

Accessibility Planning Consultation

Communities of Cheshire Partnership

Friday 5th September 2008

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Accessibility Planning

- Accessibility is the ease with which people can access essential services such as health care, education, employment, food shops and other services which are important to local people.
- If people cannot access the key services they need at reasonable cost, in reasonable time and with reasonable ease, their quality of life suffers.



Our Proposals

- The County Council are required to consider accessibility to key services by developing an Accessibility Strategy as part of the Local Transport Plan (2006 - 2011).
- Following an independent review of the strategy, a number of areas for improvement have been identified.
- Three proposed priority areas have been identified for further analysis and consultation:-
 - ❖ Access to key services from rural areas
 - ❖ Access to health
 - ❖ Access to employment



The Consultation Process

- A twelve week consultation period is underway (30th June – 19th September)
- The aim is to identify the most important accessibility issues in Cheshire and develop an action plan for how these are to be addressed over the lifetime of the LTP
- Series of events / workshops are being held throughout the consultation period
- Utilising existing strategic and local level partnerships wherever possible.

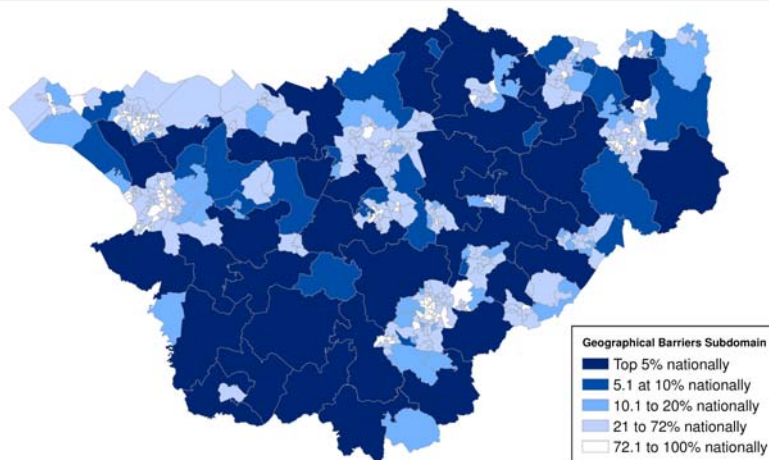


Access to key services from rural areas

- 40% of Cheshire's population live in rural areas
- It is recognised that rural communities face particular accessibility problems
- Growing differences between the age profiles of rural & urban England, with rural areas showing more older people
- Problems can be particularly acute for residents without ready access to a car
- The provision of local services in rural areas is important to the sustainability of local communities & promoting social inclusion
- Case Studies:- Taxi Rider, Cholmondely Food Hub, Community Car Scheme, Malpas / Mottram St. Andrew Initiatives.



Map 1 : Index of Multiple Deprivation - Geographical Barriers Subdomain (2007)



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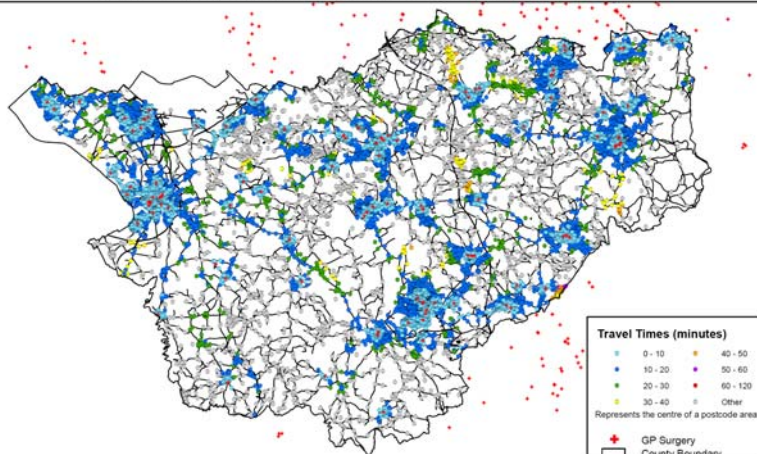


Access to Health

- 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' (2006) - Primary Care Trust modernisation plans
- Western Cheshire PCT – 'Transforming the Care Environment' Strategy (Jan 2008)
- Health inequalities exist at a community level and the close links between higher levels of deprivation & poor health outcomes are well established
- Improving access to a healthy diet & encouraging increased levels of physical activity can also contribute towards the achievement of key health outcomes
- Case Studies: Mid Cheshire KickStart, Hospital Travel Plans, Pilot Personalised Journey Planning Project.



Map 3 : Public Transport Journey Time to Nearest GP Surgery



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What Happens Next

- June 30 – September 19: Consultation period
- September – October: Preparation of revised Accessibility Strategy
- November: Finalisation & approval of new strategy
- November – December: Submission to Government & feedback on assessment
- December onwards: Refining action plans & delivery
- January onwards: Dialogue with shadow authorities for taking accessibility planning forwards in Cheshire West & Chester and Cheshire East beyond April 2009.



Recommendations

- Members of the Communities of Cheshire Partnership are invited to:
 - Comment on the proposals;
 - Explore opportunities for securing shared priorities;
 - Advise on partnership working arrangements to deliver the strategy within the new Unitary Councils.

