

## Appendix 1: Current Bus Network Update

### Current commercial network

The table below shows the approximate number of boardings in Northumberland on the public bus network during the 2019/20 financial year, as illustrated there has been over 8.54m bus journeys, with English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) usage accounting for just over 40% of all journeys and fare paying passengers accounting for 60% of all journeys. During 2022/23 there has been approximately 7.26m a reduction of 1.28m journeys (15% fewer journeys) when compared to pre pandemic levels.

	Fare paying Journeys	ENCTS Journeys	Total Boardings in N/Land
2019/2020	5,100,163	3,438,968	8,539,131
2022/2023	4,643,171	2,613,616	7,256,787

In terms of service delivery Arriva North East is by far the largest public transport provider operating in Northumberland and are responsible for about 74% of all journeys undertaken on the public bus network. Go North East are the second biggest provider and account for about 12% of all journeys, the rest of the network is primarily delivered by small to medium sized operators mostly based in the North and West of the County.

The table below shows indicative revenue for operators now compared with the equivalent period during 2019/20. The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent change in travel habits, has resulted in the bus industry requiring significant local authority and government support, because farebox revenue that allows commercial bus services to make a return on costs has been significantly reduced.

Funding Stream	2019/20 Revenue	2022/23 Revenue
From Fares	61%	42%
Concessionary Travel (Local Authority)	23%	25%
Secured Services (Local Authority)	10%	12%
Bus Services Operator Grant (DfT)	6%	7%
Bus Service Support/ Recovery Grant (DfT)	0%	14%

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the bus industry has been reliant on government funding to maintain core networks, funding streams have gone through several iterations with the latest being Bus Recovery Grant this Department for Transport (DfT) funding allows bus operators to claim the difference between pre-Covid revenue and current revenue, this funding was recently extended until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 with funding currently planning to cease after this date. This funding has allowed operators to maintain services that would have otherwise been cancelled had the funding not been in place.

The potential loss of this funding coupled with significant operating cost increases as a result of inflation, presents risks to the commercial network, which will lead to the loss of some services and frequency reductions in other routes. The supported services funding that Northumberland County Council has secured as part of the regional Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) settlement will in the first instance be used to offset these losses.

## Current supported bus network

Historically most bus routes operated in Northumberland have operated commercially without any input, subsidy, or support from Northumberland County Council. This commercial network covered approximately 70% of all registered services, providing services along those routes that were considered profitable. The remaining 30% of services are either fully or partially subsidised by Northumberland County Council and their partners, these services would not operate without the ongoing support of the council.

The supported services network currently comprise 47 routes, or parts of routes, that cover mainly rural areas of Northumberland. These supported services include instances of services running commercially at popular/peak times, but where support is given to maintain journeys at other times (early morning and late evening for example). They also include support the County Council gives to key tourist services that help boost the local economy and safeguard the environment by ensuring that people can visit notable locations without needing a car.

During 2022/23 Northumberland County Council is forecast to have a gross spend of £2.4m on the supported bus network, this expenditure will be offset by income from funding partners such as the NHS (National Health Service) and town/parish councils with net expenditure of £1.9m. This spend represents an increase on previous years due to inflationary cost pressures as part of the re-tendering of services and contraction of the commercial network leading to additional demands on the budget.

The table below lists those services that are currently supported:

Service No	Operator	Contract Description	Operation Days
773	Durham County Council	X Border contribution - Townfield - Consett	Annual Charge
815	Bellingham & Humshaugh Taxis	West and East Woodburn, Otterburn, Byrness and Rochester into Bellingham	Fri
691	N.E.E.D	Upper Coquetdale & Morpeth	Mon
680	Go North East	Hexham to Bellingham	Mon - Sat
808	Phoenix Coaches	Otterburn - Newcastle	Mon - Sat
131	Peter Hogg	Jedburgh - Newcastle via Otterburn	Mon - Sat
689	Go North East	Hexham - Slaley - Whittonstall - Ebchester - Shotley Bridge - Consett	Mon - Sat
688	Go North East	Hexham - Allenheads via Allendale	Mon - Sat
418	Travelsure	Alnwick & Belford via Coast	Mon - Sun
15	Phoenix Coaches	Thropton and Alnwick	Mon - Sat
267	Border Buses	Wooler and Berwick via Milfield	Mon - Sat
464	Border Buses	Wooler and Berwick via Lowick	Mon - Sat
Hoppa	Woods of Berwick Ltd	Berwick Town service	Mon - Sat
19	Nexus	Ashington and North Shields	Mon - Sat
AD122	Go North East	Hexham to Haltwhistle	Mon-Sun
67, 67PT	Scottish Borders Council	Berwick to Galashiels	Monthly charge
710	Glen Valley Tours	Kelso - Newcastle via Coldstream, Wooler	Sat
460	N.E.E.D	Eglingham - Alnwick	Thur
694	A.D.A.P.T	Redesmouth to Hexham	Tue + Fri
692	WAT BUS	Newbiggin Nipper	Tue + Fri
16	U.C.C.T	Rothbury and Coquetdale Circular	Tue + Thur
889	Wrights Bros	Carrshield - Hexham Tuesdays	Tues
695	A.D.A.P.T	Blanchland to Hexham	Tues
696	A.D.A.P.T	Carrshield to Hexham	Wed
266	Glen Valley Tours	Wooler & Kirknewton	Wed
406	N.E.E.D	DAR Longframlington and Alnwick	Wed

477	Border Buses	Berwick - Holy Island	Wed Sch & Mon - Sat (Non-Sch)
74	Go North East	Hexham - Newcastle Via Stamfordham, Ponteland	Mon - Fri
PC0010	N.E.E.D	DAR 1 Wooler, Whittingham and Lesbury pilot Alnwick DAR's	Tue, Thur, Fri
58 (Minimum Cost)	Phoenix Coaches	Cramlington Retail Park, East Hartford, Hartley Square, Northumbria Hospital	Mon - Sat
684	Go North East	Hexham via Wylam to Newcastle	Mon-Sat
686/X85	Go North East	Hexham to Newcastle via Corbridge, Ovingham, Prudhoe	Mon-Sat
416/417/436 (Minimum Cost)	Green Mountain Travel	Morpeth Town Service	Mon-Sat
472/473	Glen Valley Tours	Alnwick - Shilbottle - Amble Alnwick – Wooler	Mon-Sat
434 (Minimum Cost)	Phoenix Coaches	Linton - Bedlington Station (Bedlington Station - Guide Post)	Mon - Sat
X14	Arriva NE	Thropton and Morpeth	Mon - Sat
687	Go North East	Hexham to Newbrough	Mon-Sun
57A	Arriva NE	Holywell to Cramlington	Mon - Fri
681	Go North East	Alston - Haltwhistle	Mon - Sat
57A	Arriva NE	Holywell to Cramlington	Sat, Sun, and P/Hol
X15 (North)	Arriva NE	Alnwick and Berwick via Warenford	Mon - Sat
X18 (North)	Arriva NE	Alnwick and Berwick via coast	Mon - Sun
682	Go North East	Hexham - West Woodburn	Sat

The map below illustrates both the commercial and supported bus network in Northumberland:

### Northumberland Public Bus Service Route Lines

