

Have your say on the future of bus services in Cumbria

28 September 2026 [Public transport](#)



Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council are inviting residents, passengers, businesses and community groups to take part in the next phase of the Cumbria Bus Reform Pilot Study. The Pilot Study is funded by the Department for Transport (DfT) and is being delivered in partnership with Cumberland Council, Westmorland & Furness Council, Jacobs and Oxera.

This stage will include a public questionnaire and six community drop-in events across Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness. It will gather views on people's experiences of local bus services, their priorities for the future and their thoughts on potential new ways of planning, funding and operating services.

The engagement will explore how bus services could better connect people to jobs, education, healthcare and other essential services while making travel more affordable and accessible.

The questionnaire will be available on Cumberland Council's website from Monday 5 October 2026 until Sunday 25 October 2026 (at midnight) and promoted across both councils' engagement platforms. It will offer an accessible way for people across Cumbria to share their experiences, priorities and ideas.

The six in-person community conversation events will provide opportunities for residents, visitors, local organisations, interest groups and communities to share their views directly. Discussions will explore how different ways of planning, funding and operating bus services could support better access to jobs, education and essential services, strengthen

rural connectivity, improve affordability and accessibility, and enhance the overall passenger experience.

The study is exploring different options for how bus services could be organised and delivered in Cumbria in the future, no decisions have been made at this time. The findings from the study will help inform future discussions about local bus services and transport policy. The newly established Cumbria Combined Authority will also play an important role in shaping strategic transport priorities across Cumbria in the future.

Community Conversation Events:

- Monday 5 October 2026 - Barrow-in-Furness Town Hall between 2pm and 6pm
- Tuesday 6 October 2026 – Kendal Town Hall between 3.30pm and 7.30pm
- Friday 16 October 2026 – Penrith Library between 12.30pm and 4.30pm
- Saturday 17 October 2026 – Carlisle Library between 10.30am and 2.30pm
- Tuesday 20 October 2026 – Keswick Library between 1.30pm and 4.45pm
- Wednesday 21 October 2026 – Workington Library & Community Hub between 2pm and 6pm

Cllr Denise Rollo, Executive Member for Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places at Cumberland Council, said: “This is an important opportunity for people across Cumbria to share their experiences of local bus services and explain what they need from the network in the future. Local insight is essential to ensuring any future approach reflects the needs of our diverse communities and the unique geography of the county.”

Feedback from the questionnaire and community events will be analysed and summarised as part of the pilot study. It will be considered alongside technical evidence as potential options are assessed and recommendations are developed.

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