

Rethinking Transport in Surrey

Background

The [Shared Community Vision for Surrey](#) in 2030 includes the ambitions that "*journeys across the county are easier, more predictable and safer*" and that Surrey has "*well connected communities*". Our residents also want to live in clean, safe and green communities, where people and organisations embrace their environmental responsibilities.

We recognise that there are current transport challenges within Surrey, for example it is the most congested county outside of London and there are concerns within the community about air quality. Therefore, there is a strong impetus to seek innovative solutions to address these challenges, which reflect community-led thinking and partnership working.

The objectives of the Rethinking Transport programme

The Rethinking Transport programme has been established to reimagine how transport should be commissioned. This is a real opportunity for a new approach to providing transport services across the county, supporting residents to stay connected to each other, their communities and services in sustainable ways.

The programme is forward looking and will explore innovative options based on a clear understanding of the core reasons why people travel across the county.

The Rethinking Transport programme will draw on design principles in order to establish a transport system that enables individuals and communities to help themselves, is predicated on strong partnership working across the county, is co-designed with residents, digital by design and is based on evidence and cutting-edge insight.

The programme also contributes directly towards the Community 2030 vision and ambitions and the priorities of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, including by developing a deep understanding of residents' needs, particularly the most vulnerable in society, and working with partners and communities to develop flexible and sustainable transport models to enable communities to be more resilient and independent.

Listening to the community

As well as being vital that the voices of the community are heard, organisations across Surrey will be included in the design of the county's future transport service. Therefore, there will be a joint team, made up of representatives from the County Council, Districts and Boroughs and Health partners, managing the programme of engagement to get a representative range of voices and perspectives.

Throughout May and June, there will be a series of engagement sessions taking place where we will be working with representatives from boroughs and districts, education settings, community partners, health care providers, residents, businesses and service users to discover how transport is working well, what can be improved, and how it can be more innovative and integrated.

We aim to develop a shared understanding of the issues facing different organisations so that we can work towards building an ambition that provides a better transport service that meet residents' needs.

Timeline

The initial 'discovery' phase of the Rethinking Transport programme will run from April into July 2019. Within this time, the output from the engagement will be combined with research on leading-edge innovations in community transport, as well as an analysis of the current demand and supply of transport and how this is likely to change due to the future pressures with the county, such as due to changing demographics. As part of the process we hope to find new options and opportunities to inform the design of agreed pilots to test their viability. This will form the next stage of the programme where pilots will be developed further with partners and input from residents once the 'discovery' phase is complete.