

Transport-related social exclusion research

Transport for the North (TfN) are inviting Councillors and Officers from Local Authorities and those working for charities and community groups from across the North of England to take part in this survey on Transport-Related Social Exclusion (TRSE). This document provides information on the background to this survey.

What is transport related social exclusion?

Transport-related social exclusion (TRSE) is where limited access to transport or other issues with the transport system means that people cannot fully participate in society in the way they would like. This can include being able to access a good education, having meaningful and gainful employment, connecting with friends and family, and being able to access leisure facilities, tourist attractions, and the natural environment.

Why is TfN researching this issue?

TfN is conducting a programme of research to understand the links between transport and social exclusion across the North. TRSE is a complex issue – it has many potential causes and consequences, and can vary significantly across relatively small areas, or across population groups within the same suburb or village. There is a growing body of academic and other research on this topic, and several city or town-specific studies have been conducted in the North of England. However, there is a clear evidence gap when it comes to the nature, extent, causes and consequences of TRSE across the North as a whole.

TfN's research on TRSE will help build on our Northern Transport Charter aims of delivering more inclusive and sustainable transport investment. This research will inform the further development of TfN's Strategic Transport Plan and advice to government on investment priorities for the North of England. It will also be of wider value to stakeholders and public bodies across the North.

Who can take part in the survey?

This survey is intended for:

1. Elected officials from Local Authorities in the North West, North East, and Yorkshire and the Humber. We welcome multiple responses from within a single Local Authority area.
2. Officers from Local Authorities in the North West, North East, and Yorkshire and the Humber who work on issues connected to social exclusion and transport. We welcome multiple responses from within a single Local Authority area.
3. Staff at charities and community groups from across the North of England who work with communities affected by social exclusion.

We want to gather as many local area insights as possible through this survey, and would encourage multiple responses from within a single Local Authority area. We also encourage Local Authorities to share the survey with charities and community groups in their area that work with populations affected by poverty, deprivation, and social exclusion.

What will respondents be asked about?

Respondents to this survey will be asked to describe one neighbourhood or other small area of their choice where the transport system affects social exclusion. This should be an area where people have relatively similar experiences of these issues. Respondents should not attempt to describe all the issues affecting an entire Local Authority Area, town, or city, and instead focus on the neighbourhood or other small area that they have

selected. Further guidance on the type of area is provided in the relevant section of the survey.

The area chosen should be one that the respondent is familiar with through their work, and one which they feel confident in describing. However, we do not expect all respondents to have full knowledge of all data and statistics relevant to the neighbourhood they are describing. Instead, respondents can use their own experiences of the area they have chosen as the basis for their response, and answer to the best of their knowledge. Those who wish to reference statistics and research relevant to the area they have selected are welcome to do so, but this is not a requirement.

The sections of the survey focus on three broad themes – (1) employment, (2) education and training, and (3) key services and community life. Each section of the survey gives a short introduction to what is meant by these themes. Respondents should interpret these based on the neighbourhood or other small area that they have selected.

At the end of the survey, the respondent will be asked to outline the solutions to the issues they have described. Respondents should provide the level of detail that they feel comfortable with when responding to these questions.

What types of information should be provided?

This is a qualitative survey, and most of the questions ask the respondent to provide a written response. In general, the more information that is provided in responding to these questions, the more understanding we can get of the issues in the selected neighbourhood or small area. However, we appreciate that some respondents may not have time to provide a detailed explanation, and welcome responses of any level of detail.

How can I ask a question about this survey?

Please email research@transportfornorth.com if you have any questions.