

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	Review of council-funded bus services in north west Wiltshire
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Weblink:	http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations/consultationbusroutes.htm
Further details available:	See web link

Summary of announcement:

The Council is currently reviewing the bus services which it funds in the north and west of Wiltshire, including several in the Chippenham community area. This is part of an ongoing series of reviews of bus services across the county, which aim to identify the most cost-effective means of meeting local access needs in a way that can be financially sustainable in the long term. The rationale for the proposals that are being put forward in the Chippenham area is to maintain strategic links between the main towns, while seeking to reduce costs to make the network as a whole more affordable. Some of the rural routes are poorly used and it is proposed to reduce the service provided to reflect the use that is made of them, while continuing to meet essential access needs. In some cases community or voluntary transport may be an alternative, and the consultation invites suggestions for other ways of meeting the needs of the area at an affordable cost.

Consultation letters have been sent out via the Area Board manager to town and parish councils, local members, and other groups or individuals who may wish to respond. Copies have also been sent to a number of countywide user organisations, and to local community and voluntary transport groups. Bus user questionnaires are being made available on the buses, and all of the consultation documents are also available on the council's website (link shown above).

The consultation closes on 7 October 2013, and it is intended to implement changes to the services concerned in April 2014.