

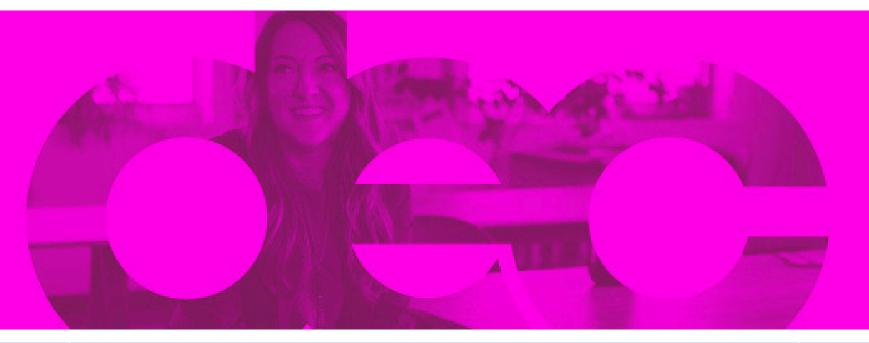
Durham Employment Forum

Friday 17th January 2025



Welcome





Working together to connect people and jobs across County Durham

| 1. | Refreshments & Registration | 08.30-0900 |
|----|---|--------------|
| 2. | Networking | 09.00-09.30 |
| 3. | Welcome & Introductions | 09.30-09.35 |
| 4 | Geoff Wade-NECA Fiona Harrington -DCC Includes break out session to hear ideas of barriers & solutions within DCC | 09.35-10.35 |
| 5. | Hyper local impact - Brandon & Byshottles Councillor Anne Bonner | 10.35- 10.50 |
| 6. | Break | 10.50-11.05 |





Working together to connect people and jobs across County Durham

| 7. | Member initiative DWP & Stanley Travel | 11.05-11.20 |
|-----|--|-------------|
| 8. | Member initiative Walkers to Drivers – Katy Mcvittie | 11.20-11.35 |
| 9. | Member initiative Wheels to Work | 11.35-11.50 |
| 10. | What's coming Up – Members Disability Confident event DWP | 11.50-11.55 |
| 11. | Questions and AOB | 11.55-12.00 |





Durham

Employment

Geoff Wade North East Combined Authority Fiona Harrington Durham County Council



The North East Local Transport Plan (LTP)

Durham Employment Connections Forum 17 January 2025











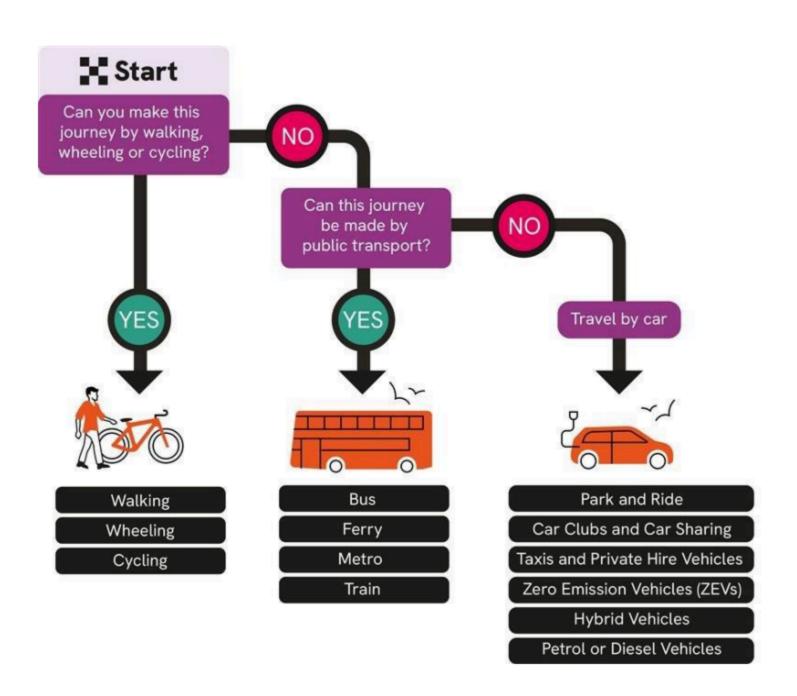






What is the NE Local Transport Plan (LTP)?

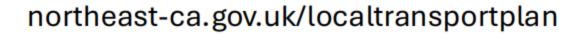
- The LTP is a statutory plan which sets out in strategic terms what the Mayor aspires to achieve through transport provision and why.
- Accompanied by a delivery plan the list of what we will build, introduce or change up to 2040 and what mechanisms we will use to deliver interventions.
- Aim: to create a green, integrated transport network that works for all.
- Covers movement of both people and freight.
- Making journeys is good as it benefits our economy.
 Greener journeys are even better as they also benefit our environment and health.



