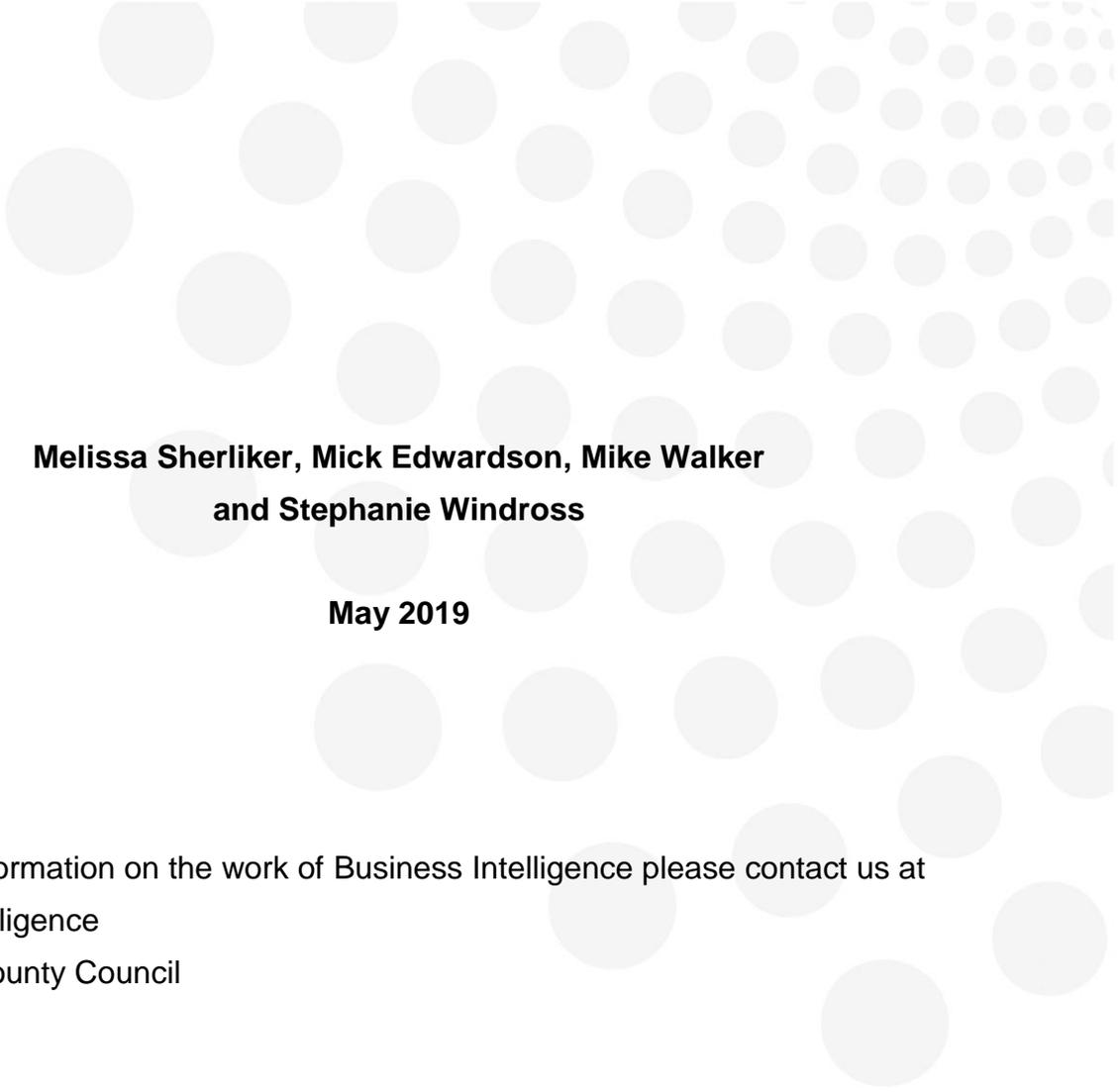


# School transport

## Consultation report – 2019

[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)





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# 1. Executive summary

This report summarises the response to Lancashire County Council's consultation on school transport.

The fieldwork ran for six-weeks between 25 February 2019 and 8 April 2019. In total, 195 questionnaires completed (179 were completed by students, parents, carers and others. 12 were completed by head teachers and four were completed by bus operators).

## 1.1 Key findings

### 1.1.1 Use of the school transport service

- When asked which school the student attended, the majority of respondents (97 out of 143) said Clitheroe Royal Grammar School.
- About four-fifths of respondents (81%) said that they currently use school bus services. About one-sixth of respondents (17%) said they don't currently use school bus services, but may do in future.
- Two-thirds of respondents (66%) said that they have a season ticket. About a quarter of respondents (26%) said that they pay a fare on the bus. About one in twenty respondents (6%) said that they have a free pass and one in every one hundred respondents (1%) said that they have a discounted pass provided on faith grounds.
- The bus services respondents most commonly said they used were the 623 (35 respondents), the 876 (22 respondents), the 860 (16 respondents), the 889 (9 respondents) and the 775 (9 respondents).
- The bus stops respondents most commonly said they used were Hollies Road (10 respondents); Berry Lane, Longridge (8 respondents); and the Traders Arms, Mellor (8 respondents).

### 1.1.2 The proposal for removing the funding for school transport services

- About nine-tenths of respondents (88%) said that they disagree with the proposal to remove the funding for school transport services and about a tenth of respondents (9%) said they agree with the proposal.
- The most common responses as to why respondents agree or disagree with the proposal to remove funding for school transport services were that rural services already have a minimal bus service (25%), that children's safety will be at risk walking the streets (22%) and that there is no alternative transport/students will be stranded (25%).
- When asked how it would affect them, if there was no bus service, respondents were most likely to say that it will have an effect on parents and carers work hours/risk to their employment (29%), that it would be impossible to get to school

(23%) and that the students would have to attend a different school/not their choice of school (18%).

- When asked how they would get to school, if there was no bus service for them, respondents were most likely to say that they would use the car (42%) and use other public transport (41%).
- When asked if there is anything they think we need to consider or that we could do differently respondents were most likely to say that this is an essential service, do not change it (29%) and that we should rethink the bus route to be more cost effective/wider catchment (19%).

