

Cheshire East Bus Partnership

Newsletter – Winter 2025

“The 16-19 Bus Saver is the best thing I’ve signed up for this year!”

“I use the bus nearly every day – to college, to work, and to meet up with friends – and having the pass has made a massive difference. Knowing I’ll only pay £1 per journey means I can plan ahead and stick to a budget, which really helps when you’re juggling study, part-time work, and trying to have a social life too. It’s taken a lot of stress out of getting around, and it’s made me feel more independent.”

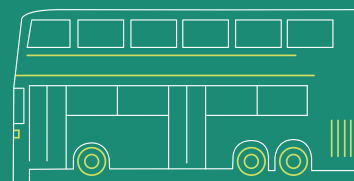
– Alec, 17, part-time worker and college student

The Cheshire East Bus Partnership is helping more young people to choose the bus to get out and about in Cheshire East for only £1 per journey – [read more inside...](#)

£1
PER
JOURNEY

Don’t forget, EVERYBODY can ‘Get around for £3’ in England thanks to the government’s fare cap scheme which will run until at least March 2027!

- Arrive at the bus stop with time to spare
- Signal to the bus driver to stop
- Be ready to pay (cash, card or phone)
- Ring the bell when you are ready to leave the bus



**Cheshire East
Bus Partnership**
Connecting People & Places

Are you waiting comfortably?



Improvements to bus stops and bus shelters across the borough are continuing, with a focus on key bus routes and town centres. Where space permits, many have seating and lighting, with a growing number having eco-friendly solar panels making lighting more affordable. There are currently over 1,600 bus stops across the borough with more added as new housing developments are built. The BSIP funding is making it easier for us to replace and maintain all the bus stop infrastructure at the roadside.

We warmly invite local Town Councils to work with us to improve bus stop infrastructure in your local area. Please email us at BSIP@cheshireeast.gov.uk for more information.

Thanks to the BSIP and Local Bus Grant funding, more bus services have been enhanced:

Location	No.	Operator	Description
Crewe – Chester	84	Stagecoach	The 84 Crewe - Chester service now runs half-hourly (in partnership with Cheshire West & Chester Council) instead of hourly (started 28/07/2025).
Macclesfield	10	D&G	The 3 and 10 services have combined to be the number 10 bus from Weston to Bollington via Macclesfield College, Macclesfield Bus Station, Hulley Road (for AstraZeneca) and Tytherington. The 10 now also has new Sunday and Bank Holiday services (started 01/09/2025).
Crewe	12	D&G	The 12A service is a new addition to the 12 bus service offering an each-way 15-minute frequency between Crewe Railway Station via Crewe Bus Station to Leighton Hospital. Some journeys on service 12 have been renumbered as service 13 and operate via Bradfield Road, North Street and Broad Street between Leighton Hospital and Crewe. Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday journeys remain unchanged (started 01/09/2025).
Alsager – Leighton Hospital	317	D&G	The 317 service now links Leighton Hospital to Alsager on Saturdays, following the same route as Monday to Friday service (started 1/11/2025).
Congleton	93A and 93C	D&G	The Beartown services 90, 91, 92 have been extended and new 93A (Anticlockwise) and 93C (Clockwise) services link the development area of West Heath (Congleton North) with the station and hospital (coming soon).
Macclesfield – Manchester Airport	130 and 150	D&G	New 150 service improving links between Alderley Park, the Railway Station and Handforth. The Saturday 130 service will also increase in frequency to hourly (coming soon).

You love your 16-19 Bus Saver Passes!

There are over 1,500 16-19 Bus Saver holders across the borough, but we know there are a lot of young people who don't have their FREE pass yet. Young people are telling us it's made a real difference to how often they use the bus. Here are some of their comments:

"I didn't apply at first because I thought it cost money – but when I found out it was free, I signed up straight away! I use my 16-19 Bus Saver to get to college, work, and to see friends. It's so easy to just tap and pay £1 without worrying about having the right change. It's made travelling around so much simpler and cheaper."

– Lewis, 18, part-time worker and college student

"I didn't realise how much I was spending on the bus until I got the 16-19 Bus Saver.

Now I can go out more on weekends without worrying about the cost. It's made getting around so much easier – especially when you're not driving yet."

– Summer, 17, college student



The smart card pass was developed to make bus travel more affordable for young people aged 16-19 for just £1 per journey. Cheshire East Care leavers receive free travel under the scheme.

For more details, visit www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/buspass

Silk Town Ticket news

The Silk Town Ticket, offering unlimited bus travel across the Macclesfield area for just £12 a week, is proving a hit with passengers.

On average, each passenger is using their ticket to make eight journeys a week. Silk Town Tickets are 'Multi Operator Tickets' and are valid on D&G, High Peak, Aimee's Travel, and Belle Vue bus services. They are adult paper tickets, purchased when boarding the bus.

For details visit www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/silktown



On-demand bus service developments

Following on from the 'FlexiLink 2023' and 'Bus Service Review 2024' consultations, plans to combine our demand-responsive bus services 'FlexiLink' and 'go-too' are taking shape. The new service will complement fixed route timetabled bus services, providing on-demand options focussing on connecting rural areas with services and amenities in our towns and villages. The new service will go live in 2026.



Real-Time Passenger Information (RTPI) – improving information at bus stops

Waiting for buses can sometimes be a little frustrating. If the bus is running late, what time will it actually arrive?

Real-Time Passenger Information removes the mystery and tells you what's happening with your bus service. We're currently assessing available systems, working towards RTPI installations at up to a dozen major locations across the borough, such as bus stations, the two main hospitals, and major rail stations, to keep you informed. Initial installations are expected to launch in spring 2026.

Keep up to date with your local bus services

To find out more about bus services in Cheshire East, including timetables, operator details and the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) visit the Cheshire East Council website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/buses

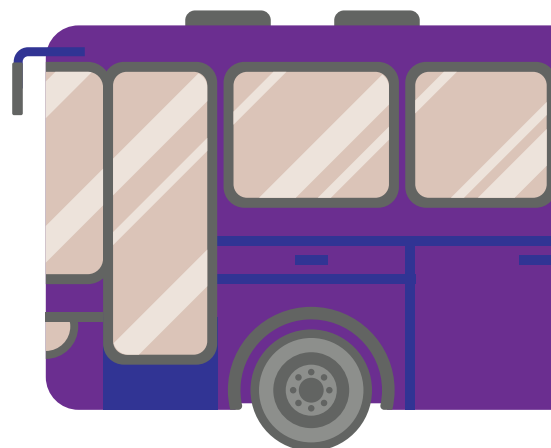
The Bus Passenger Charter – what you can expect from us

The Bus Passenger Charter pledges to provide the best possible bus network in Cheshire East. It was created jointly by Cheshire East Council, local bus operators, bus users, and stakeholders, and covers all locally registered bus services provided by operators across Cheshire East.

The Bus Passenger Charter:

- establishes a consistent standard for all bus services to meet, including punctuality, accessibility, vehicle cleanliness and information
- sets out what passengers can expect from bus operators, and
- gives passengers the ability to hold all partners to account for the commitments we make.

Search for 'Bus Passenger Charter' at cheshireeast.gov.uk



Stay informed

We're committed to keeping you updated as we deliver improvements through the Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Search for 'Bus Service Improvement Plan' at: cheshireeast.gov.uk

If you have a specific enquiry about the programme, you can contact us at: BSIP@cheshireeast.gov.uk



Funded by
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Council