

Northumberland Consultation Results

Thanks to everyone who took part in the recent consultation about our service change plans for Northumberland. We received a total of 268 responses, which included a lot of great feedback and ideas. There was overwhelming support for the majority of our proposals, which we are going to implement in two stages from Sunday 6th September and Sunday 27th September. However, concerns were raised about a small number of our plans and we have made changes to them as a result.

- **65%** of respondents were 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour' of extending the X20 from Amble to Alnwick. This will happen from Sunday 6th September, with buses running up to hourly on Monday to Saturday daytimes via Warkworth and Alnmouth railway station.
- **54%** of respondents were 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour' of all X20 buses serving Hadston Square. Only **5%** were 'against' or 'strongly against' this, so it will also happen from Sunday 6th September.
- **28%** of respondents want the X20 run via Percy Road in Amble, while **14%** prefer the current route through Togston and North Broomhill. However, we have decided to retain the present route because it is quicker and a lot of school children would otherwise have a long walk to catch their bus.
- **31%** of respondents do not want us to change the X20 route between Ashington and North Seaton. **13%** would like buses to run via Alexandra Road instead of Hawthorn Road, while **56%** have no preference. However, we are going to change the route from Sunday 6th September so that buses run along Alexandra Road. This is because the 57 will be withdrawn between Ashington and North Seaton from the same date, which means that Alexandra Road would otherwise not be served.
- **83%** of respondents would not experience any problems if the X18 is withdrawn from Alnmouth railway station. The X20 will run via the station on Monday to Saturday daytimes from Sunday 6th September, so the X18 will not go there from the start of its winter timetable on Sunday 27th September. A small number of people currently travel at times when the X20 will not run, so we have asked Northumberland County Council (NCC) if they can put new bus stops for the X18 on Lesbury Road.
- **40%** of respondents were 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour' of all X15 buses running via Wagonway Road in Alnwick. Only **4%** were 'against' or 'strongly against' this, so we are making the change from Sunday 6th September.
- **91%** of respondents would not experience any problems if we swap the routes of services 1 and 2 between Blyth and Cowpen. However, the remaining **9%** include a large number of students and elderly people who would find it difficult making their journeys. We are therefore not going ahead with this change.
- **40%** of respondents were 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour' of us speeding up Monday to Saturday daytime journeys on service 2 by removing them from Red House Farm. Only **5%** were 'against' or 'strongly against' this, so it will happen from Sunday 6th September.
- **47%** of respondents were 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour' of us extending one bus per hour on service 43 from Cramlington to Morpeth via Shankhouse, Bedlington and Hepscott Park. Only **10%** were 'against' or 'strongly against' this, so it will also happen from Sunday 6th September.
- **19%** of respondents were 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour' of the X13 running via Renwick Road and Waterloo Road instead of Sandringham Drive and Union Street in Blyth. **72%** were 'neither in favour nor against' this, while **9%** were 'against' or 'strongly against' it. This change will take place on Sunday 6th September, as more people will benefit from it than be negatively affected by it. However, we understand there are no shelters at the bus stops on South Newsham Road, which are the alternative pick-up points for Sandringham Drive. We have therefore asked NCC if they can move the existing shelters from Sandringham Drive to South Newsham Road.

- **63%** of respondents were 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour' of diverting the 57 to run via the new Northumbria Hospital. Only **8%** were 'against' or 'strongly against' this so it will happen from Sunday 6th September, creating new links from Ashington, Bedlington, Seaton Delaval and Whitley Bay to the hospital.
- **54%** of respondents were 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour' of speeding up service 57 between Cramlington, Bedlington and Ashington by removing buses from Nelson Village. This will take place from Sunday 6th September, when the new 58 will provide an alternative link for Nelson Village.
- **42%** of respondents were 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour' of extending Cramlington town services C1, C2 and C3 to include Beacon Hill and Nelson Village. Only **6%** were 'against' or 'strongly against' this, but we received several requests for buses to run on Saturdays as well as Mondays to Fridays. This will happen from Sunday 6th September – buses will run as service 58, up to half-hourly at Monday to Friday commuter times and up to hourly on Monday to Saturday daytimes.
- **35%** of respondents want a direct link between Newcastle and Kirkhill in Morpeth, even if this means reducing the service in Kirkhill from three to two buses per hour on Monday to Saturday daytimes. **14%** want to keep the current three buses per hour between Kirkhill and Morpeth, while **51%** have no preference. As a result, we are introducing a new service X16 from Sunday 6th September, running up to half-hourly between Kirkhill and Morpeth then hourly to Regent Centre and Newcastle.
- **91%** of respondents would not experience any problems if we curtail service 2 to run between Blyth and Morpeth only. The remaining **9%** could change buses in Morpeth, so this will happen from Sunday 6th September.
- **90%** of respondents would not experience any problems if we reduce Dinnington to Morpeth service 44 to run between 0800 and 1600 on Mondays to Fridays only. However, many of the remaining **10%** were concerned that this would leave Blagdon, Stannington Village and Stannington Station with no Saturday service. Buses will therefore continue to run hourly on Mondays to Saturdays, but only between 0800 and 1600. There will be no changes to the 44 between Newcastle and Dinnington.

Information about all of the service changes that are due to take place in September will be online from **Monday 3rd August 2015**. New timetables will be available on buses and from our travel shops in Blyth and Newcastle from **Thursday 6th August 2015**.