8	1.3
Black	1.0	0.5
Other	1.2	1.7

Religion

	2001 Census (%)	Transport Consultation (%)
No religion	16.3	19.6
Christian (no denomination)	79.3	20.2
Christian (other denomination)	n/a	5.1
Roman Catholic	n/a	35.7
Church of England/Anglican	n/a	17.1
Buddhist	0.2	0.1
Hindu	2.2	0.5
Jewish	0.1	0.1
Muslim	0.9	0.2
Sikh	0.9	0.1
Any other religion or belief	0.2	1.2

Number of cars or vans in household

Number of cars or vans in household	2001 Census (%)	Transport Consultation (%)
None	16.8	14.4
One	43.6	39.1
Two or more	39.54	46.6

Sexual orientation

	Transport Consultation
Bisexual	0.8
Gay	1.2
Heterosexual / Straight	95.3
Other	2.3
Lesbian	0.3

Geography

District	Mid-2010 estimates (%)	Transport Consultation
Blaby	14.5	9.9
Charnwood	25.7	23.3
Harborough	12.9	19.2
Hinckley and Bosworth	16.2	5.8
Melton	7.6	17.5
North West Leicestershire	14	21.3
Oadby and Wigston	9	3.1

Appendix

Consultation on Proposed Changes to Transport

Budget pressures

Leicestershire County Council is facing a number of challenges. The funding we receive from national Government is reducing. At the same time demand for services, such as care for older people and waste disposal, is expected to go up.

We also have to deal with the impact of schools locally moving to academy status and coming out of council control. Because the Government will transfer funding from the council's budget to support the new academies, we have to deal with the implications of losing significant funding.

All of this means we have to save more. Our financial plan has been rolled forward a year and now includes a total of £74 million in savings for the next four years. This is on top of the £24 million that we already achieved during 2011/12.

We are now looking at how we can achieve additional savings. In making decisions, we must target our resources at those with the greatest need.

Your views

Last year we carried out extensive consultation on our four year financial plan. Our budget plans for this year reflect what residents told us, and have been amended to take into account extra budget pressures that have arisen over the last 12 months.

We are now asking for your views about the detail of the council's proposals to make changes to the provision of transport.

If you have any questions about this consultation or if you require the information contained in this questionnaire in an alternative version such as large print, Braille or help in understanding it in your language please contact: 0116 305 0001 or email: stq@leics.gov.uk

Home to School Transport Policy and the Impact of Academies

Once a school gains academy status, the current rules about providing transport to catchment schools no longer apply, because the academies will decide their own admissions policy. The council therefore has to make some decisions about which students will be offered free or subsidised transport.

We are proposing that once a school converts to an academy then the policy is to provide free transport to the nearest Academy or Community School if this is over two miles for children in primary education and over three miles for children in secondary education, measured by the shortest available route by road. Where an available walking route below two miles (for children in primary education) or three miles (for children in secondary education) exists, transport will not be provided.

Q1 Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposed policy for the provision of transport to academies? Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

We could choose only to apply the new policy to students starting primary or secondary academies, so that students already in primary or secondary education retain their current entitlement to transport until age 11, 14 or 16 respectively. In some cases, students will continue to travel to their current school, but because of the change in catchment rules, they would not be entitled to free travel under our new policy. We are considering allowing students to retain their existing travel arrangements until they next change school.

Q2 Do you agree or disagree that when a school converts to an academy, we should allow students to retain their existing travel arrangements until they next change school? Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

Allowing students to retain their existing travel arrangements until they change school would have a cost implication for the council. We are considering whether to make a charge for this concession, currently £300 per student per school year for primary age students and £400 for secondary age students.

Q3 Do you agree or disagree that we should make a charge, currently £300 for primary school and £400 for secondary school students, to retain their existing travel arrangements until they next change school? Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

Currently, if a student changes address during the period when they are studying for GCSEs, the County Council will continue to provide free travel to their existing school, even if this is some distance from the new address, to minimise disruption for the student. The Council is considering withdrawing this facility, meaning that in these circumstances parents would be responsible for travel arrangements.

Q4 Do you agree or disagree that we should continue to provide free transport from the new address if a student changes address during GCSE studies? Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

Q5 Please use the space below to let us know any other comments on our proposed policy for the provision of transport to academies

Age 16+ transport to colleges and sixth forms

Around 4,500 students currently contribute £240 per year towards their travel. The full cost of providing each seat is £429 per year. Leicestershire County Council currently pays a subsidy of £189 per seat, per year. This cost us £850,000 per year.

The council is considering withdrawing the subsidy for students aged 16+ and no longer providing transport. This change would not apply to students aged 16 or over with special educational needs who attend a college or other further education establishment for 16 hours a week or more. Such students would continue to be entitled to free travel.

Q6 Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposal to remove the subsidy from post 16 transport to colleges and sixth forms? Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q7 Do you agree or disagree that if the subsidy is removed the transport service should remain available for those who wish to cover the full cost of the transport (approximately £429)? Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The County Council could continue to provide transport to those who are currently in the first year of post 16 education, to enable them to continue to receive subsidised transport in the 2012/13 academic year.