1

Where we want to be

- Aim: Create a green, integrated transport network that works for all.
- The draft LTP sets out an ambitious set of service standards for an improved transport network. These service standards come under one of the five key focus areas:
- Planning journeys, informing users, and supporting customers. Information should be easy to find and accessible for everyone, this includes live journey information.
- 2. Ticketing and fares. Tickets and fares should be simple, affordable, and easy to use. People should be able to travel across the region on different transport types without having to buy multiple tickets.
- 3. Reach and resilience of infrastructure. The network should extend to all areas of the region including rural and coastal areas whilst also being capable of dealing with extreme weather changes.
- 4. Safety, especially of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. Everyone should feel safe when using public transport.
- 5. Connections between different transport types. Transport should be well coordinated making it easier to switch between different transport types.
- More details on the service standards can be found in the LTP and accompanying summary document.









Current Transport Challenges

- No single place that provides all transport information
- Information on how to make joined up journeys can be poor
- Limited range of tickets for travel across multiple transport types or different operators
- Fares can be expensive
- Not all travel is price capped
- Significant gaps in transport network
- Several areas where there are resilience issues
- Low perceptions of public transport service quality
- Actual and perceived safety concerns
- Transport options don't always match up to people's lifestyles
- Timetables often do not match up can make it difficult to use multiple types of transport for a journey

Have we missed any challenges?



How we will get there- delivery plan

- Sets out the actions that can be taken by the North East CA and partners to 2040 for example, what we will build, introduce and change, to deliver the LTP.
- Sets out a pipeline of 327 schemes with an estimated value of £8.2bn.
- Highlights powers and other delivery mechanisms (e.g. Bus Franchising) which are the tools to make this happen.
- Sets out a range of interventions that are costed and set against potential funding options.
- We can deliver interventions (subject to funding and powers) in the following time periods: up to 2027, 2028-2032 and 2033-2040.
- Maintained as a live programme which can evolve as schemes develop, new funding priorities are identified, and we progress through delivery.







LTP Consultation Approach

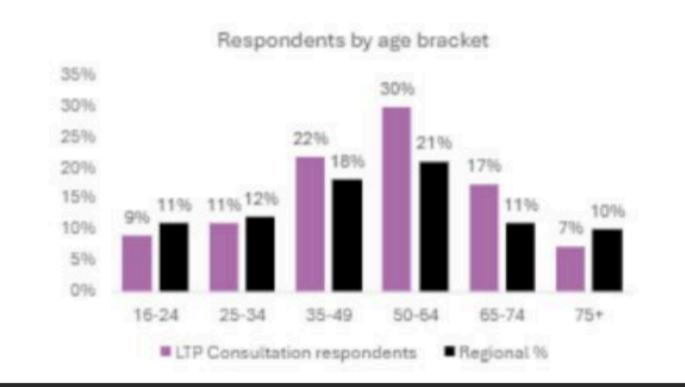
- Consultation was launched on Monday 4 November 2024 and will run to Sunday 26 January 2025.
- The Mayor requested that public consultation is far reaching, connecting with anyone with an interest in improving transport.
- The consultation is seeking to achieve maximum engagement with, and representation from, all sections of society in the region.
- Ways feedback can be provided:
 - Respond to an online survey (northeast-ca.gov.uk/localtransportplan)
 - Write to the North East Combined Authority
 - Email the consultation inbox: haveyoursay@northeast-ca.gov.uk
 - Call the dedicated phone line: 0191 277 7010
 - Attend online consultation events
 - Attend in-person consultation events across the region

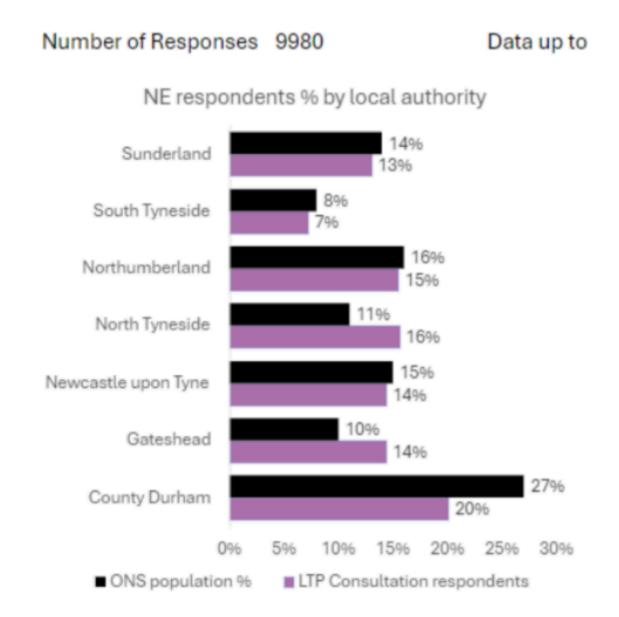


Responses so far...

