

What is community transport?

Community transport is safe, accessible, cost-effective, flexible transport run by the community for the community. It meets the needs of people who cannot access cars, taxis or buses, and provides a lifeline in both rural and urban areas.

Community transport takes disabled people to work, children to school, sick people to healthcare and older people to the shops. It runs local bus routes and provides transport for a wide range of clubs, groups, and others such as GP surgeries and care homes.

A two year programme of work

We already have many community transport services in Oxfordshire and demand is likely to increase. Oxfordshire County Council is supporting the development of a strong and sustainable community transport sector in the county. The council's Cabinet has committed to a programme of work from 2012 to 2014, using a one off grant from national government.

We will work towards more visible and sustainable community transport in the future, for example by:

- improving the understanding of transport needs across the county
- identifying opportunities and helping grow or expand services
- understanding and tackling barriers to developing community transport.

How you can get involved

We know that we need to work closely with those already offering community transport and other communities to help make the best use of the resources we have. This includes one-off funding for marketing, transport needs surveys, start-up grants and community lift share pilots, plus additional staff support.

Please get in touch with your ideas or suggestions, for example how to:

- Promote community transport, to potential users and / or volunteers
- Find out more about local transport needs
- Grow existing or develop new community transport services
- Make better use of existing resources for community transport.

Whom to contact

Enquiries about this project: Kathrin Luddecke, Community Transport Development & Strategy Officer (Oxfordshire County Council), 01865 323965, kathrin.luddecke@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

General support inc. to existing groups: Emily Lewis, Community Transport Adviser (Oxfordshire Rural Community Council), 01865 883488, emily.lewis@oxonrcc.org.uk