## 1.2 Key findings – head teachers

- Respondents were asked how strongly they agree or disagree with the proposal. Six head teachers agreed with the proposal, four disagreed and two neither agreed nor disagreed.
- When asked why they agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the funding for school transport services, most head teachers generally focused on the fact that it may make it difficult/impossible for some students, especially current students, to get to their school.
- When asked how this would affect their school, head teachers responses included that it would not affect them, that it could mean a reduction in pupil numbers, that low income families without a car would not be able to attend school and in the long term that expressing a preference for a specific school would not be possible.
- Head teachers were then asked if they would be prepared to organise school bus services themselves. Two head teachers said 'yes', five said 'no' and five said 'don't know'.
- Head teachers were then asked if they would consider paying the county council to organise these services for them. Three head teachers said 'yes', five said 'no' and four said 'don't know'.
- When asked if they think there is anything else that we need to consider about or that could be done differently about the proposal to remove the funding for school transport services, head teachers responses were that young people in rural areas have already been disproportionately affected by cuts to services, that it is not the responsibility of the school to organise or pay for transport, and they would struggle to afford to pay to organise services.

### 1.3 Key findings – bus operators

- When asked how strongly they agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the funding for school transport services, three bus operators responded that they disagree with the proposal and one said that they neither agreed nor disagree with the proposal.
- When asked why they agree or disagree with the proposal bus operators responses included concerns about their ability to plan if contracts are ceased part way through and concerns about the oversight of future contracts.
- When asked how the proposal to remove the funding for school transport services would affect their company, bus operators said that they would lose a bus service they currently operate, it could be an opportunity to approach the council to operate the services more cost efficiently, and that reducing a contract is difficult after putting funding and contracts in place within their company.
- When asked if they would be interested in providing school bus services commercially in conjunction with the schools themselves, three respondents said 'yes' and one said 'no'.
- When asked if they think there is anything else that we need to consider or that could be done differently, bus operators responded that members of the public could buy tickets to fill seats, it is important to keep to the contract term agreed between the council and bus operators, and the council could charge administration fee to make the services profitable or appoint an outside organisation to take on the administration of the service.

### 1.4 Other responses to the consultation

- There was one petition asking Lancashire County Council to rethink the proposal and ensure that there is provision for children who use the 623 bus service to get from Mellor and surrounding villages to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. As of 8 April 2019, this petition was signed by 388 people.
- Letters were received from Nigel Evans MP and Kate Hollern MP on behalf of parents who were concerned that if the 623 bus service is withdrawn their children will have to switch schools.

## 2.Introduction

Lancashire County Council, like many councils across the country, is going through financially challenging times. This is as a result of funding not keeping pace with the increasing demand and cost of services being delivered. We need to continue to look at ways of reducing costs to help balance the books for future years. This means that we have to consider changes to some of the services we currently provide, as we do not have the resources to continue to deliver what we have done in the past. These changes were considered by our county councillors and we are now looking to consult on what impact the proposals may have.

### Timescales

- 3 December 2018 – Cabinet agreed to consult on proposals
- 25 February - 8 April 2019 – consultation with parents, students, schools, bus companies
- 11 July 2019 – report the consultation outcomes to Cabinet
- September 2019- If proposal is unchanged following cabinet decision, we will give schools and parents a full academic year's notice before funding is removed. During this time, we will work with schools and bus operators to see if there is another way to provide the service
- September 2020 – propose to remove funding for bus services where students entitled to free home to school transport haven't used the service for two years and where the revenue from fares and season tickets does not cover the cost of the service.

### Background to the proposal

We are legally required to provide free home to school transport for some students. We also currently provide transport assistance to some other students where we are not legally required to.

Where students qualify for free home to school transport or school transport assistance, we provide school transport services. Normally, this is a school bus. Where there are seats available on these bus services, other students may use them by buying a season ticket or paying a fare. However, in some cases we are still providing school bus services where there have been no students who are entitled to free home to school transport or school transport assistance travelling for two years.

On 3 December 2018, the county council's Cabinet agreed in principle to remove the funding for school bus services where there have been no students who are entitled to free home to school transport or school transport assistance travelling for two years and where the revenue from fares and season tickets does not cover the cost of the service. This agreement in principle is subject to the outcome of this consultation on the proposal.

Each year we will review which services are affected by our revised approach. The services currently affected are

- S24 Lancaster Meeting House Lane - Central Lancaster High School
- 605 Holmeswood - Rufford - Tarleton Academy (used as a connection service to Burscough Priory, Bishop Rawstorne Church Of England Academy, St Bede's Catholic High School)
- 623 Mellor, Traders Arms - Clitheroe Royal Grammar School
- 684 Ashton - Lea Endowed Church of England School - St Mary's Catholic Primary School
- 699 Penwortham - Brownedge St Mary's Roman Catholic High School & Sports College - Walton-Le-Dale High School
- 743 Skelmersdale War Memorial - Lathom High School
- 860 Blackburn Roe Lee - Clitheroe Royal Grammar School (also serving Bowland High School)
- 873 Accrington Gloucester Avenue - St Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School
- 889 Simonstone - Clitheroe Royal Grammar School
- 913 Skelmersdale War Memorial - Our Lady Queen Of Peace Catholic High School

If Cabinet agrees to this proposal, we will give schools and parents a full academic year's notice before funding is removed. During this time, we will work with schools and bus operators to see if there is another way to provide the service. This means that from September 2020, the school bus services listed above may no longer be provided.

We also still provide the following services

- 775 Mellor Brook - Langho The Rydings – Clitheroe Royal Grammar School
- 876 Longridge - Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

There have been no students who are entitled to free home to school transport or school transport assistance travelling on these services for two years, but the revenue from fares and season tickets currently covers the cost of the services. We are proposing to keep providing these services. However, if their revenue stops covering the cost of these services we would remove their council funding. In this situation, these services will be treated in the same way as other services. We will give schools and parents a full academic year's notice before funding is removed and we will work with schools and bus operators to see if there is another way to provide the service.

We are phasing out the entitlement to free home to school transport for students attending faith schools. This entitlement will be completely phased out by September 2022 and could result in this proposal affecting some of the school bus services that serve faith schools.

### 3. Methodology

For this consultation, we asked parents, carers, students, schools and bus operators for their views.

We contacted head teachers of the affected schools directly as well as all the other schools that the council provides school transport for. We encouraged the schools directly affected to publicise the consultation via their school website and school social media account. We asked these schools to share this information with their feeder schools as well and posted a notice on the school portal system. We encouraged the schools directly affected to publicise the consultation via their school website and school social media account. We asked these schools to share this information with their feeder schools as well.

We also emailed the bus operators affected.

We additionally promoted the consultation via social media, a press release and panels on relevant pages of the county council website including the bus information and school admissions pages. The consultation was promoted internally to staff via a link to the press release on the intranet and to county councillors via C-First (the councillors' portal). A stakeholder email from the Chief Executive was sent to Chief Executives of district and unitary councils, health, Clinical Commissioning Groups and MPs.