 As of 09/01/2025, there have been over 10,000 responses to the online consultation. Below highlights respondents by gender, age and local authority.

| ANSWER CHOICES * | | RESPONSES |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| ▼ Man or boy | | 51.53% |
| ▼ Woman or girl | | 43.10% |
| ▼ Non-Binary | | 0.61% |
| ▼ Prefer not to say | | 3.42% |
| ▼ Let me type | Responses | 1.33% |







Community Bus Partnerships

- Community Engagement Officers
 - Fiona Harrington
 - Ian Burns

Role

- Develop a community, education and business engagement programme to promote bus use and responsible behaviour
- Identify local barriers to bus use
- Identify improvements and interventions to provide that could encourage people to use the bus more
- Liaison with bus companies to resolve reported issues
- Provide practical support for residents to try the bus
- Assist with feedback on service changes

Local Bus Services - Background

- 140 different routes operating daily in County Durham
- The local bus network within County Durham is a mixture of commercially operated services and those funded with some level of subsidy from Durham County Council.
- Just over 80% of journeys within the County are operated without any financial support from the council. These are primarily operated by Go North East and Arriva North East with a handful of services operated by other smaller local companies.
- The bus network across the county is comprehensive with frequencies and area coverage reduced during later evenings and Sundays where travel demand is lower.



Local Bus Services - Background

- Aim is that all communities have a regular buses on Mon-Sat, unless very low demand.
- 'Regular' means at least 1 bus per hour including buses to mid-evening, but lower provision where demand is low.
- Later evening services are only subsidised on main routes.
- Sunday services secured mainly at 1 bus per hour on main routes (where not operated commercially) except on secondary services.
- The "Link2" demand responsive service covers the whole county.
- Introduction of 4 Link2Work DRT routes improving access to employment sites.



Passenger Information

- 2,700 printed timetable displays maintained
- 100 electronic passenger information displays at bus stops
- 50 electronic displays at bus stations
- County Durham Interactive Public Transport website.

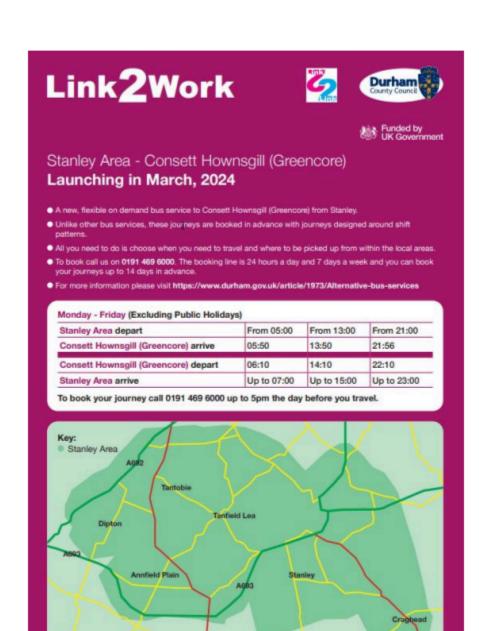


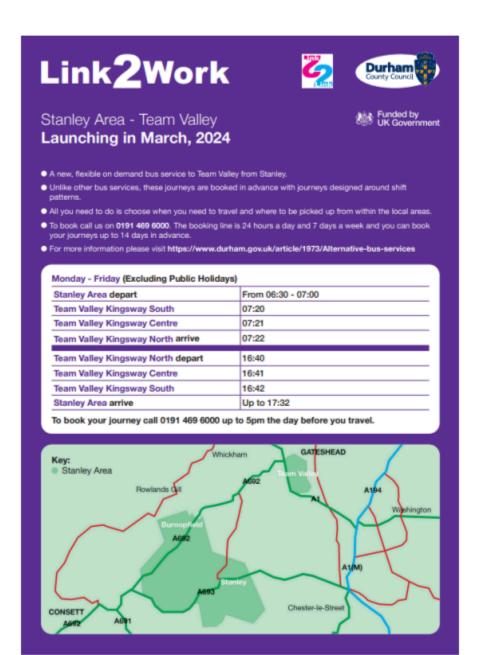
Link2 – Durham County Council

- Pre- bookable bus service for people making journey's where there is no other suitable bus service.
- Journeys should be five miles or less
- Each bus is fully accessible for people with disabilities or mobility problems.
- 15k passenger journeys annually
- Travel Response Centre 03000 269 999

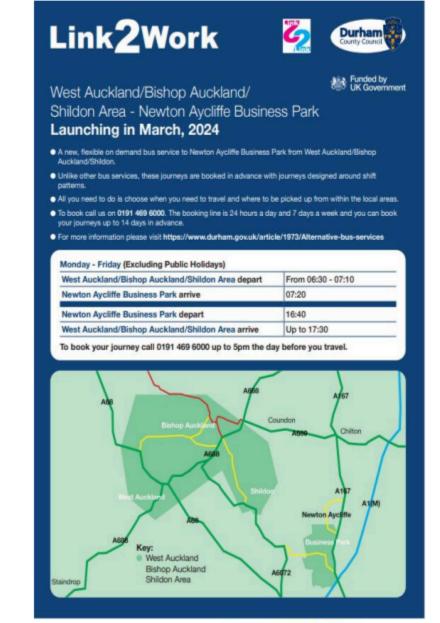


Link2Work











Bus tickets offers

- £4 Durham Day Rover ticket can be used on all buses within County Durham
- Bulk purchase option available for businesses to issue to service users or for business travel
- Colleagues who commute from Northumberland or Tyne and Wear can purchase the £6.80 TNE Day Saver ticket (valid on Metro, Shields Ferry, Blaydon to Sunderland rail and all buses in region)
- Operator specific weekly/4-weekly/annual season tickets also available
- Find out more at <u>www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/bus</u>





