

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: stg@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.

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
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Black or Black British..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mixed..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other ethnic group..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Asian or Asian British | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Q26 What is your religion or belief? Please tick one box only

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| No religion | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hindu | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Christian (no denomination) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jewish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Roman Catholic..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Muslim | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Church of England/Anglican | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sikh | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Christian (other denomination) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other religion or belief..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buddhist | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

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..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lesbian..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gay..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Heterosexual / Straight..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

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..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Three | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| One | <input type="checkbox"/> | Four or more..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Two..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't know..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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.