An electronic version of the consultation questionnaire was available online at [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk). Paper copies of the consultation questionnaire and alternative versions were also available by calling 0300 123 6734 or sending an email to [schoolbusmanagers@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolbusmanagers@lancashire.gov.uk).

The fieldwork ran for six-weeks between 25 February 2019 and 8 April 2019. In total, 195 questionnaires completed (179 were completed by students, parents and carers. 12 were completed by head teachers and four were completed by bus operators).

The students, parents and carers questionnaire outlined the proposal to remove the funding for school bus services where there have been no students who are entitled to free home to school transport or school transport assistance travelling for two years and where the revenue from fares and season tickets does not cover the cost of the service.

The questionnaire introduced the consultation by stating that we are legally required to provide free home to school transport for some students. It also explained that we currently provide transport assistance to other students we are not legally required to with links to documents that provided a detailed explanation of free home to school transport and school transport assistance.

The main section of the questionnaire for students, parents and carers included ten questions, which covered which school the student attended, if bus services are currently used, if the students has a type of pass or pays a fare on the bus, the bus service number used and the name of the bus stop used.

The questions that covered respondents' views on the proposals asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the proposals, why they agree or disagree with the proposals, how the proposals would affect them, how the students would get to school if there was no bus service and if they think there is anything else that we need to consider or that we could do differently.

The remaining questions asked respondents for information about themselves. For example, if they are a deaf person or have a disability. This information is presented in appendix 1.

The questionnaire for head teachers asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the proposals, why they agree or disagree with the proposals, how the proposals would affect them, if there was no bus service, if they would be prepared to organise school bus services and if not would they be prepared to pay the county council to organise school bus services. It then asked if they think there is anything else that we need to consider or that we could do differently.

The questionnaire for bus operators asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the proposals, why they agree or disagree with the proposals, how the proposals would affect them, if there was no bus service, if they would be interested in providing school bus services prepared to organise school bus services and if they think there is anything else that we need to consider or that we could do differently.

In this report, students, parents and carers responses to the open questions have been classified against a coding frame to quantify the qualitative data. However, due to the small number of responses from head teachers and bus operators their responses to the open questions are presented in full.

Coding is the process of combining the issues, themes and ideas in qualitative open responses into a set of codes. The codes are given meaningful names that relate to the issue, so that during close reading of responses it can be seen when similar issues relate to a similar code. As the analysis process continues the coding frame is added to and refined as new issues are raised by respondents. All responses to open questions are then coded against the coding frame, and can be subsequently analysed as quantitative data.

### **3.1 Limitations**

The findings presented in this report are not representative of the views of people who use school bus services. Neither are they representative of the population of Lancashire. They should only be taken to reflect the views of people who were made aware of the consultation, and had the opportunity and felt compelled to respond.

In charts or tables where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

## 4. Main findings - students, parents and carers

### 4.1 Use of school transport

Respondents were first asked which school they, or their child, currently attends. The majority of respondents (97 out of 143) said Clitheroe Royal Grammar School.

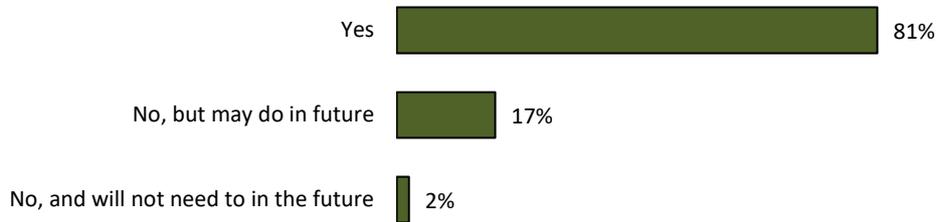
**Table 1 - Which school do you, or your child, currently attend?**

School	Number
Clitheroe Royal Grammar School	97
Bowland High	12
Ribblesdale High	5
Mellor St. Mary's High	4
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	3
Westholme School	3
St. Bede's, Ormskirk	2
Brownedge St. Mary's	2
Upholland High	1
Millfield High	1
St Joseph's RC High	1
Holy Cross	1
Lancaster Royal Grammar	1
St. Christopher's CE High	1
Penwortham Girl's High	1
St. Augustine's RC High	1
Broughton High	1
Archbishop Temple	1
St. Aidan's High	1
Fearn's Community Sports College	1
St. Michaels Chorley	1
Alder Grange High	1
St. Bede's Catholic High School	1

Base: all respondents (143)

Respondents were then asked if they or their child currently use school bus services. About four-fifths of respondents (81%) said 'yes', about one-sixth of respondents (17%) said 'no, but may do in future' and one in fifty respondents (2%) said 'no, and will not need to in future'.

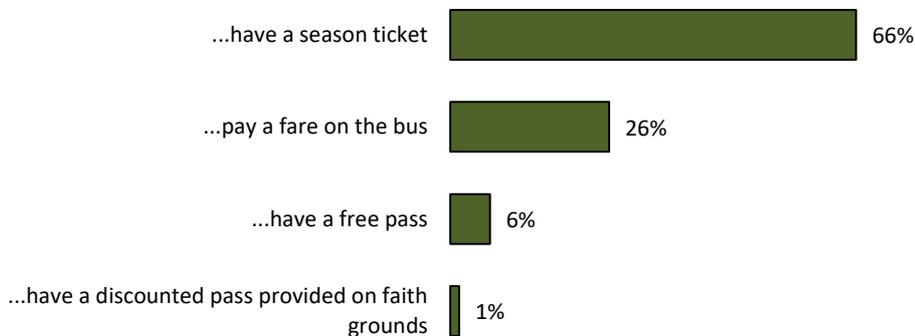
**Chart 1 - Do you or your child currently use school bus services?**



Base: all respondents (144)

Respondents were then asked if they or their child has a bus pass or pays a fare on the bus. Two-thirds of respondents (66%) said that they have a season ticket, about a quarter of respondents (26%) said that they pay a fare on the bus, about one in twenty respondents (6%) said that they have a free pass and one in a hundred of respondents (1%) said that they have a discounted pass provided on faith grounds.

**Chart 2 - Do you/your child...?**



Base: all respondents (139)

Respondents were then asked to give the service number(s) of bus(es) they use and the bus stop name where they catch the bus to school.

Respondents were most likely to say that they used the bus services 623 (35 respondents), 876 (22 respondents), 860 (16 respondents), 889 (9 respondents) and 775 (9 respondents).