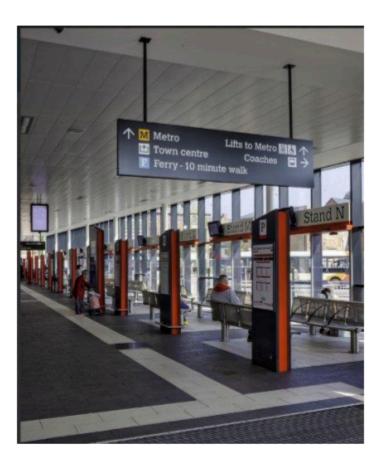


Discussion points

 Do the focus areas of the plan support you or the work of your organisation?

 What further initiatives need to be included in the plan to support you or the work of your organisation?

 Are there any 'quick wins' we could look at to help your business, employees and customers?









LTP Timescales and next steps

- Autumn 2024- Early 2025 public consultation on LTP.
- Early 2025 consultation feedback analysed. LTP and delivery plan updated as required.
- Early 2025 Mayor to finalise the LTP and accompanying documents in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport.
- March 2025 post consultation version of LTP, delivery plan and summary document to Cabinet for review and approval.







Local Transport Plan



northeast-ca.gov.uk/localtransportplan



haveyoursay@northeast-ca.gov.uk



0191 277 7010



Community Bus Partnerships



northeast-ca.gov.uk/bus



Fiona.Harrington@durham.gov.uk / jan.burns2@durham.gov.uk



07884 298 640 / 07585 712 874



Councillor Anne Bonner Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council