Q8 Do you agree or disagree that, if the subsidy is withdrawn, we should continue to provide transport to those in the second year of 16 plus in the 2012/13 academic year? Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q9 Please use the space below to let us know any other comments on our proposals for 16+ transport to colleges and sixth forms

Transport to voluntary aided (denominational) schools

For many years we have given help when children attend their nearest church school on denominational grounds. Currently, transport for some pupils is subsidised and for others it is free.

Students currently contribute £240 per year towards their travel. The full cost of providing each seat is £490 per year. Leicestershire County Council currently pays a subsidy of £250 per seat, per year for around 1,000 pupils. This costs us £250,000 per year.

Leicestershire County Council has a duty to take into account the wishes of parents on the grounds of religion or belief, but there is no duty to provide free or subsidised transport. The council is considering withdrawing the subsidy for transport to faith and voluntary aided schools and no longer providing transport (except for children from qualifying low income families).

Q10 Do you agree or disagree with the Council's proposal to remove the subsidy from denominational transport? Please tick one box only

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11 Do you agree or disagree that if the subsidy is removed the transport service should remain available for those who wish to cover the full cost of the transport (approximately £490)? Please tick one box only

- Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

Q12 Please use the space below to let us know any other comments on our proposals for transport to voluntary aided schools

Discretionary concessionary travel provision

The national concessionary travel scheme entitles both older residents and disabled residents to free travel on local bus services between 9.30am and 11.00pm Monday to Friday and at any time at weekends and bank holidays.

The council in addition to this scheme in England provide a number of additional concessions. The council is considering the withdrawal of these extra elements of the Leicestershire concessionary travel scheme, which cost us £270,000 per year.

Around 120,000 residents hold an older person's bus pass, and a further 8,500 hold a disabled person's bus pass.

Q13 Do you currently have a concessionary travel pass or use concessionary travel vouchers? Please tick one box only

- Yes No

If yes, which type of concession do you have? Please tick one box only

- Concessionary travel pass for older people.....
 Concessionary travel pass for disabled people
 Concessionary travel vouchers.....

Q14 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following extra elements of the Leicestershire concessionary travel scheme should be withdrawn? (The amount currently being spent is shown in brackets against each service listed). Please tick one box per row only

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
a. Withdrawal of half fare on community transport (£155,000)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Withdrawal of vouchers for disabled people who cannot use conventional bus services and for older people who live over 800 metres from an hourly bus (£85,000)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Withdrawal of free travel for disabled people before 9.30 am Mondays to Fridays (£20,000)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Withdrawal of free travel for older people and for disabled people after 11 pm Mondays to Fridays (£10,000)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q15 Please use the space below to let us know any other comments about our proposals for discretionary concessionary travel provision

About You

Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all sections of the community.

We would be grateful if you would answer the questions below. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did. Information will be used to inform service development to ensure that what we are providing is fair and effective.

Q16 Are you male or female? Please tick one box only
 Male Female

Q17 What was your age on your last birthday? Please write in box below

Q18 Are you a parent/carer of a child or young person? Please tick one box only
 Yes No

If yes, what are the ages of the children in your care? Please tick all applicable
 0-4... 5-10.. 11-15. 16-18.

Q19 Are you employed by a school in Leicestershire? Please tick one box only
 Yes No

Q20 Are you a school governor? Please tick one box only
 Yes No

Q21 Do you or your child(ren) make use of the home to school transport provided by Leicestershire County Council? Please tick one box only
 Yes No

Q22 Are there any post 16 students in your household who currently use our transport to education? Please tick one box only
 Yes No

Q23 Are there any children in your household who currently use our transport to voluntary aided (denominational) schools? Please tick one box only
 Yes No

Q24 Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? Please tick one box only
 Yes No

Q25 What is your ethnic group? Please tick one box only
 White Black or Black British.....
 Mixed..... Other ethnic group.....
 Asian or Asian British

Q26 What is your religion or belief? Please tick one box only
 No religion Hindu.....
 Christian (no denomination) Jewish
 Roman Catholic..... Muslim
 Church of England/Anglican..... Sikh
 Christian (other denomination) Any other religion or belief.....
 Buddhist

Q27 Sexual Orientation. Many people face discrimination because of their sexual orientation and for this reason we have decided to ask this monitoring question. You do not have to answer it but we would be grateful if you could tick the box next to the category which describes your sexual orientation: Please tick one box only
 Bisexual..... Lesbian.....
 Gay..... Other
 Heterosexual / Straight.....

Q28 In total, how many cars or vans are owned or available for use by members of your household? Please tick one box only
 None..... Three
 One Four or more.....
 Two..... Don't know.....

Q29 What is your postcode? Please write in the box below

Q30 Are you an employee of Leicestershire County Council? Please tick one box only
 Yes No

Thank you for your time.

Please return your completed questionnaire in an envelope by 2nd April 2012 to:
 Transport Consultation, Leicestershire County Council, Have Your Say, FREEPOST NAT18685,
 Leicester, LE3 8XT.

Please note that you do not need to add a stamp

Data Protection: Personal data supplied on this form will be held on computer and will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the County Council and its partners. Leicestershire County Council will not share any personal information collected as part of this survey with its partners. The information will be held in accordance with the Council's records management and retention policy.