

Bus strategy – summary

Introduction

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

Why do we need a bus strategy?

The bus strategy shapes bus services for 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 and visitors in East Sussex the opportunity to benefit from high quality buses that provide excellent access to local services and employment, and offer an attractive alternative to the private car.

What is the bus strategy?

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

- a. Increase the number of trips people make by bus every year
- b. Make travelling by bus a more attractive option for people by working with bus companies to provide user-friendly bus stops and well-equipped low floor buses
- c. Ensure buses are reliable and on time by identifying and tackling the causes of delay, by controlling parking and giving buses priority on the roads
- d. Provide relevant, user-friendly bus timetables using a range of media
- e. Work with bus companies to make sure services are reliable and frequent
- f. Provide direct journeys where possible; and when passengers want to use other forms of transport, such as trains, we will try to coordinate services
- g. We will make buses safer by providing secure waiting areas, the use of CCTV on buses, and tackling anti-social behaviour
- h. Reduce the impact of buses on the environment by increasing the number of buses with lower emissions

The bus strategy

Our bus strategy pulls together a range of transport policies, which describe how we will continue to support buses as a key form of transport. These policies are summarised below.

- **Commercial services**

We will work with commercial bus companies to maintain and improve services

- **Supported services**

We fund the majority of bus services in East Sussex so residents can access employment, education, healthcare and food shopping

- **Traffic management**

We will manage parking, give buses priority at junctions and put in effective traffic controls in main towns

- **Facilities for passengers**

We will improve the standard of bus stops, shelters and bus timetables, by working with bus companies alongside borough, district and parish councils

- **Providing information**

We will provide relevant, user-friendly bus timetables using a range media

- **Concessionary fares for older people**

We will continue to work with borough and district councils to support the National Concessionary Travel scheme

- **Fares and ticketing**

We will continue to work with bus companies to promote discounted fares for young people

- **Community and voluntary transport**

Where a conventional bus service is not sustainable, we will encourage the use of community transport