

Public Transport In Central Bedfordshire

By Paul Dodge
Public Transport Manager

Types of Bus Service

- Commercial bus service
- Bus service subsidised by Council
- Bus service funded by new development
- Community bus service

Commercial Bus Operators

- Arriva
- Stagecoach
- Centrebus
- Grant Palmer
- Uno
- Herberts Travel
- Shorey's Travel
- Red Line
- Red Rose
- Red Kite
- Z & S Buses

Dial a Ride Operators

- Buzzer
- South Beds Dial a Ride
- Mid Beds Link a Ride

Community Bus Operators

- Flittabus
- Ivel Sprinter
- Wanderbus

Council funding for buses

- Publicity, bus stop maintenance: £50,000
- Community bus services: £400,000
- Subsidies for bus routes: £1.3 million
- Concessionary Travel Scheme: £2.3 million
- Capital schemes – new shelters, raised kerbs, new real time screens: £200,000
- Luton Dunstable Guided Busway: £90 million

Challenges

- Council has faced 28% cut in budgets over last 4 years (about £40 million)
- More to come 2015 onwards
- Bus subsidy has reduced by £500,000 in last 5 years
- Bus companies had been facing increased costs.
- Direct financial support from National Government to bus operators falling.

What do people want?

- A bus service to their locality
- A bus service they can trust
- A bus service for members of their family
- A bus service to take them to work or to school
- A bus service to take them shopping
- A bus service for leisure purposes

What people may not want

- A reduction in their existing services
- A bus service that costs a lot to finance, but not used

Conclusion

- Local people want a joined up and financially sustainable network of bus services
- Local people want a bus service of acceptable quality
- If a conventional bus service cannot be provided, then an alternative form of transport e.g. Community Transport
- There is a need for a transport service that meets actual demand.

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