

Community transport strategy – summary

Introduction

This document provides a summary of East Sussex County Council's draft community transport strategy.

What is community transport?

Community transport is the term used to describe a type of transport service that is developed by local people to help local people get around. It can be used by anyone, but is particularly aimed at people who find it difficult or impossible to use standard public transport, or who have no public transport in the area they live in or are travelling to. It is usually supported by voluntary organisations, parish and district councils and community transport operators.

The phrase 'community transport' describes a number of different types of not-for-profit transport, such as a dial-a-ride minibus or a person using their own car to give lifts to their neighbour or friend.

Why do we need a community transport strategy?

There are more than 40 community transport schemes operating in the county at the moment – about one third of these receive funding from the County Council. Not all towns and villages have community transport – it depends on the number of commercial bus services available in the area, how much demand there is, and whether there are local people willing to run individual schemes.

The community transport strategy shapes what community transport services will look like in the future and is part of the Local Transport Plan, which sets out our vision for transport in East Sussex. That vision is for a thriving county, where every resident enjoys:

- an enhanced quality of life with improved travel choice and access to employment opportunities and local facilities
- safer and healthier communities, and
- a cleaner environment that is valued, protected and improved for future generations.

We are committed to giving all residents of East Sussex the opportunity to benefit from community transport services that provide excellent access to local services, shops and employment.

What is the community transport strategy?

To help us achieve the vision and commitment outlined above, we have identified a series of objectives in the community transport strategy. We aim to:

- a. establish a comprehensive and up-to-date database of all community transport services in East Sussex
- b. establish a way to monitor to what extent this strategy is helping us achieve our vision for transport in the county
- c. help communities to maintain existing community transport services, while identifying and developing new schemes and opportunities for extra funding
- d. improve the way we work with communities, as well as district, borough and parish councils, on developing new schemes
- e. share good examples of similar work from within East Sussex and elsewhere
- f. widely promote the availability of community transport services to all residents of the county, while working with our partners to market specific services to potential users
- g. work with our partners to make sure community transport services are affordable for everyone.

The community transport strategy

Our community transport strategy will contribute to:

- a. **Accessibility** – improved access to services for people living in areas where there is no public transport, particularly (but not exclusively) the young and elderly
- b. **Quality of life** – allowing people who are currently isolated to become involved in social activities and employment opportunities
- c. **Sense of community** – helping people who live near each other to develop a sense of community
- d. **Economic growth** – stimulating the job market and opportunities for shopping in areas that are currently inaccessible
- e. **Access to medical facilities** – helping patients to get the care they need by providing door-to-door transport to and from hospital and doctor appointments, in partnership with the local Primary Care Trusts
- f. **Other council services** – complementing other services the council provides, such as improved access to Adult Social Care and Youth Services.