

## **Have your say on bus services**

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **How do I know which bus services are part of the consultation?**

A list of all the services which are affected by the proposal (evenings and Sundays) can be found online in the [consultation document](#)

#### **Will I lose my free older persons bus pass?**

No. This is not what the review is about and we will continue to support the provision of free bus travel for older people.

#### **My child is entitled to free travel, what happens if my child's bus is withdrawn?**

Services contracted for educational purposes (E-routes) will continue to be funded and are not part of this consultation. As we are only looking at buses the county council funds after 6.30pm and on Sundays it will not affect your child's travel needs.

#### **Will there be further bus reductions?**

The proposal would give us savings between £700,000 and £887,000 which would meet the requirements for budget savings. There are no plans to make further savings going forward. This is in line with our integrated plan for savings for this department. [Details of this can be found online.](#)

#### **Why are you proposing to withdraw services in the evening and on Sundays?**

Any decision to withdraw financial support from services is very difficult. We have considered passenger numbers on our services. In general, bus usage significantly reduces in the evenings and bus use on Sundays is variable and therefore does not deliver good value for taxpayer's money. The majority of essential trips being made for purposes such as education, work, food shopping and medical needs are made at other times.

However, the proposal is not a final decision and we will use the feedback from this consultation alongside information on bus usage to inform our final plans.

#### **Will these proposals affect services on bank holidays?**

No. There will still be services during the day on bank holidays.

#### **How are rural services likely to be affected?**

If the proposal goes ahead it is unlikely to affect rural bus services as very few bus services currently run in the evening.

**The proposal suggests a cut off point that would mean some services wouldn't run after 6.30pm. What happens if my bus journey starts before that time but runs until after 6.30pm?**

When a bus has not completed its timetabled journey by 18.30, we would consider operating that journey at least as far as the next community on the route. We would look at the number of passengers using that journey in relation to cost savings.

**When will a decision be made?**

Once the consultation closes, the findings will be presented at the Highways and Waste Panel in November 2014 to be discussed by a cross-party group of councillors. The councillors will then make a recommendation for the council's Cabinet to consider – the Cabinet will then make the final decision. The dates of these meetings are still to be confirmed. If agreed, any changes to services will be introduced from April 2015.

**What happens if there is strong opposition to evening and/or Sunday cuts?**

No decisions have been made yet. If there is a strong objection to the proposal the Highways and Waste Management Panel will consider this when making their final recommendation for Cabinet to make a decision.