

Your membership number is:



in Lancashire

1. Please read the instructions carefully.
2. Please use blue or black pen to fill in the questionnaire.
3. Please check you have answered all the appropriate questions.
4. Return your completed questionnaire in the reply-paid envelope provided.

Getting to services

Accessibility is people's ability to reach the things they need or want to do – such as work, learning, healthcare, shopping and leisure activities – at reasonable cost, in reasonable time and with reasonable ease.

Accessibility depends on several things:

- Does transport exist between the people and the service?
- Do people know about the transport, trust its reliability and feel safe using it?
- Are people physically and financially able to access transport?
- Are the services and activities within a reasonable distance?

1

Which of the following modes of transport would you normally use for the following tasks if you had to do them?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX FOR EACH ACTIVITY

	Car	Bus	Train	Foot	Other	Does not apply
Shopping trips	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visiting friends and family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Going to your local corner shop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Going to further, higher or adult education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taking children to primary or secondary school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Going to the doctors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Going to the hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting money from your savings or bank account (eg from an ATM)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Going to the local pharmacy or chemists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travelling to work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2

From your home how easy or difficult would it be for you to get to each of the following tasks using your usual form of transport? And tell us why you say this. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX FOR EACH ACTIVITY

Very easy Fairly easy Fairly difficult Very difficult Don't know/
does not apply

Shopping trips

Why do you say this?

Visiting friends and family

Why do you say this?

Going to your local corner shop

Why do you say this?

Going to further, higher or adult education

Why do you say this?

Taking children to primary or secondary school

Why do you say this?

Going to the doctors

Why do you say this?

Going to the hospital

Why do you say this?

3

And, from your home how easy or difficult would it be for you to get to each of the following tasks using your usual form of transport? And tell us why you say this. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX FOR EACH ACTIVITY

Very easy Fairly easy Fairly difficult Very difficult Don't know/
does not apply

Getting money from your savings or bank account (eg from an ATM)

Why do you say this?

Going to the local pharmacy or chemists

Why do you say this?

Travelling to work

Why do you say this?

4

Overall, do you think that travelling about generally is easier or harder for you than it was 12 months ago, or has it stayed the same?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Easier

Stayed the same

Harder

Don't know

5

And, overall, do you think that travelling to work is easier or harder for you than it was 12 months ago, or has it stayed the same?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Easier

Stayed the same

Harder

I don't travel to work

6**Which three or four things, if any, prevent you from using public transport more?** PLEASE TICK UP TO FOUR BOXESLack of information Uncomfortable ride Infrequency High cost Unreliability Lack of safety Length of time needed to make trip Timetables are difficult to use/understand Complicated connections I would not make any more use of public transport No service Nothing prevents me from using public transport

Something else (Please write in the box)

Reading local newspapers

7**Which, if any, of these free newspapers or titles you have read or looked at for at least 2 minutes in the past month. It doesn't matter whose copy it was, where you saw it or how old it was.** PLEASE TICK AS MANY AS APPLYOrmskirk Advertiser Local Reporter (eg Preston, Burnley, Lancaster) Vision Asian Image Local Citizen (eg Preston, Chorley, Lancaster, Burnley) Ormskirk/Skelmersdale Champion Asian Leader Your local district/city/borough council newspaper Other None of these Don't know **8****There is a free newspaper published by Lancashire County Council called Vision that is delivered free in your area. How often does Vision arrive through your door?** PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLYEvery month → GO TO Q9Most months → GO TO Q9Only occasionally → GO TO Q9Never → GO TO Q10Don't know → GO TO Q10

9**How much of the most recent issue of Vision did you read?**

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Read all, or nearly all, of it Read some of it Read a few articles Just glanced at it Didn't look at it Don't know **10****How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Vision? It doesn't matter whether you have read the paper recently, or know little about it – we are still interested in your views.**

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX FOR EACH STATEMENT

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
It has a lot in it for women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is well designed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would miss it if it was not delivered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There's not enough in it for people like me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is a paper for older people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It lets me know what the county council is doing in my local area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I find out more about the county council from newspapers other than Vision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lancashire County Council Budget and Priorities

We want to ask you some questions on what you think about the county council's service priorities, and the Council Tax we charge. First, here is some brief background information about the budget and Council Tax.

Spending priorities

In the current financial year April 2006 to March 2007 the county council will spend £1,611 million. £1,009 million of that spending is funded from government grants for specific services and from fees and charges that we make for certain services. The largest item within this total is £607 million of grant from the government to fund schools. This leaves a net spend of £602 million. The table on the next page shows how this will be spent.

