



BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

Transport for Buckinghamshire – Delivering change

During the Bucks Debate you gave us lots of ideas how we can save money in delivering the services provided by Transport for Buckinghamshire. You also told us about the services that are important to you.

We know from the Bucks Debate and our regular opinion surveys that road maintenance and gritting are particularly important to you. We therefore propose to focus our resources on continuing to deliver these services. In 2011/12, we plan to invest an additional £7 million on highway maintenance. However, in order to invest in roads, we have to look at our other services to see how we could do things differently, not

only by reducing budgets but also exploring how local communities could be involved in delivering local solutions.

Street Lighting

During September and November we have been running a trial of a number of options – ‘part night’ lighting; switching off lights; or dimming between midnight and 5:30am. Although we are awaiting the final results of the trial so far we have not received any negative comments on switching off between midnight and 5:30am.

We propose to introduce ‘part night’ lighting in residential areas, such as Buckingham, Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Marlow & Beaconsfield between midnight and 5:30am to save £77k per year. (This would not

Transport for Buckinghamshire



apply to 'traffic routes', for example the A41 through Aylesbury or the A40 through High Wycombe.)

Doing so will also help us to reduce carbon emissions by approximately 550 tonnes each year. This will enable us to improve the quality of our environment.

Local Buses

Our second biggest spend is helping bus companies provide buses and bus routes which cannot cover their own costs. We know that these buses are important to those who use them. However, passenger numbers are continuing to fall and existing bus services no longer offer a cost effective way to provide rural communities with access to key services.

We propose to withdraw our subsidy for Sunday bus routes and evening bus services – saving £465,000 each year

These are mainly leisure journeys and we propose working with bus operators to develop commercial replacements on those routes with higher demand. This will however mean fewer buses than at present.

We propose to create a Community Transport Fund using a proportion of the budget for subsidised rural bus routes. This will be achieved through a review of existing services that have the highest per passenger subsidy costs. This will support and strengthen community transport provision in Buckinghamshire and enable local communities to develop transport solutions that best meet their local needs.

This builds on the excellent work already being done by Community Bus projects and voluntary car schemes across the county.

Our idea is that the Community Transport Fund of up to £100,000 will be available to communities who can demonstrate a need for additional transport. Communities will need to put together a proposal for alternative forms of transport and the Community Transport Fund can be used to get these alternatives up and running. However, communities will need to show the scheme is needed and will be able to run without continued financial support.

We are working with partners to develop a combined transport system bringing together rural bus services, community transport, patient and client transport.

This would involve greater coordination of journeys, improved journey planning and increased travel options.

Road Safety and Sustainable Travel Education, Training and Promotion

Currently we provide the education, training and publicity of road safety, sustainable travel – school and business travel planning as well as cycling and walking. We want to help local communities provide these services with our help.

We propose to increase the information we make available on our website to help road safety initiatives be delivered by local communities, reducing our budget by £350,000 each year

More information will be provided through the Internet and mobile phones focussing on our nextbus realtime information system.

We propose to reduce our budget for printing travel information and promoting bus services by £90,000 each year

We propose to work with local communities who identify the need for improved walking and cycling facilities in their area, saving us £265,000 each year

The local community will identify the need and secure funding but will be supported by us for technical support, advice, delivery and implementation.

We are also consulting on our *Local Transport Plan 3*. This sets out our full transport aims and priorities and will be used to allocate resources and guide decisions on what we will and will not provide in the future. It also identifies areas where we need to work with others to support them to deliver transport improvements. You can find out more on our website: <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/transport/ltp3.page>

Tell us what you think

1. Do you agree that we should switch off street lights between midnight and 5:30 to help us save money?

Yes [] No [] Don't know []

If you disagree, can you tell us what we can do differently?

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2. If you disagree with our plans for bus services, can you tell us what we can do differently?

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3. Would you be interested in getting involved in a local community transport scheme?

Yes [] No []

If you would like to be involved, please provide us with your name and contact details (email or telephone)?

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4. If you disagree with our plans for Road Safety and Sustainable Travel Education, Training and Promotion, can you tell us what we can do differently?

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We would like to be able to contact you in regard to your response to this consultation. Please leave your contact details below

Name

Address

Email Telephone

Closing date for consultation March 31st 2011

Return your completed questionnaire to: Buckinghamshire County Council, Policy, Performance & Communications, FREEPOST SCE 12447, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1BR

Alternatively help us to save money by replying online at www.buckscc.gov.uk/budget

For any further queries, please e-mail consultation@buckscc.gov.uk or telephone: **01296 382406**