Time for a Break





Sean Robson - Karbon Homes Jeanne Lott - DWP & Stanley Travel





Stanley Transport Pilot

April 2024 – to date













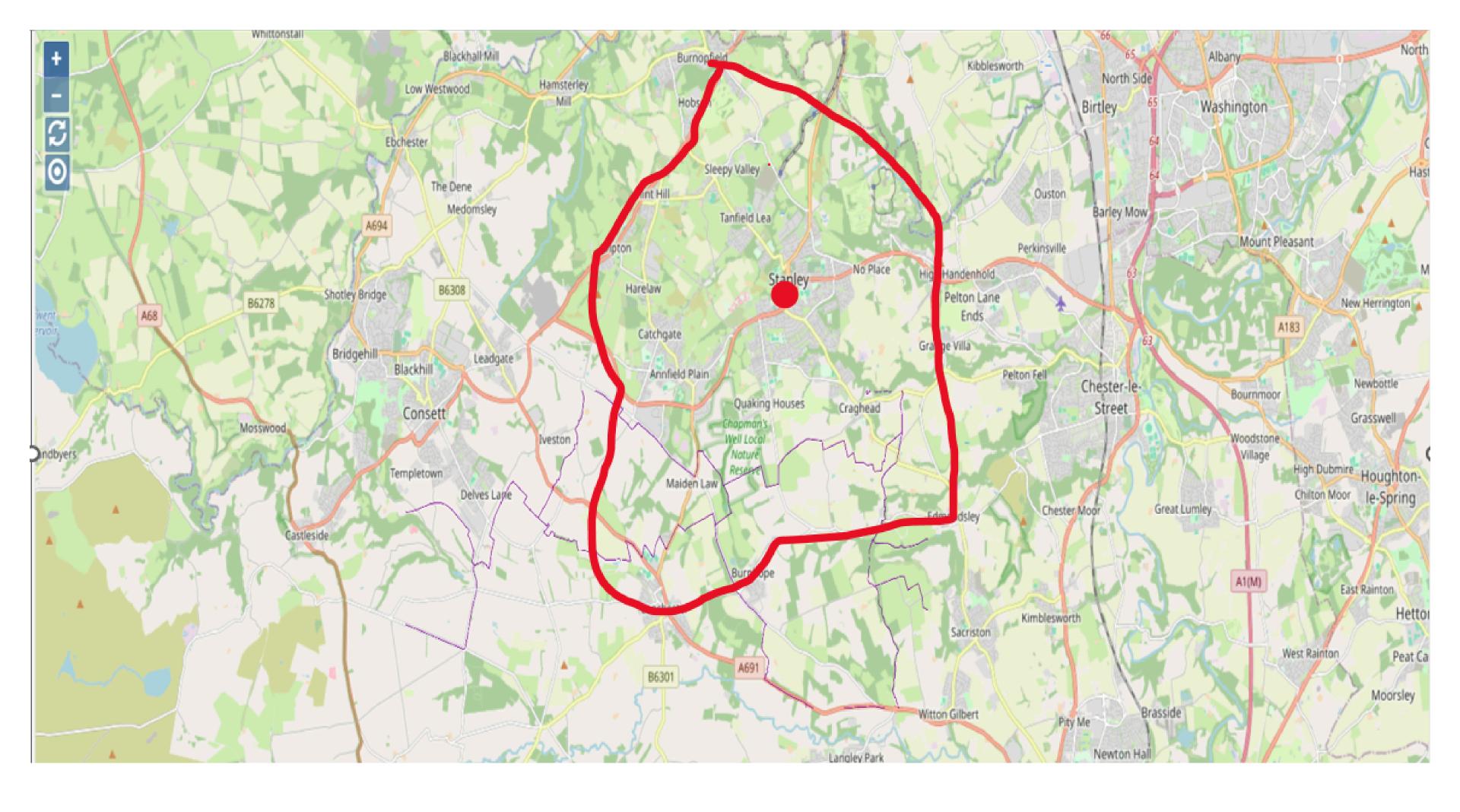


Barriers to Employment

Confidence

Travel

- Personal Circumstances
- Child Care
- Mental health
- Disability
- Lack of skills and Training
- Lack of work experience











stanleytravel



Department for Work & Pensions

"Exciting opportunity — Step into driving! Do you have a full UK driving licence, with no more than 6 points? A local travel company has opportunities for bus and coach driving both locally and internationally. We are working in partnership with Karbon Homes to support fully funded PSV training and employment support. If you would like further information, please let me know".

Given the cost associated with the training we agreed on a 3 stage process to manage applicants:

- Medical were the candidates able to pass a medical as fit for the role, this was funded by DWP flexible support fund
- Theory Training intense week long course ran by Sean at Karbon
- Practical driver training funded through DWP low value procurement



Foundations for Life

The Write Turn

Learn to read, write and drive with our Foundations for Life team



Build your knowledge in reading, writing, maths and digital skills



We'll cover the fee for a provisional driving license and the theory test



We'll run sessions to help complete the driver's theory test





foundations@karbonhomes.co.uk



www.karbonhomes.co.uk/contactffl



0191 223 8750

Safe **Driving** for Life



Shop Advice

Blog

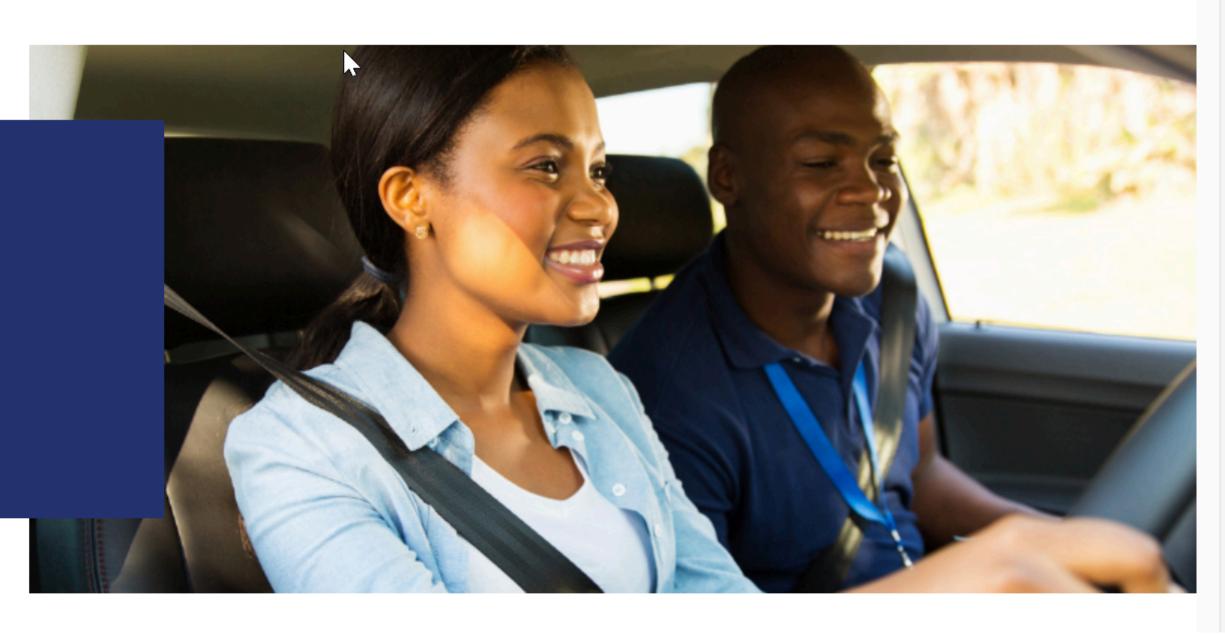
Sean



My learning

Safe Driving for Life

Helping you stay safe on Britain's roads



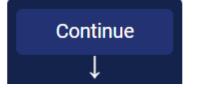


Carrying passengers

In this section, you'll learn about

- passenger safety and comfort
- vehicle stability
- passenger care
- older passengers and those with disabilities.





