

Report Purpose:

Community Transport Working Group

Author:

Town Clerk and Town Centre Manager

Update

The Town Council has agreed with Cheshire East Council (CEC) to use the free bus days being offered by CEC for the following events:

- Textile Week – Saturday 19 September 2026
- Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 8 November 2026
- Lunar New Year – Saturday 6 February 2027
- Easter – Saturday 27 March 2027

D&G is unable to run the MTC and CEC live promotions on its system at the same time. As a result, the cost of the free bus days funded directly by the Town Council has increased. However, the revised arrangement provides significantly wider route coverage, which the Town Council has previously advocated for.

Previously, MTC-funded free bus days covered D&G routes 10, 19 and 19A, and High Peak routes 14 and 14A. The revised arrangement provides free travel, within the Macclesfield town boundary, on the following services:

- D&G: 3, 10, 19/19A, 38, 87, 88, 130 and 150
- High Peak: 14/14A, 58, 60/60A and 130 (Sunday only)
- Belle Vue: 391
- Aimee's Travel: 109

The cost of Saturday events increases from £1,278.33 to £1,603 per event. The Do Something Summer Wednesday events also increase from £1,603 to £2,013 for the first two dates and £1,813 for the remaining four dates. The latter figure includes a £200 reduction negotiated with D&G following the introduction of the Government's free bus travel initiative for children during August.

The revised rates apply from 22 July 2026.

At March Full Council we budgeted £24,957.96 for free to ride bus days for 2026-27 with £26,780 in the budget for any price changes.

The cost with the revised rates and the CEC funded days will now be £23,756.98 and include 2 events previously not serviced, Remembrance and Textile Week.

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Name of Event	Previous Rate	New Rate
Easter Saturday: Saturday 4th April	£1278.33	N/A
Bikeathon: Saturday 16th May	£1278.33	N/A
Macc in May: Saturday 23rd May	£1278.33	N/A

1261: Saturday 20th June	£1278.33	N/A
Macc Pow: Saturday 27th June	£1278.33	N/A
Macc Pride: Saturday 4 th July	£1278.33	N/A
Do Something Summer (DSS): Wednesday 22nd July	£1603	£2013
DSS: Wednesday 29th July	£1603	£2013
DSS: Wednesday 5 th August	£1603	£1813
DSS: Wednesday 12 th August	£1603	£1813
DSS: Wednesday 19 th August	£1603	£1813
DSS: Wednesday 26 th August	£1603	£1813
Textile Week: Saturday 19 th September	CEC free bus day	
Nature Needs You: Saturday 3rd October	£1278.33	£1603
Spooky Saturday: Saturday 31st October	£1278.33	£1603
Remembrance: Sunday 8 th November	CEC free bus day	
Step Into Christmas: Saturday 28th November	£1278.33	£1603
Lunar New Year: Saturday 6 th February	£1278.33	Now covered by CEC free bus day
Easter: Saturday 27 th March	£1278.33	Now covered by CEC free bus day