Spending	£ million	%
Children and young people	143	24
Adult social services	253	42
Highway maintenance	58	10
Community services (including recreation, tourism and libraries)	25	4
Waste disposal	37	6
Financing of borrowing costs for capital schemes (for example long-term road and building projects)	36	6
Public transport	10	2
Public protection (including emergency planning, trading standards, county analyst and registrars)	9	1
Planning and countryside services	5	1
Supporting economic development in Lancashire	2	-
Other services	24	4
Total	602	100

Council Tax

The county council's spending is funded from three sources. Business rates and Revenue Support Grant are fixed sums of money from the government. The county council sets Council Tax according to how much more it needs to pay for total spending. Funding for 2006/07 is:

	£ million	% of total
Business rates	187	31
Revenue Support Grant	36	6
Council Tax	379	63
Total	602	100

The county council set a spending budget of £602 million for 2006/07. We received £223 million from the government, leaving a balance of £379 million to be raised from Council Tax.

For a household in band D this meant a Council Tax charge of £996.85 for the year, equivalent to £19.17 a week. This was an increase of 4.9% on the previous year.

In a shire county like Lancashire, the Council Tax bill also includes charges from borough and district councils, the police authority, the fire authority and sometimes the local parish council.

Next year

When the county council set the Council Tax last February for the current year, it also agreed that it would try to limit the increase for 2007/08 to no more than 5%.

The forecast for next year shows county council spending increasing by 6.9% (based on current levels of spending): inflation at 4% and service growth at 2.9%. This includes increased numbers of child and adult social care clients and additional borrowing costs from previous years' capital programmes. We expect a general grant increase from the government of 4.6%. This forecast would lead to:

- a Council Tax increase of just over 8% to continue at current spending levels; or
- spending reductions of around £12.5 million to give a 5% Council Tax increase.

To limit the Council Tax increase to no more than 5% and bridge the gap in our budget, the cabinet and service directors have put forward a package of efficiency savings of £10 million and

service reductions of £2.5 million. The efficiency savings are part of an ongoing programme, and come from back office operations so that front line services are affected as little as possible. These proposals will be debated over the next couple of months. The final proposals will be approved in February 2007 by the full county council when it sets the budget and Council Tax for 2007/08.

In light of these proposals, we'd like to hear your views on:

- what our spending priorities should be over the next year; and
- the level of Council Tax increase that we should aim for next year.

11

a) Which three or four of the following services should be the highest priorities for spending next year? PLEASE TICK UP TO FOUR BOXES

b) And which three or four of these services should be the lowest priorities for spending next year? PLEASE TICK UP TO FOUR BOXES

	a) Highest spending priorities	b) Lowest spending priorities
Nursery education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Primary and secondary education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupils who are socially disadvantaged and children with special educational needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's social care (protecting vulnerable children)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Museums and galleries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services for adults with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services for older people (including care in their own homes and in residential homes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining roads and bridges (emergencies and fixing potholes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic management (making road travel safer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping local bus services running	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste management (household waste disposal and recycling)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country parks, open spaces and picnic sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support for businesses and attracting investment to Lancashire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crime prevention (working with partner organisations to help prevent crime and disorder and reduce the fear of crime)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trading standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welfare rights (helping people get the support they are entitled to)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth and community services (activities and support for young people)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of these	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12**Which of the following most closely matches your opinion on what the council should do about increasing Council Tax next year?**

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

No increase in Council Tax over this year, which would mean a significant reduction in county council services → END

An increase in Council Tax of less than 5%, which would mean more reductions in services than the council proposes → GO TO Q13

An increase in Council Tax of around 5% (in line with the council's proposals), which would mean some reductions in services → GO TO Q13

An increase in Council Tax of over 5%, which would reduce or eliminate the need for reductions in services → GO TO Q13

13**And what level of increase do you feel you could support?**

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

(Note: figures are shown for band D and for the lowest and highest bands, A and H, to illustrate the full range. The effects for the other bands would fall within the ranges shown.)

	Band A	Band D	Band H	
Current 2006/07 Council Tax a week	£12.78	£19.17	£38.34	
With a 3% increase	£13.16	£19.75	£39.49	<input type="checkbox"/>
With a 4% increase	£13.29	£19.94	£39.87	<input type="checkbox"/>
With a 5% increase	£13.42	£20.13	£40.26	<input type="checkbox"/>
With a 6% increase	£13.55	£20.32	£40.64	<input type="checkbox"/>
With a 7% increase	£13.67	£20.51	£41.02	<input type="checkbox"/>
With a 8% increase	£13.80	£20.70	£41.41	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please return the questionnaire in the reply-paid envelope.
Thank you for being part of Life in Lancashire.