

Local Transport Plan 4 priorities – initial ‘snapshot’ consultation questions.

The headings below were used in a recent initial ‘snapshot’ consultation, to help us understand the transport priorities of Buckinghamshire’s people and businesses.

The consultation was in the form of an online survey, split into 10 transport related themes (issue column) with two separate approaches for each theme. Respondents were asked to award a total of 100 points across the 10 themes. This method of consultation was used to identify people’s key transport issues and how they should be tackled.

These issues might help you to identify areas you wish to discuss.

Issue	Explanatory information	Approach A	Approach B
Buckinghamshire's growing economy	Buckinghamshire is a rapidly growing county. Its economy is one of the strongest in the country. Transport infrastructure is an important part of enabling growth whilst keeping Bucks attractive to live and work in. There are different ways we can provide this transport infrastructure:	Should the Council encourage developers to manage the transport effects of their development when they submit planning applications for new developments; or	Should the Council borrow money to invest in providing transport infrastructure up-front to enable economic growth.

Streets in town centres	<p>The streets in our town centres do a range of different jobs. They allow people to move around and through the town. They are also an important part of the space we have to shop, relax and do business in.</p> <p>What is the most important job of the streets in our town centres?</p>	Should the streets in our town centres function as efficiently as possible, to allow as many people and vehicles as possible to move through them with the least congestion; or	Should the streets in our town centres provide a sense of place for shopping, relaxing and doing business at the expense of traffic flow.
Delivering transport improvements and services	<p>The Council currently does many things to improve travel in Bucks. These range from filling potholes to promoting walking to school. As budgets fall and demand increases the Council won't be able to continue to do all these things.</p> <p>How should we address this challenge, in principle?</p>	Should the Council provide - but has to charge more council tax to do so; or	Should communities do (or pay for) more for themselves - and reduce the need to increase council tax.
Bus and train services	<p>Buses and trains are important ways of accessing work, shops, schools etc. Better services could help reduce the number of cars on the roads, and enable more people to access work, education and other vital facilities.</p> <p>To do this should the Council:</p>	Should the Council continue to pay bus and train companies to improve their services; or	Should the Council support communities to develop their own creative solutions, for services that meet their needs.

<p>Providing access to services</p>	<p>As technology improves it is possible to access more services digitally online.</p> <p>Doing this reduces the need to travel, reducing the pressure on our roads. Providing digital services can also allow the Council to deliver services for less.</p> <p>Should we:</p>	<p>Should the Council continue to provide services at 'real' physical places, instead of investing in online services; or</p>	<p>Should the Council invest more in online services, instead of physical ones.</p>
<p>Responding to planning applications</p>	<p>The Council has a duty to comment on the transport effects of planning applications for new developments. This allows us to help balance the need for the county to grow and stay attractive.</p> <p>We have to respond to all sorts of developments. From applications for one house or business to thousands.</p> <p>Should we:</p>	<p>Should the Council provide detailed 'bespoke' responses to each planning application - regardless of its size. This means each development gets a detailed response but reduces the amount of time we have to focus on larger developments; or</p>	<p>Should the Council use standardised text and standing advice for minor applications where appropriate. This would allow us to spend more time on larger developments to help make sure they work for Buckinghamshire.</p>
<p>Maintaining existing roads</p>	<p>The Council is responsible for maintaining roads, bridges signs and other related infrastructure.</p> <p>How should we decide where to invest road maintenance funds?</p>	<p>Should we decide where to invest road maintenance funds by responding to local concerns. This may mean the repairs we make are not the best value in the long run; or</p>	<p>Should we decide where to invest road maintenance funds by using technical assessments of the condition of the roads and the value for money of repairs. This may mean not investing in repairs that are perceived to be important locally.</p>

<p>Maintaining roads in new developments</p>	<p>New developments often include new roads, footpaths and cycleways.</p> <p>This can benefit the people and business of Bucks. It also adds to the Council's maintenance responsibilities.</p> <p>Should the Council:</p>	<p>Should the Council pay for the maintenance of highway infrastructure in new developments. Falling central government funding means council tax may have to rise or spending on other services may reduce; or</p>	<p>Should the Council work with developers explore the potential for local management companies to maintain new highway infrastructure, so that costs are borne by the residents of new developments.</p>
<p>Parking enforcement</p>	<p>The Council enforces on-street parking restrictions to manage congestion and make sure parking spaces are available for people to use.</p> <p>Enforcing these restrictions is time consuming and therefore expensive. The amount of enforcement activity we can do is limited by the amount of income we raise from fines. Should we:</p>	<p>Should the Council continue the level of enforcement affordable with current levels of income; or</p>	<p>Should the Council undertake higher levels of enforcement activity to provide a more visible deterrent, funded by issuing more fines.</p>
<p>Road safety</p>	<p>The Council works to make driving, walking and cycling safer.</p> <p>There are many ways to do this. One of the biggest choices is whether it is best to:</p>	<p>Should the Council make roads safer by investing in physical engineering schemes; or</p>	<p>Should the Council make driving, walking and cycling safer by improving the education and training of road users.</p>