Options :

Question 1 of 100

How long is a digital tachograph driver card valid?

One year

Three years

Five years

Ten years

B

Given the cost associated with the training we agreed on a 3 stage process to manage applicants:

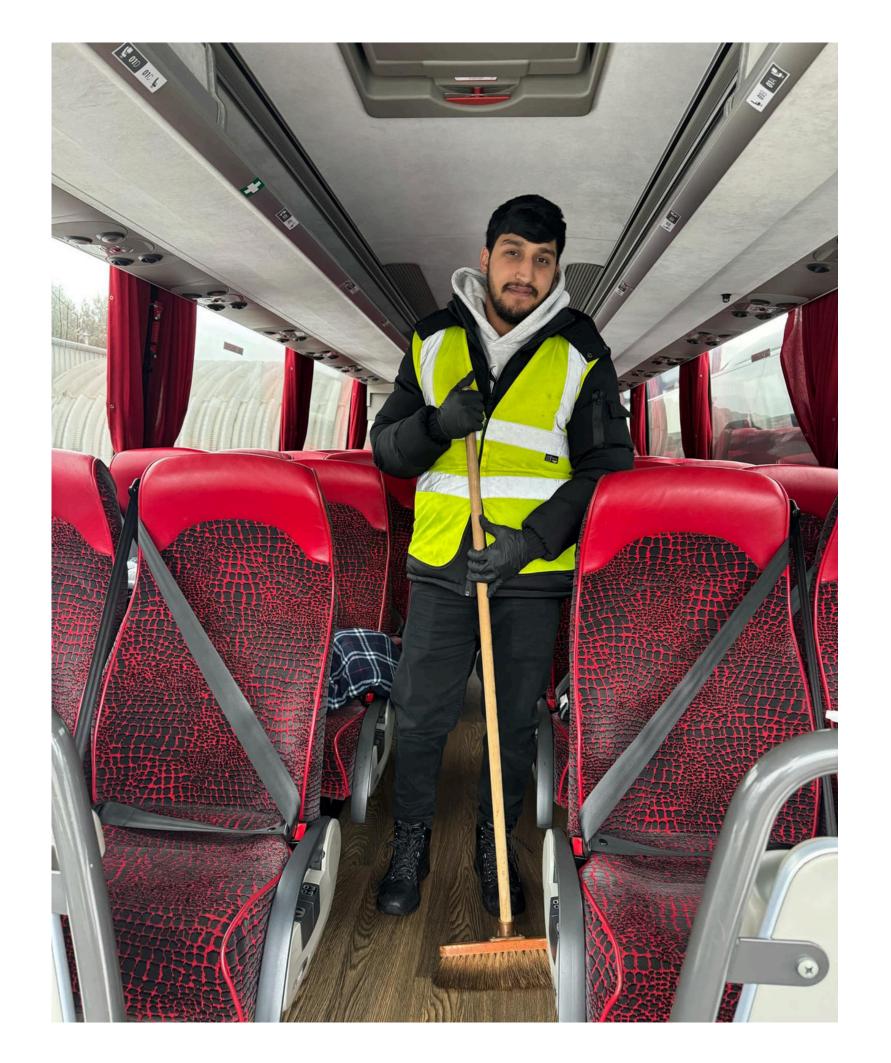
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Positive Outcomes



Simon

Elham





Kiera



The pilot began small around our day jobs which we knew would be a challenge, however significant progress has been made



The opportunity has just been advertised again due to the success of the first cohort and we have gained valuable insights into the time scales around training



We have now established links with the North East Combined Authority and Durham County Council which will play a crucial role in moving the pilot forward



Looking ahead our goals remain clear

Reflection and next steps

"Supporting the community and changing lives"



Any Questions ?



Katy McVittie

Walkers to Drivers



Supporting the Provider Market



Walkers to Drivers





What is Walkers to Drivers

- A scheme to provide financial assistance to Domiciliary Care staff in County Durham to learn to drive, to support them in their work delivering care in the community.
- This in turn will increase the ability of their employers to accept more care packages
- The scheme is open to care staff of eligible providers who are currently unable to drive eligible providers include, either;
 - One of DCC's ten main framework Domiciliary Care providers, or
 - One of DCC's spot contract Domiciliary Care providers with more than 30 care packages

the Provider Market

• An initial pilot of the scheme in 2021 was successful leading to additional cohorts

Key scheme details

- Learners must have a current provisional driving license upon acceptance to the scheme.
- Learners must research and select their own Approved Driving Instructor (ADI).
- Learners must have been employed by an eligible provider for a minimum of 12 weeks prior to applying to the scheme.
- Learners must complete an application form and upon acceptance to the scheme, sign a Learner Agreement to proceed.
- Learners must remain in employment for 12 months after successfully passing their test.
- Learners may be required to repay some or all funding they have received if they withdraw from the scheme or are removed by their employer/driving instructor.

