

Report Statement

Report Purpose:

Cheshire East Council Review of the Bus Support Prioritisation Criteria

Author:

Town Clerk

Background

Bus companies are free to operate services on any route which they consider to be commercially viable - costs for these services are covered by the fares collected from passengers or by concessionary travel reimbursement. Bus services that are not seen as commercially viable but still deemed as important to run are supported (part-funded) by Cheshire East Council. This consultation outlines the proposed changes to the criteria used to prioritise bus services. The consultation questions are attached overleaf.

Action:

To discuss and reply to the consultation.



25%

[illegible]

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not so important	Not at all important	Unsure / Don't know
Bus service performance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered 'not so important' or 'not at all important', please let us know why below:

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Review of the bus support prioritisation criteria

33%

Economy & environmental sustainability

To assess the contribution a bus service makes to the **economy and environmental sustainability** objective we **currently use** the following set of criteria:

- **Business growth - main journey purpose:** We assess the extent to which the bus service support business growth by looking at passenger's main journey purpose e.g., for employment, education, health services, shopping, leisure etc.
- **Sustainable economic growth:** We assess the extent to which the bus service supports key travel to work routes e.g., key employment centres
- **Impact on carbon emissions:** We assess the extent to which the bus service reduces the impact on carbon emissions e.g., reducing the impact on air quality and the reliance on car journeys

We are **proposing to add** the following criteria to further support environmental sustainability:

- **Contribution to carbon reduction:** We want to assess the extent to which bus services contribute to carbon reduction e.g., low emission vehicles

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the addition of the 'carbon reduction' criteria?

Please select one option only

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure / don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered either 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' please let us know why below:

4. How important do you think each criteria is in supporting our economy and environmental sustainability objective?

Please select one option per row only

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not so important	Not at all important	Unsure / don't know
Business growth – journey purpose	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable economic growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Impact on carbon emissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contribution to carbon reduction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Should any other criteria be considered to demonstrate a bus service's ability to support our economy and environmental sustainability objective? Please provide as much detail as possible, the criteria we use has to be measurable:

Business growth - main journey purpose

In determining whether bus services support the economy we currently give highest priority to bus services that support access to jobs / employment whilst those that support access to leisure are given the lowest priority as indicated below:

1. Employment (Highest priority)
2. Education / training
3. Health / medical / welfare
4. Shopping / personal business
5. Leisure (social / recreation) (Lowest Priority)

5. How strongly do you agree or disagree with this order of priority?

Please select one option only

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure / don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered either 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' please let us know why below:

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Review of the bus support prioritisation criteria

42%

Access and social inclusion

To assess the contribution a bus service makes to the **access and social inclusion** objective we **currently use** the following set of criteria:

- **Connecting to a transport interchange point:** We assess the extent to which the bus service connects to rail stations or other bus services
- **Accessibility / travel choice:** We assess whether there is an alternative bus service available in the area e.g. access in rural areas

We are **proposing to add** the following criteria to further support access and social inclusion:

- **Bus provision in areas of deprivation:** We want to assess the extent to which the buses serve areas of deprivation

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the addition of the 'bus provision in areas of deprivation' criteria?

Please select one option only

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure / don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered either 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' please let us know why below:

7. How important do you think each criteria is in supporting our access and social inclusion objective?

Please select one option per row only

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not so important	Not at all important	Unsure / don't know
Connecting to a transport interchange point	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility/travel choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bus provision in areas of deprivation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Should any other criteria be considered to demonstrate a bus service's ability to support our access and social inclusion objective?

Please provide as much detail as possible, the criteria we use has to be measurable:

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Review of the bus support prioritisation criteria

50%

Bus service performance

To assess the **bus performance** objective in terms of value for money to tax payers we **currently use** the following set of criteria:

- **Cost per passenger:** We assess the cost of the bus service per passenger
- **External funding support:** We look at whether the bus service receives funding from other sources e.g., funding could be provided by developers or neighbouring authorities
- **Service usage:** We look at the number of passengers per service
- **Passenger trends:** We look at passenger trends per service e.g., are passenger numbers stable, increasing or falling

We are **proposing to** add the following criteria to help us further assess bus performance and sustainability of the service:

- **Number of fare-paying passengers since the Covid pandemic:** We want to assess the fare-paying passenger recovery since Covid by comparing current passenger numbers to 2019
- **Number of concessionary passengers since the Covid pandemic:** We want to assess the concessionary passenger (e.g., older persons or disabled passholder) recovery since Covid by comparing current concessionary passenger numbers to 2019

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the addition of the following criteria?

Please select one option per row only

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure / don't know
Number of fare-paying passengers since Covid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of concessionary passengers since Covid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered either 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' please let us know why below:

9. How important do you think each criteria is in supporting our bus performance objective?

Please select one option per row only

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not so important	Not at all important	Unsure / don't know
Cost per passenger	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
External funding support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Service usage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Passenger trends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of fare-paying passengers since Covid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of concessionary passengers since Covid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Should any other criteria be considered to demonstrate a bus service's performance in terms of value for money to taxpayers?

Please provide as much detail as possible, the criteria we use has to be measurable:



Review of the bus support prioritisation criteria

58%

10. Considering all the information that you have received about the objectives and their associated criteria, how would you rank them in terms of priority for supported funding?

Please rank the objectives from 1 to 3. 1 being what you consider to be the highest priority and 3 being lowest priority.

You can either drag and drop them in order or use the drop-down indicator to select your ranking number. Please note that the objectives will automatically move in the order you specify if using the drop-down function.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Economy & environmental sustainability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access and social inclusion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bus service performance

Do you have any other comments to make on the bus prioritisation objectives or criteria?

Please write in below

--



have
your
say

Review of the bus support prioritisation criteria

67%

How you travel

11. Do you own or use a car?

Please select one option only

- ☐ I have a car available and prefer to drive
- ☐ I have a car available but prefer not to drive
- ☐ I don't have a car available
- ☐ Other (please specify):

12. How often do you typically travel by bus?

Please select one option only

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 5 or more days a week | <input type="radio"/> Once a month |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 or 4 days a week | <input type="radio"/> Not very often |
| <input type="radio"/> Once or twice a week | <input type="radio"/> Not at all |
| <input type="radio"/> Once a fortnight | |



Review of the bus support prioritisation criteria

75%

About you

The following questions are optional. The information you provide will be used to see if there are any differences in views for different groups of people, and to check if services are being delivered in a fair and accessible way. You do not need to answer if you do not wish to.

13. What is your home postcode?

Please write in below

14. What is your gender identity?

Please select one option only

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Prefer to self describe (please write in the box below):

15. What age group do you belong to?

Please select one option only

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> 16-24 | <input type="radio"/> 65-74 |
| <input type="radio"/> 25-34 | <input type="radio"/> 75-84 |
| <input type="radio"/> 35-44 | <input type="radio"/> 85 and over |
| <input type="radio"/> 45-54 | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> 55-64 | |

16. What is your ethnic origin?

Please select one option only

- ☐ White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- ☐ Any other White background
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- ☐ Asian / Asian British
- ☐ Black African / Caribbean / Black British
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please write in the box below):

17. Which of the following best describes your religious belief / faith?

Please select one option only

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Buddhist | <input type="radio"/> Sikh |
| <input type="radio"/> Christian | <input type="radio"/> None |
| <input type="radio"/> Hindu | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> Jewish | <input type="radio"/> Other (please write in the box below): |
| <input type="radio"/> Muslim | |

18. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Please select one option only

- ☐ Yes, a lot
- ☐ Yes, a little
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Prefer not to say

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