**Table 2 - What is/are the service number(s) of bus(es) used by your child to get to school?**

Service No.	No.
605	1
623	35
699	2
743	1
860	16
889	9
775	9
876	22

Base: respondents who gave a response that included one of the services listed in our proposal (95)

The bus stops that respondents were most likely to say that they use were Hollies Road (10 respondents), Berry Lane, Longridge (8 respondents) and the Traders Arms, Mellor (8 respondents).

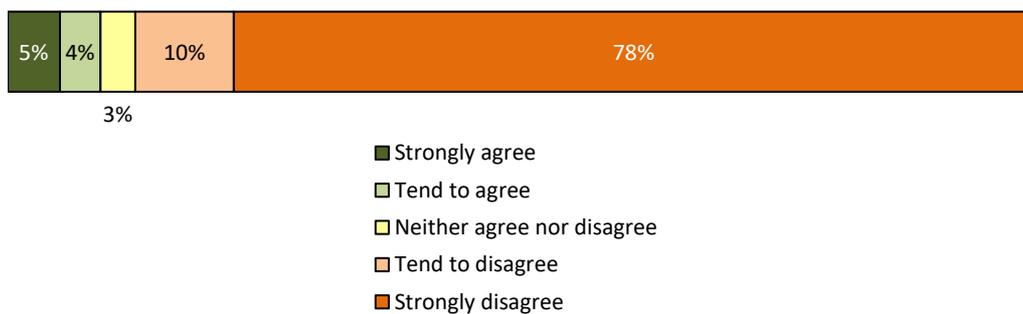
Respondents identified many different bus services and bus stops and their responses are presented in full in appendix 2.

## 4.2 The proposal for removing the funding for school transport services

Respondents were then asked how strongly they agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the funding for school bus services where there have been no students who are entitled to free home to school transport or school transport assistance travelling for two years and where the revenue from fares and season tickets does not cover the cost of the service.

About nine-tenths of respondents (88%) said that they disagree with the proposal and a tenth of respondents (9%) said they agree with it.

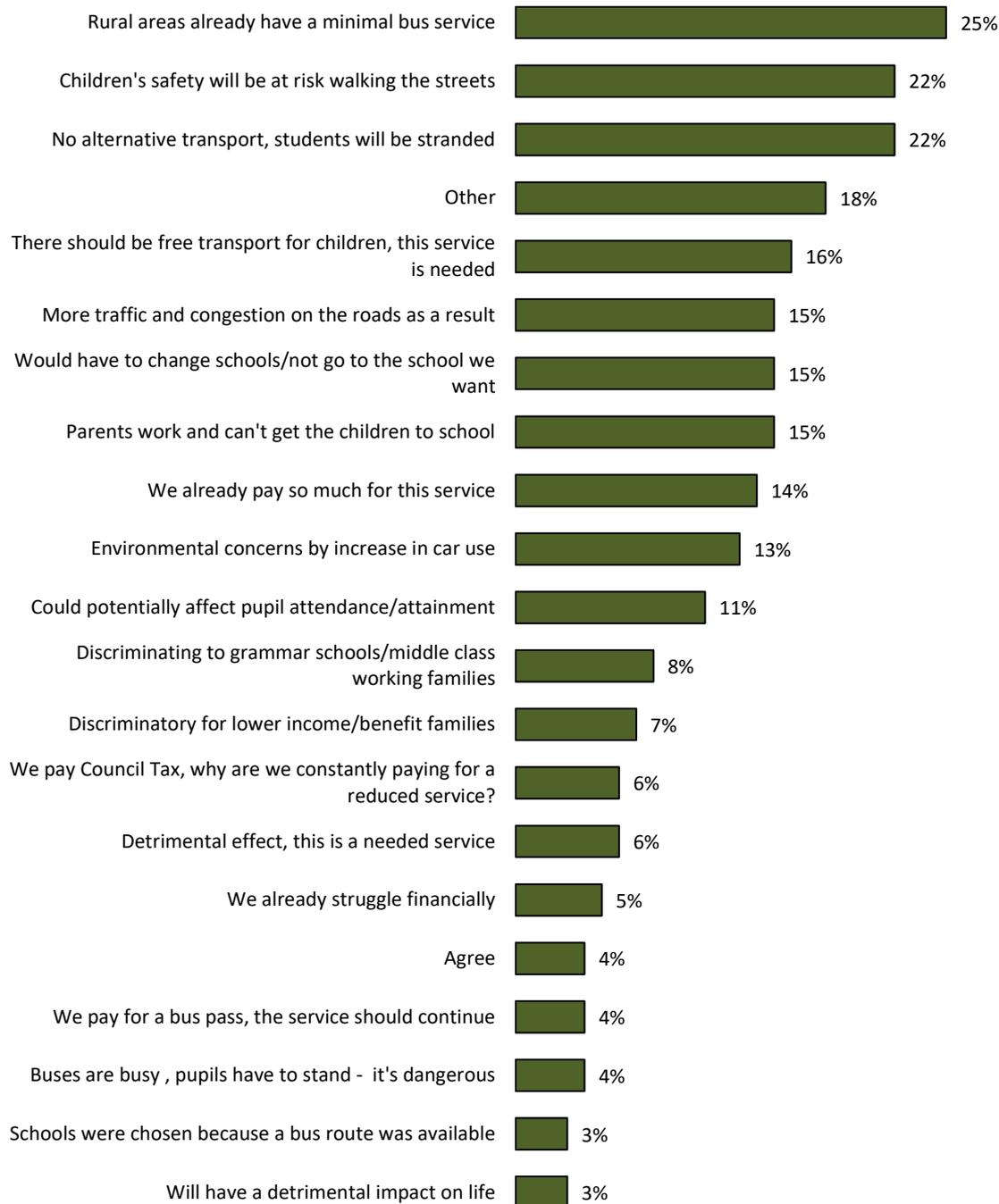
**Chart 3 - How strongly do you agree or disagree with this proposal?**



Base: all respondents (177)

Respondents were then asked why they agreed or disagreed with the proposal. The most common responses to this question were that rural services already have a minimal bus service (25%), that children's safety will be at risk (22%) and that there is no alternative transport/students will be stranded (22%).