 The Provider Market

Details of funding

- Up to £15.00 per one hour lesson paid directly by DCC to an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI).
- Learners must pay the remaining cost (with a minimum of £5.00)
 paid directly to the instructor by the learner.
- DCC will contribute 50% towards the cost of the first theory and practical test contribution percentages will reduce for any retests that may be required
- Funding will not cover the costs of obtaining a license document
- Funding will not cover the purchase of any vehicle, insurance or any maintenance costs



Key figures so far

- Nine learners have passed their test through the scheme.
- **Fifteen** learners are currently taking driving lessons through the scheme.
- Seven learners engaged in the scheme but then left without obtaining a driving license.





Key contacts

Katy McVittie – Commissioning Officer

Katy.McVittie@durham.gov.uk

CareAcademy@durham.gov.uk





Liam Weatherill

Wheels to Work





Liam Weatherill Manager





Our aim

To support County Durham residents secure relief from poverty through the provision of personal transport solutions that afford direct access to locations of employment and improved employability (volunteering and study) when alternative modes of travel are not available, reliable or suitable.



Home

Contact us

About us

Hiring a scooter

Bicycle scheme

Useful links

Testimonials



Scooter hire and Bicycle scheme

For County Durham residents who find accessing available transport a real struggle

Apply for a Scooter (£40 weekly)

Apply for a Bicycle (£20 charge)









Pay £20 HERE (when approved)







We are a charity that offers personal transport to people who find it difficult to get to, or sustain, employment, volunteering or further education opportunities because of a lack of available transport options.

Our Scooter and Bicycle services are for County Durham residents only. We classify County Durham residents as people from a household who pay their Council Tax to Durham County Council.

If your Council Tax is paid to a different Local Authority area, you will need to look for a similar service there.

































Scooter Hire - Criteria

Confirmed employment? Yes (University Hospital North Durham)

17 years of age or over? Yes

Lives in County Durham? Yes (Langley Park)

Has a UK provisional (or full) license? Yes, provisional

Has a secure place to store the scooter? Yes, garden shed

Can you afford to pay the £40 per week hire fee? Yes, salary

Is it a struggle to get to work? Yes

"I work shifts. At the beginning or end of my shifts there are no buses to get me to work or home. I always worry about being late. The journey takes an hour and a half to walk, so I end up trying to get lifts or paying for taxis."





| Model | Sym Orbit III Scooter |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Engine CC | 125cc |
| Transmission | Automatic |
| Top Speed | 90Kmh (56mph) |
| Fuel | Unleaded petrol |
| Tank Capacity | 6.0 Litres (1.32 Gallons) |
| Cost to Fill Tank | £8.22 (at £1.37/Litre) |
| Range | 250 Kilometres (155 Miles) |
| Distance per Litre | 42 Kilometres (26 Miles) |
| Distance per Gallon | 189 Kilometres (117 Miles) |
| Cost per Distance | 3.7p/Kilometre (5.7p/Mile) |



We provide

Scooter hire for 6 to 12 months







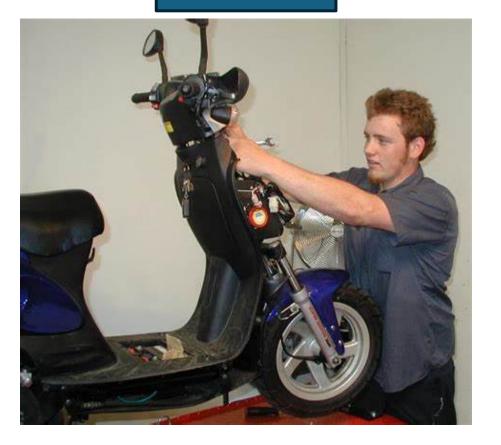


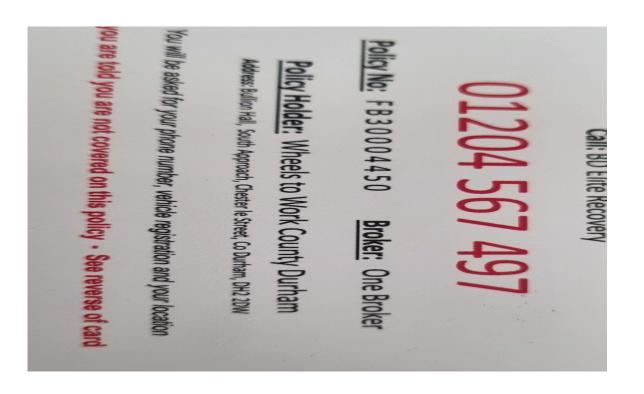






Tracker."





