

Make Submission

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Event Name	Long-Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation
Submission by	Mr Lindsay Richards (77358)
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Whole Plan Support/Oppose	

Please select one of the following: I generally disagree with the activity proposed for the Long-Term Plan.

Whole Plan Comments

Please provide any comments.

I wish to have the following submission heard, in relation to the axing of the Westmorland to Eastgate bus service (Route 145). The current service is poorly patronised - simply because it is inappropriate, and I wish to raise three main points to support that:

- 1) The current route within Westmorland, serves only part of the community. The lower Penruddock Rise, Ravensdale Rise and Woodside Common route completely misses the fast-growing housing area at the top of the hill - and, now that Ravensdale Rise and Penruddock Rise have joined up, a circular route would be far more appropriate. It would not only take in the new areas, but would also eliminate having to go completely around the Penruddock Rise roundabout - a practice that must frustrate the bus drivers, certainly frustrates other road-users and causes damage to the footpaths and roundabout itself because the larger buses have difficulty navigating it.
- 2) The ultimate destination of the service – Eastgate Mall – is a major factor in why the bus is not better patronised. We want to get into the city, not to Eastgate Mall. Added to that, the Westmorland bus usually arrives at the stop where passengers can transfer to a city-bound bus, only to find that it has already left, resulting in a lengthy wait. The same issues arise on the return journey.

3) The smaller buses (presumably introduced because passenger numbers have declined) are often used during peak school-hour periods, and are regularly "so full" that some students have stopped using them because of safety concerns. Then, we see near-empty full-size buses are used during non-peak hours. That suggests that the most appropriate buses are perhaps not being used at certain times of the day.

Rather than arbitrarily scrapping a bus service (that worked well until e-CAN changed it in 2014/15, perhaps consideration should be given to the number of bus movements per day, the type of buses being used, the route through the subdivision and the ultimate destination. Scrapping the service will have a huge impact on school children, adding even more stress to our already-congested roads because their parents will revert to driving them to and from school instead. It also adversely affects our elderly.

I thank you for your consideration of my submission,

Lindsay Richards

(Westmorland resident of 20 years)