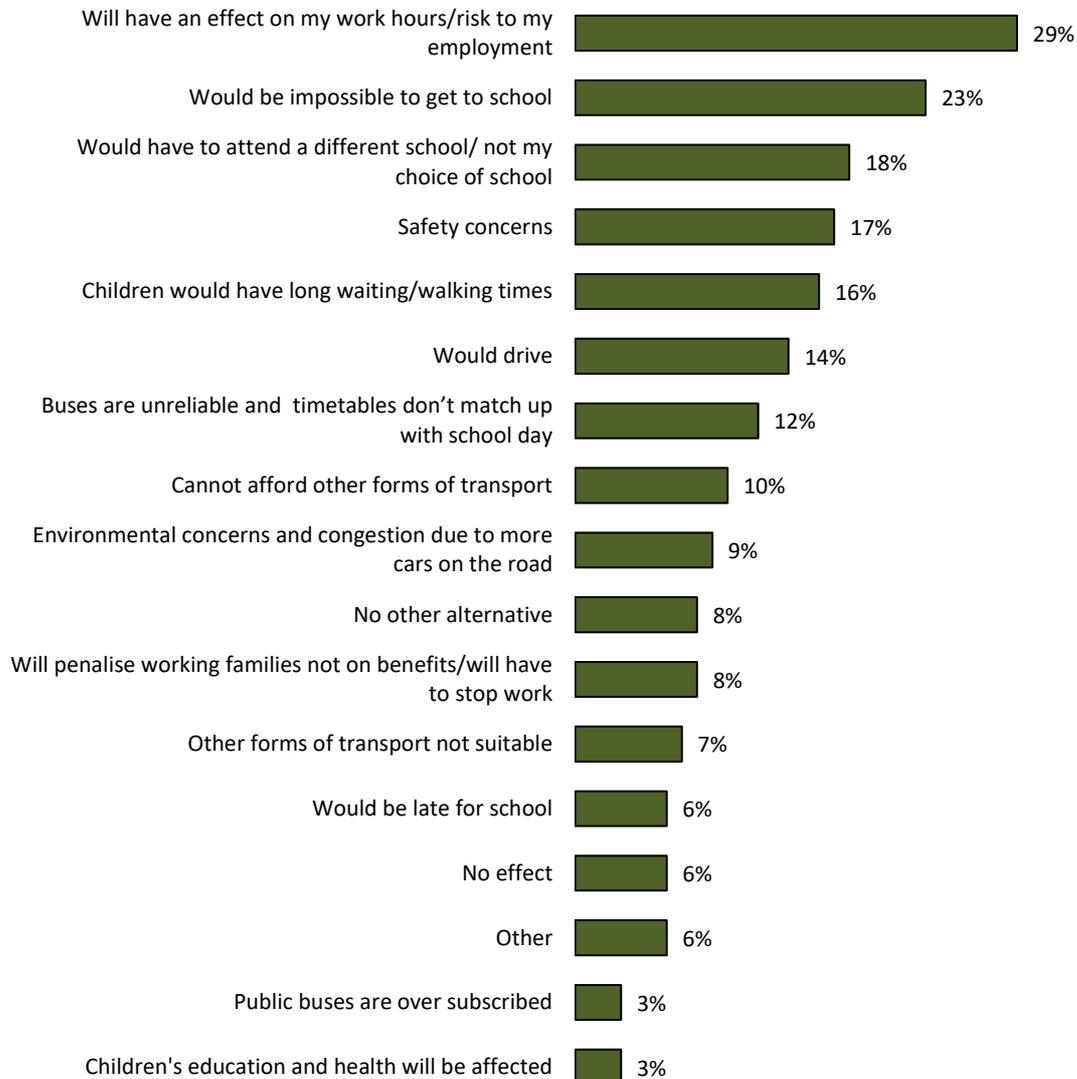
**Chart 4 - Why do you say this?**



Base: all respondents (157)

Respondents were then asked how it would affect them if there was no bus service. The most common responses to this question were that it will have an effect on parents and carers work hours/risk to their employment (29%), that it would be impossible to get to school (23%) and that the students would have to attend a different school/not their choice of school (18%).

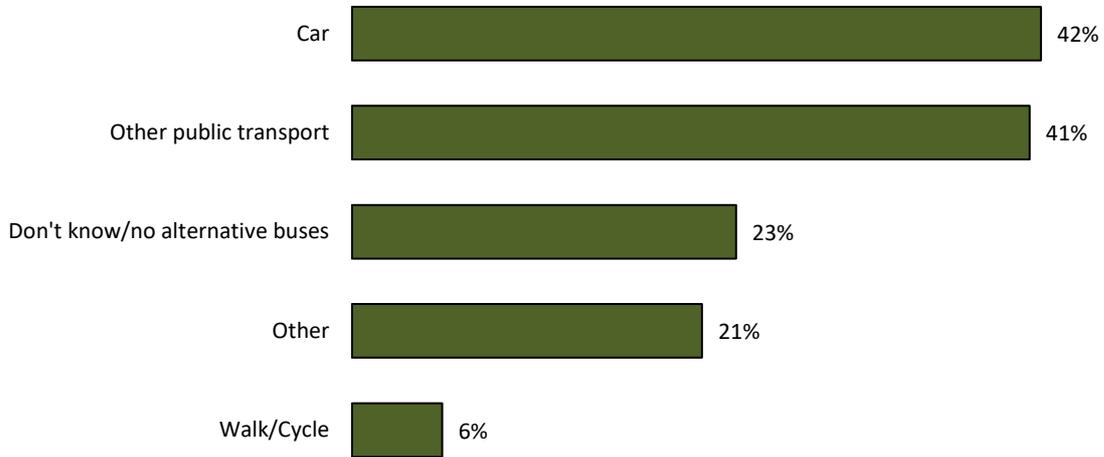
**Chart 5 - If there was no bus service, how would this affect you?**



Base: all respondents (163)

Respondents were then asked how they or their child would get to school if there was no bus service for them to use. The most common responses to this question were that they would use the car (42%) and use other public transport (41%).