Scooter hire subsidies



Buy A Scooter

Exit Strategy Advice





Bicycle scheme - Criteria

Confirmed employment? Yes (Natural England)

16 years of age or over? Yes

Lives in County Durham? Yes (Easington Colliery)

Can you afford the £20 contribution? Yes (Durham Works to pay)

Is it a struggle to get to work? Yes

"I have an apprenticeship which is nearly 4 miles from my home, and it is not on the main bus route. I suffer from anxiety and travelling on public transport on my own is difficult for me. I tried to get the bus on my first day, but it did not turn up. I was late and I'm very anxious that this will happen again. A bike would be perfect."



| Model | Bicycles (Mountain/Hybrid) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mens - Apollo Slant | Mountain |
| Mens - Apollo Transfer | Hybrid (Road/Mountain) |
| Womens - Apollo Twilight | Mountain |
| Womens - Apollo Excelle | Hybrid (Road/Mountain) |
| Gears | 18 (Shimano) |
| Helmet (with light) | Halfords Trail |
| Accessory Pack | Front and Rear lights |
| Accessory Pack | Hi Viz Jacket and Mudguards |
| Accessory Pack | Water Bottle and Holder |
| Accessory Pack | Pump, Puncture kit, Locks |



Some service-user totals

Scooters

- 415 have benefitted from scooter-hire
- 51% have been male aged 17 to 24 years
- 12% have been female
- Average daily distance travelled is 12 miles

Bicycles

- 225 have been supported with bicycles
- 30% have been female
- 50% cycle 5 miles or less
- 126 different job titles with 105 organisations



Remember Josh and Daniel?



"The Wheels2Work scheme has been great for me and has enabled me to save for my own motorbike. I bought and collected this at Christmas (2024).

I would suggest to anyone needing transport for work to get on the scheme as the scooters are very reliable, go for miles on a full tank and the rental is very affordable. The people there are very helpful too."



"I really can't express how thankful I am that this was available to myself. It's already made a massive difference as I've managed to ride to work for the first time today. I won't have to stress about how early I have to leave just to be on time for work. It's also going to make a difference to my physical health and capabilities (due to medical issues). Having the bike means that I will be able to perform better in my job role and feel better overall in myself. Again, thank you so much."



liam.weatherill@w2wcd.org.uk

www.w2wcd.org.uk

07460 068 668



Working together to connect people and jobs across County Durham

"Upcoming Member Events" DWP

"Get people working and support Disability Confident"







Get Britain Working and Support Disability Confident

Did you know 23% of the UK adult population has a registered disability or health condition?

Become an inclusive leader in business by attending our online "Get Britain Working and Support Disability Confident" event on Tuesday 11th February at 10am.

Tap into the talented pool of people within your local community across North East and North Yorkshire and find out how the **Department for Work and** Pensions can support you and your business to build a diverse, skilled workforce by empowering people with disabilities to thrive within the workplace.

Discover the benefits of becoming **Disability** Confident and learn how you can contribute to Getting Britain Working.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to make a difference and create a more inclusive society!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Scan the QR code below to register for the event...



On the day of the event, click the "Join" button..

..it's as easy as that!

disability confident great minds

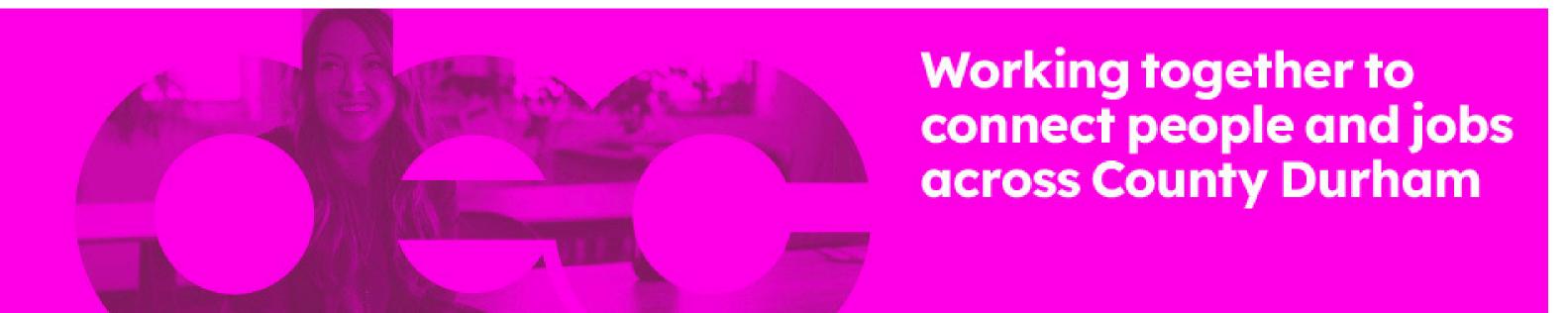
think differently



Looking ahead: What's Next







Next Forum

"Challenging Tradition: Breaking Gender Stereotypes in Business"

March 21st 2025





Any Questions?



Thank you

Scan to view LinkedIn page:



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A partnership between:











