

Transport Programme - Sutherland Supplier Questionnaire

Introduction

These are very difficult times for public services as we continue to be in a period of austerity. The grant Highland Council receives continues to reduce in real terms. This means that the Council's annual cash grant is not expected to increase over the next 4 years, but we continue to face increasing costs and demands for public services. In order to balance its finances the Council must continue to make reductions in the services it currently provides.

Over the past 5 years Highland Council has made over £77.7 million of cuts including some through efficiency savings. This includes a large reduction in senior and middle management posts and changes in the way we deliver services. Due to the current situation with the Council's reduction of income in real terms, the budget gap is currently £56 million.

Although the demand from the public for a good service is still the same, it is impossible for the Council to continue to deliver these services in the same way or at the same level as before. Despite a range of options for further cuts and efficiency savings the Council is likely to be 10-15% smaller by 2019 than it currently is. This will mean a reduction in the number of staff we employ, the number of buildings we use and this will impact upon ALL services across the organisation.

The need to reduce spending will impact upon Highland Council's current level of expenditure on the transport services it supports. Across the Highland area the Council spends £15.003 million annually on providing mainstream home-to-school, public and dial-a-bus transport services. The target is to reduce this level of spending by £2.246 million.

In Sutherland £1.678 million is spent by Highland Council on providing mainstream home-to-school, public and dial-a-bus transport services. This spending supports the majority of bus services which operate in Sutherland. This level of funding support must be reduced by £252,236. Whilst Highland Council will seek to provide services as well as possible, the need to reduce expenditure will require consideration of the transport priorities for the area.

This questionnaire seeks your views on the current bus services provision in Sutherland and how it may be altered to reflect the still substantial, but lower level of funding which will be available.

Any information we receive from you will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be used for any purposes other than this research.

This questionnaire will close at 5pm on the 30th March.

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Section 1. Your details

Please supply the following details:

***1. Name of organisation**

***2. Name of principal contact**

***3. Address**

***4. Postcode**

***5. Telephone No.**

6. email

Section 2. Service Provision and Improvement

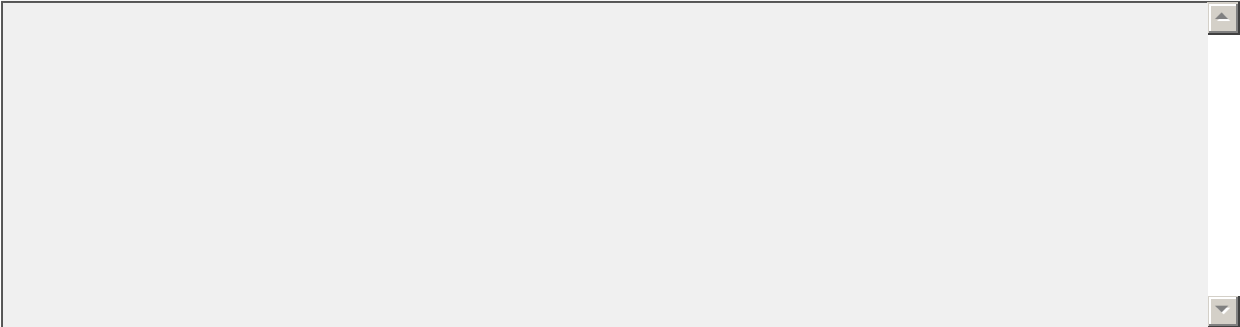
***7. In order to meet the future needs of the population in Sutherland do you think there is a need to change the nature of school, public and dial-a-bus transport services which are currently provided through contracts with Highland Council?**

Yes

No

Not sure

8. What do you think are the main transport changes which would better serve Sutherland's needs?



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The Highland Council currently spends £1.7m on school, public and dial-a-ride transport provision in Sutherland, but in the future we need to reduce this level of spend.

9. Can you think of any ways that transport providers could reduce the costs of delivering services in Sutherland?

10. What could The Highland Council do to reduce the costs of transport services in Sutherland?

11. What could other public agencies do to reduce the costs of transport services in Sutherland?

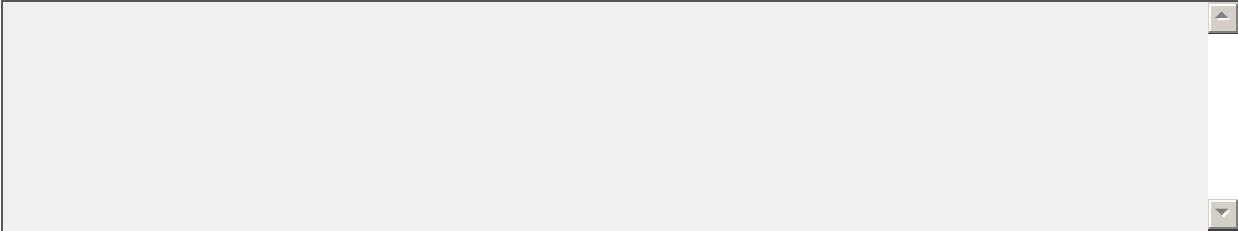
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12. A consideration may be to offer packages of routes to be operated within specific areas, such as school catchment areas. Would you be willing and able to operate across an area of this type?

Yes

No

Please comment if required



13. What are you doing locally which is really helping your community?

14. What would you like to do or do more of locally to assist your community?

***15. Are you currently operating a Highland Council transport contract in Sutherland?**

Yes

No

***16. Are you currently providing a community transport service in Sutherland?**

Yes

No

*17. What changes could be made by the transport sector in Sutherland to encourage greater use of public and dial-a-ride bus services?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No opinion
a) Alter operating times	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Better integration/link-up with other transport services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Improve access to bus stops for all passengers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Changes to routing of services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Changes to destinations served	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other or further comment on the above suggestions

Do you think that there is scope to:-

***18. Reduce fares to encourage greater use of public and dial-a-bus transport?**

Yes No Don't know

***19. Increase fares to generate additional income?**

Yes No Don't know

20. Please add any further comment on the above two questions

Section 3. Your vehicles and mobility and sensory impairment measures

***21. Can the vehicles your organisation uses accommodate passengers with mobility, learning or sensory impairments?**

	Yes, all can	Yes, some can	None	Not applicable
a) Cars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Multi-purpose vehicle (MPV)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Minibuses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Coaches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Bus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) Volunteers using their own vehicles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section 3. Your vehicles and mobility and sensory impairment measures (cont...

22. Which accessibility features where appropriate do your vehicles have?

	Cars	MPVs	Minibuses	Coaches	Buses	Volunteer Cars
a) Space for a wheelchair with secure fixings to keep passenger safe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Space for prams and buggies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A boarding device to enable wheelchair users to get on/off your vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Priority seats for elderly and disabled passengers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Handrails to assist access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Visual contrast of features such as steps and handrails to help partially sighted people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Easy-to-use bell pushes throughout the vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Low-floor access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

23. If you have any other accessibility features please provide details including vehicle type

* 24. Do your drivers receive disability awareness training?

- Yes
 No

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Procurement

A supplier briefing session will be held in the Kinvonie Suite, Lairg Community Centre on 12 March 2015, commencing at 11am and concluding by 1pm

The session will cover:-

- Explaining to suppliers and prospective suppliers why this process is occurring;
- Explaining the nature of consultation which is taking place and what the Council seeks to learn from it;
- Brief explanation of the procurement process to be undertaken;
- An opportunity to ask questions of the Council's Transport and Procurement personnel in attendance – open forum and individual 5 minute opportunities.

A 'How to Tender' session will be held at the Lairg Community Centre on Thursday 23rd April, commencing at 10am and concluding by 1pm.

The session will comprise mini-workshops on: ...

- How to register and search for tendering opportunities on Public Contracts Scotland (PCS);
- How to register/search and build supplier profiles on Public Contracts Scotland Tender;
- Responding to the Council's tender documentation – what is required from you and why;
- How to participate in an e-auction;
- Next steps for suppliers;
- Procurement timetable;
- Signposting for additional support.

Please note that the Council's preference is for all tender submissions to be received electronically via the Public Contracts Scotland Tender system and that the e-auctioning of some routes will be undertaken.

All suppliers and providers who are interested in tendering for school pupil and public transport routes within the Sutherland area are encouraged to attend the How to Tender session; to gain an understanding of what is involved and how to participate. To register for either sessions please confirm your attendance to procurement.unit1@highland.gov.uk or Tel: 01463 785157.

***25. Are you registered on Public Contracts Scotland (PCS)?**

www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/

- Yes No

***26. Are you registered on Public Contracts Scotland Tender?**

www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/

- Yes No

If you wish to receive advice on how to register, please contact Pamela Looper, Adviser - Public Contracts & Recruitment, Business Gateway
Tel: 01463 713889 Mob: 07787 283213
pamela.looper@highland-opportunity.com

***27. Are there any barriers that will prevent you tendering electronically?**

Yes

No

***28. What are these barriers?**

Social Work Service and School Pupil 2012 Framework Agreement

***29. Are you a current Framework provider?**

Yes

No

30. What works well with the Framework approach?

31. What do you think could make the Framework approach work better?

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your response will provide valuable input to the Transport Programme.