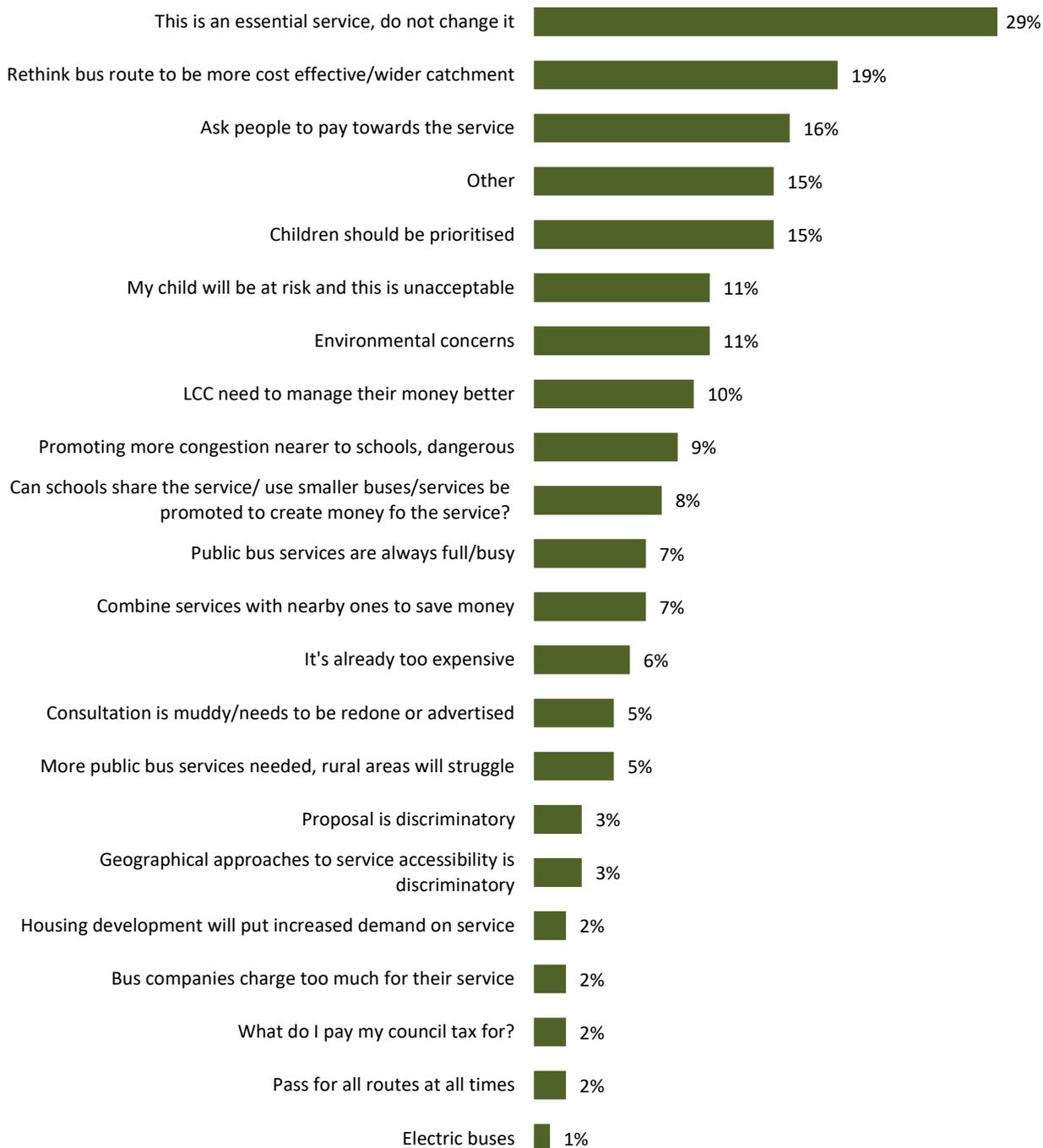
**Chart 6 - If there was no bus service for you/your child to get to school, how would you/your child get to school?**



Base: all respondents (145)

Respondents were then asked if there is anything they think we need to consider or that we could do differently about our proposal. The most common responses to this question were that this is an essential service, do not change it (29%) and that we should rethink the bus route to be more cost effective/wider catchment (19%).

**Chart 7 - Thinking about our proposal, is there anything else you think we need to consider or that we could do differently?**



Base: all respondents (123)

## 5. Main findings – head teachers

### 5.1 The proposal for removing the funding for school transport services

#### 5.1.1 How strongly do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Respondents were asked how strongly they agree or disagree with the proposal. Six head teachers agreed with the proposal, four disagreed and two neither agreed nor disagreed.

**Table 3 - How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal?**

	No.
Strongly agree	2
Tend to agree	4
Neither agree nor disagree	2
Tend to disagree	0
Strongly disagree	4

Base: all respondents (12)

#### 5.1.2 Why do you say this?

Respondents were then asked why they agree or disagree with the proposal. Their responses were:

"This proposal, if carried through, would fundamentally undermine the ability of students in rural areas to get to school. It would affect children currently at schools, who might be forced to move, as well as eliminating the ability to express a preference for new parents and children. It is also fundamentally arbitrary, as the deciding factor of whether anyone entitled to free home to school transport has travelled on the service will vary in an unpredictable way."

"If families choose schools out of catchment they should be responsible for transport costs."

"We have several families, who use the service, on low income, and consequently can't afford to run a car. They would really struggle to get their children to our school as there is no other bus route that serves the area at convenient school times."

"Funds could be better spent."

"What are the plans if students who are entitled to free home to school transport or school transport assistance come into the equation?"

"We are desperately trying to ensure that parents of Skelmersdale children choose Skelmersdale high schools for their child rather than looking outside of the town. This increases the likelihood of parents in the Old Skelmersdale area of town looking to Ormskirk as more accessible than their local high school due to transport issues. There are no service bus routes which pass by the two Skelmersdale high schools."

"The impact on the opportunity and availability of transport options for students is dwindling and this will lead to a lack of choice and an increase in cost for students and their families."

### 5.1.3 How would this affect your school?

Respondents were then asked if there was no bus service, how it would affect their school. Their responses were:

"In the short term, not at all as none of our services is on the initial list. In the long term, it would have a grave impact on the ability of students to get to my school and eliminate their ability to express a preference for a school."

"Maybe."

"It would not."

"We have several families, who use the service, on low income, and consequently can't afford to run a car. They would really struggle to get their children to our school as there is no other bus route that serves the area at convenient school times."

"It wouldn't. My school has ceased to have a school bus service for several years. Pupils access public transport which routes via the school at the beginning and end of the school day."

"Currently, it would not affect my school."

"No direct impact."

"Not relevant to our school as yet."

"Further reduction in pupil numbers is a serious concern as there is no public transport route which passes school. Parents are therefore even more likely to look to Ormskirk or Deans Trust Wigan which are on public bus routes."

"To maintain provision for some communities, private arrangements would have to be made with bus companies or some areas of the current catchment would become isolated."

#### 5.1.4 Would you be prepared to organise school bus services yourself?

Respondents were then asked if they would be prepared to organise school bus services themselves. Two head teachers said 'yes', five said 'no' and five said 'don't know'.

**Table 4 - Would you be prepared to organise school bus services yourself?**

	No.
Yes	2
No	5
Don't know	5

Base: all respondents (12)

#### 5.1.5 If not, would you consider paying the county council to organise these services for you?

Respondents were then asked if they would consider paying the county council to organise these services for them. Three head teachers said 'yes', five said 'no' and four said that they 'don't know'.

**Table 5 - If not, would you consider paying the county council to organise these services for you?**

	No.
Yes	3
No	5
Don't know	4

Base: all respondents (12)

### **5.1.6 Is there anything else that we need to consider or that could be done differently?**

Respondents were then asked if there is anything they think we need to consider or that we could do differently. Their responses were:

"If the proposal goes through it would be a grave dereliction of the council's duty towards young people in rural areas - who have already been disproportionately affected by cuts to services. Please reconsider this."

"It is not the responsibility of the school to organise or pay for someone to organise transport."

"Current school budgets would make it very hard to support paying to organise services, but if it were a cost effective method than may be the best route to look at."

## 6. Main findings – bus operators

### 6.1 The proposal for removing the funding for school transport services

#### 6.1.1 How strongly do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Respondents were then asked how strongly they agree or disagree with the proposal. Three of the four respondents disagreed and one neither agreed nor disagreed.

**Table 6 - How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal?**

	No.
Strongly agree	0
Tend to agree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	1
Tend to disagree	1
Strongly disagree	2

Base: all respondents (4)

#### 6.1.2 Why do you say this?

Respondents were then asked why agree or disagree with the proposal. Their responses were:

"There needs to be a body to oversee the provision of school transport to maintain standards in terms of vehicle safety and safeguarding. Will this be left to the school to organise, or the parents, or will an operator be allowed to run a service as a commercial operation / registered service? Without control or supervision, who will carry out the required checks? Is the operation of a service going to be left in the situation where competing operators may run more than one vehicle on the service at different fare rates?"

"In any business normally a 5 year plan is in place. When accepting a contract from LCC it is taken into account the 4-5 year term. Finance employee, operators disc and vehicle finance are taken on by the company with the 4-5 year plan to cover all the factors."

### 6.1.2 How would this affect your company?

Respondents were then asked if there was no bus service, how it would affect their company. Their responses were:

"We are an approved LCC school bus operator but we do not currently run any of these services."

"Whilst it is understandable if the service is running with lack of passengers and not meeting the funding criteria but taking a 5 year contract with LCC and it being reduced part way through is unpredictable and difficult after putting the funding and contracts into place within our company."

"We would lose a bus service we currently operate."

"Loss of contracts if we sat on our hands, or it could give us the opportunity to approach the council to operate the services more cost efficiently."

### 6.1.3 Would you be interested in providing school bus services commercially in conjunction with the schools themselves?

Respondents were then asked if they would be interested in providing school bus services commercially in conjunction with the schools themselves. Three bus operators said 'yes' and one said 'no'.

**Table 7 - Would you be interested in providing school bus services commercially in conjunction with the schools themselves?**

	No.
Yes	3
No	1
Don't know	0

Base: all respondents (4)

#### 6.1.4 Is there anything you think we need to consider or do differently?

Respondents were then asked if whether there is anything they think we need to consider or that we could do differently. Their responses were:

"Is it not possible for LCC to continue to provide the structure for these services but charge an administration fee so that it is profitable? If not, can the schools, via LCC, appoint an outside organisation to take over their role and report back regarding the performance and standards of the chosen operators?"

"It is paramount you consider keeping to the contract term agreed between LCC and the bus operator. This will keep the goodwill and consistent good service provided by LCC and the bus operator to the school transport services."

"Children go to the library, shops, cinema, walk the streets, they are members of the public so why are school buses restricted to only school children. The bus has many seats and it should be an idea to fill as many seats as possible by anyone willing to pay for a ticket. Parents are dangerously blocking our roads and schools up with cars and it should be enforced, the students should be on the buses not in mummy and daddys cars, it's getting ridiculous and dangerous."

## 7. Other responses

### 7.1 Petitions and letters from service users

During the consultation period, we received three other responses to our proposals. There was an online petition about the number 623 bus service, and both Nigel Evans MP and Kate Hollern MP shared their concerns about the proposal to remove the funding for 623 bus service.

#### 7.1.1 Petitions

##### 7.1.1.1 Petition

[https://www.ribblevalleylibdems.org.uk/mellor\\_school\\_bus\\_623](https://www.ribblevalleylibdems.org.uk/mellor_school_bus_623)

As of the 8 April 2019, the above petition received 140 electronic signatures a paper copy of the petition was also handed in with 248 signatures.

The petition was prefaced with the following statement.

Lancashire County Council are currently consulting on the withdrawal of the 623 Bus which goes from the Trader's Arms, Mellor, via Ramsgreave, Wilpshire and Salesbury to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School once in the morning and returning once after school. In many of the areas it stops at there is no service bus that would take children to and from school. Therefore we are calling upon the County Council to think again.

We the undersigned call upon Lancashire County Council to think again and ensure that there is provision for children who would use the 623 Bus to get from Mellor and surrounding villages to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School.

#### 7.1.2 Responses from MPs

Nigel Evans MP and Kate Hollern MP both contacted us on behalf of parents who were concerned that they will have to remove their children from their current school if the funding for the 623 bus service is withdrawn. These communications can be found in appendix 3.

## Appendix 1 – students, parents and carers demographics

**Table 8 - Are you...?**

	%
A Lancashire resident	97%
A member of a voluntary or community organisation	9%
An employee of Lancashire County Council	8%
An elected member of a parish or town council in Lancashire	3%
Other	2%
An elected member of a Lancashire district council	<1%
An elected member of Lancashire County Council	<1%

Base: all respondents (170)

**Table 9 - Are you...?**

	%
Male	23%
Female	74%
Other	1%
Prefer not to say	2%

Base: all respondents (176)

**Table 10 - What was your age last birthday?**

	%
Under 11	0%
11-15	1%
16-18	2%
19-34	3%
35-49	55%
50-64	28%
65+	3%
Prefer not to say	7%

Base: all respondents (176)

**Table 11 - Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?**

	%
Yes, learning disability	0%
Yes, physical disability	3%
Yes, sensory disability	0%
Yes, mental health disability	1%
Yes, other disability	2%
No	85%
Prefer not to say	10%

Base: all respondents (144)

**Table 12 - Are there any children or young people in your household aged under 20?**

	%
Yes, aged under 5	9%
Yes, aged 5-11	45%
Yes, aged 12-16	65%
Yes, aged 17-19	20%
No children aged under 20	10%
Prefer to not say	3%

Base: all respondents (176)

**Table 13 - Are there any disabled young people aged under 25 in your household?**

	%
Yes	6%
No	88%
Prefer not to say	6%

Base: all respondents (176)

**Table 14 - Do you have access to a car or van in which you could travel to and from school?**

	%
Yes, to travel to school	35%
Yes, to travel from school	27%
No	49%
Don't know	3%
Prefer to not say	13%

Base: all respondents (146)

**Table 15 - What is your religion?**

	%
No religion	17%
Christian	62%
Buddhist	0%
Hindu	1%
Jewish	1%
Muslim	5%
Sikh	0%
Any other religion	1%
Prefer not to say	15%

Base: all respondents (174)

**Table 16 - Which best describes your ethnic background?**

	%
White	80%
Asian or Asian British	5%
Black or black British	1%
Mixed	1%
Other	1%
Prefer not to say	13%

Base: all respondents (177)

## Appendix 2– bus service numbers and stops

**Table 17 - What is the service number(s) of bus(es) used by your child to get to school?**

Bus Service	No.
623	35
876	22
860	16
775	9
889	9
5	4
15	3
22	3
510	3
Non- LCC service	2
680	2
699	2
890	2
1	1
11	1
14	1
43	1
66	1
67	1
280	1
395	1
458	1
464	1
484	1
487	1
526	1
605	1
616	1
625	1
626	1
628	1
629	1
630	1
633	1
743	1
789	1
811	1
820	1

Base: all respondents (130)

**Table 18 - What is the bus stop name where by your child catches the bus to school?**

<b>Bus stop name</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Bus stop name</b>	<b>No.</b>
Hollies Road	10	Blackburn Roe Lee	1
Berry Lane, Longridge Post Office	8	Bonny Inn	1
Traders Arms (Mellor)	8	Booth Road	1
Simonstone	6	Digmoor	1
Church Lane (Mellor)	6	Dolphinholm Abbeystead Road	1
Millstone	5	Four Lane Ends Sabden	1
Brockhall	5	Holden	1
Wilpshire Hotel	4	Holy Souls	1
Vicarage Lane	4	Hothersall Lane	1
Nelson Bus Station	3	Jesters	1
Buck Inn Grindleton	3	Lammack	1
Pendle Drive	3	Longsands Lane	1
Somerset Avenue	2	Lostock Hall	1
Shady Lane	2	Lower Wheelton	1
Spread Eagle (Mellor)	2	New Longton School	1
Bulls Head	2	Newton Bowland	1
The Rydings	2	Parbold	1
York Lane	2	Ramsgreave Drive	1
Spring Mill	2	Read Constitutional Club	1
Stonebridge	2	Ribchester	1
Milestone Mellor	2	Samlesbury Hotel	1
Fielden Arms	2	Shadsworth road	1
Langho	2	Stonehill	1
Clitheroe area	2	Stoneygate Lane	1
Sparth Road, Clayton Le Moors	2	Stopper lane	1
Whalley	2	Trafford Gardens	1
Chatburn	2	Upholland Labour Club	1
Accrington Bus Station	1	Victoria Road	1
Allanson Hall Farm, Adlington	1	Wall Terrace	1
Asda	1	West Bradford Farm	1
Barker Lane	1	Whinney Lane	1
Barley/Newchurch	1	Calderstones Park	0
Bee Lane	1	Somerset Road	0

Base: all respondents (132)

## Appendix 3 – other responses

### 3.1. Petition

[https://www.ribblevalleylibdems.org.uk/mellor\\_school\\_bus\\_623](https://www.ribblevalleylibdems.org.uk/mellor_school_bus_623)

The above petition received 140 signatures and was prefaced with the following statement.

Lancashire County Council are currently consulting on the withdrawal of the 623 Bus which goes from the Trader's Arms, Mellor, via Ramsgreave, Wilpshire and Salesbury to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School once in the morning and returning once after school. In many of the areas it stops at there is no service bus that would take children to and from school. Therefore we are calling upon the County Council to think again.

We the undersigned call upon Lancashire County Council to think again and ensure that there is provision for children who would use the 623 Bus to get from Mellor and surrounding villages to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School.

### 3.2 Nigel Evans MP

I am writing on behalf of, and in support of [REDACTED], Mellor.

[REDACTED] uses the 623 bus each day to reach school, unfortunately it is under consultation that the service may be removed, leaving [REDACTED] to walk around 2 miles to Ramsgreave Train Station to catch a bus. If the consultation axes the bus, [REDACTED] will have to regrettably switch schools.

Further to this, [REDACTED] Governors at Balderstone St Leonards Church of England Primary School, [REDACTED] the Board will have to relieve CRGS as a secondary school choice for their pupils because of the logistical challenges.

I would be grateful if you could include this representation in the consultation, it would be truly damaging to CRGS's students in Mellor and surrounding areas should the 623 be removed.

I am writing to express my concern at Lancashire County Council's proposal to withdraw the school bus service 623 from Mellor to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School (CRGS).

My [REDACTED] at the Grammar School and currently walks a quarter of a mile to catch the school bus.

If the 623 is withdrawn, his nearest options for travel will be a bus stop 1.8 miles away or Ramsgreave railway station 2 miles away. In both cases there would be final 0.8 mile walk in Clitheroe to reach school. Realistically, these routes are not viable. If the school bus is withdrawn I will be forced to remove [REDACTED] from the school that [REDACTED] and is very proud to attend.

I feel it is worth highlighting that the 623 service is full of children. There are no empty seats. In addition, two other CRGS school buses routes have been targeted for withdrawal. This proposal, if implemented, will affect a large number of Ribble Valley families.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The school is in a rural setting and many of our pupils do not live near a scheduled bus stop. If the CRGS school bus service is withdrawn then, in effect, CRGS will be removed as a secondary school choice for our pupils. The Head Teacher and I have written to Lancashire County Council to express our concern.

I would be grateful if you would raise these serious issues with Lancashire County Council and persuade them to continue running the existing school bus services.

### 3.3 Kate Hollern MP

I write on behalf of constituent [REDACTED]

My constituent has contacted our office regarding her concerns at the recent announcement made by Lancashire County Council for the consultation of the potential withdrawal of the 623 bus service for school children between Blackburn and Clitheroe.

[REDACTED] that closure of the service would be detrimental to education of the children that rely on this form of transportation to attend school.

I would be most grateful if you can look into the matter raised and for any assistance you can offer.

I have been extremely worried about the recent announcement by LANCASHIRE county council that they are consulting about the potential withdrawal of the 623 bus service which transports school children between Blackburn and clitheroe.

[REDACTED] prepare and get through the clitheroe exam. We will be devastated if this bus service stops as there will be no way [REDACTED] getting to school in September.

There are already lots of other children using the service and all their futures and education depend on this bus service. Please can you help in getting this idea quashed? I know savings have to be made in the council but these are not savings...they will harm our youngsters.