

East Lammermuir Community Transport Survey

Summary of findings | February–March 2026

East Lammermuir Local Place Plan – Community Transport Ambition

107

survey submissions

83%

currently use, or would use,
public transport if improved

68%

said they feel forced into car
ownership

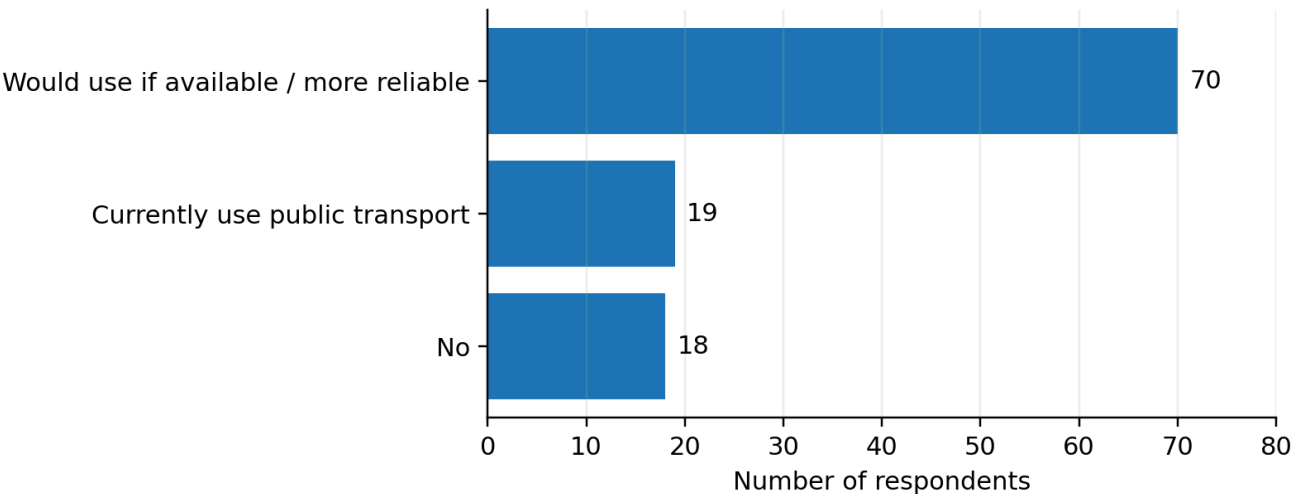
91%

would use weekend transport,
or would if reliable

What the survey tells us

The survey shows substantial unmet transport need among respondents. Many people who do not currently use public transport say they would do so if a suitable and reliable service existed. The findings also show that people need transport for everyday journeys throughout the day and at weekends, not only for occasional daytime trips.

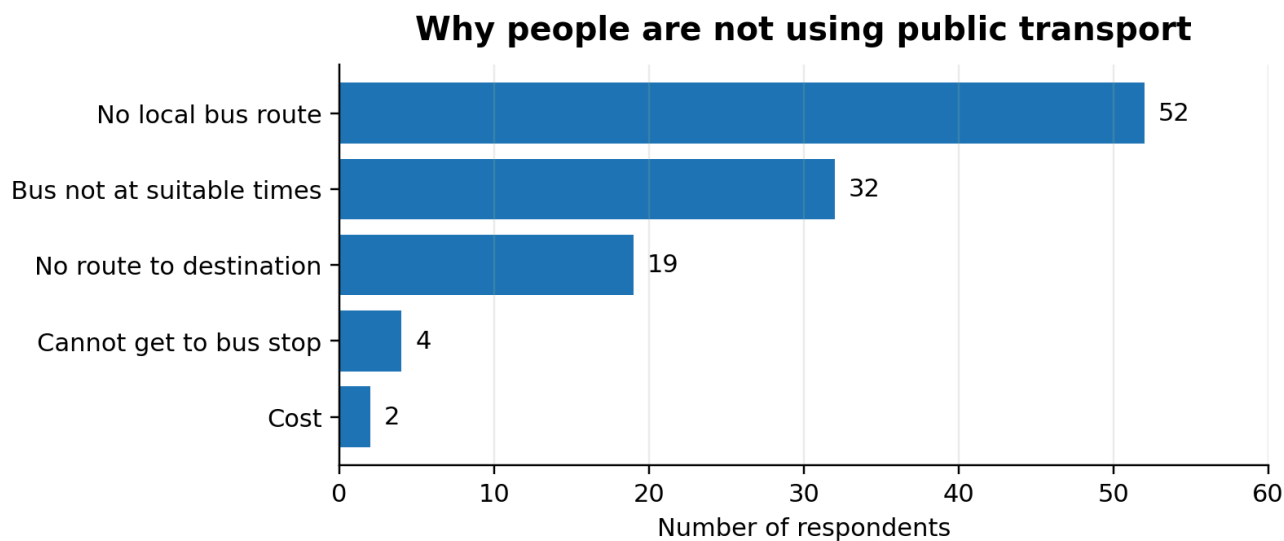
Current use and potential demand



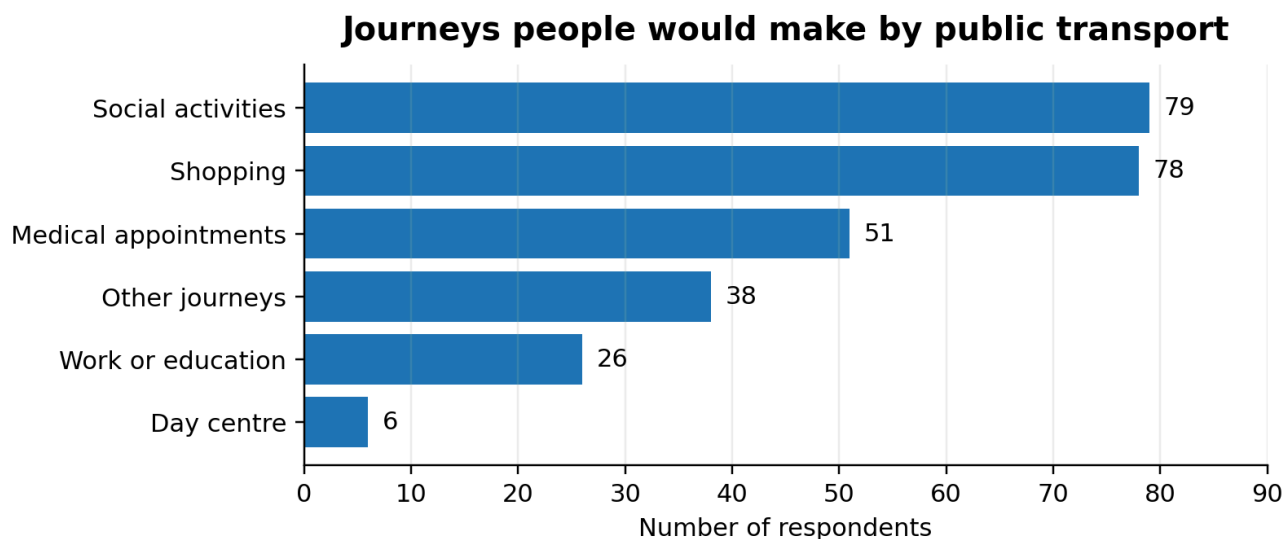
Key point: 70 respondents said they would use public transport if it was available or more reliable. Together with the 19 people who already use it, this is 89 of 107 submissions (83%).

What is stopping people using public transport?

Among the 86 respondents who gave a reason for not using public transport, the main barriers were the absence of a local route, unsuitable service times and services not going where people need to travel. Respondents could select more than one reason.



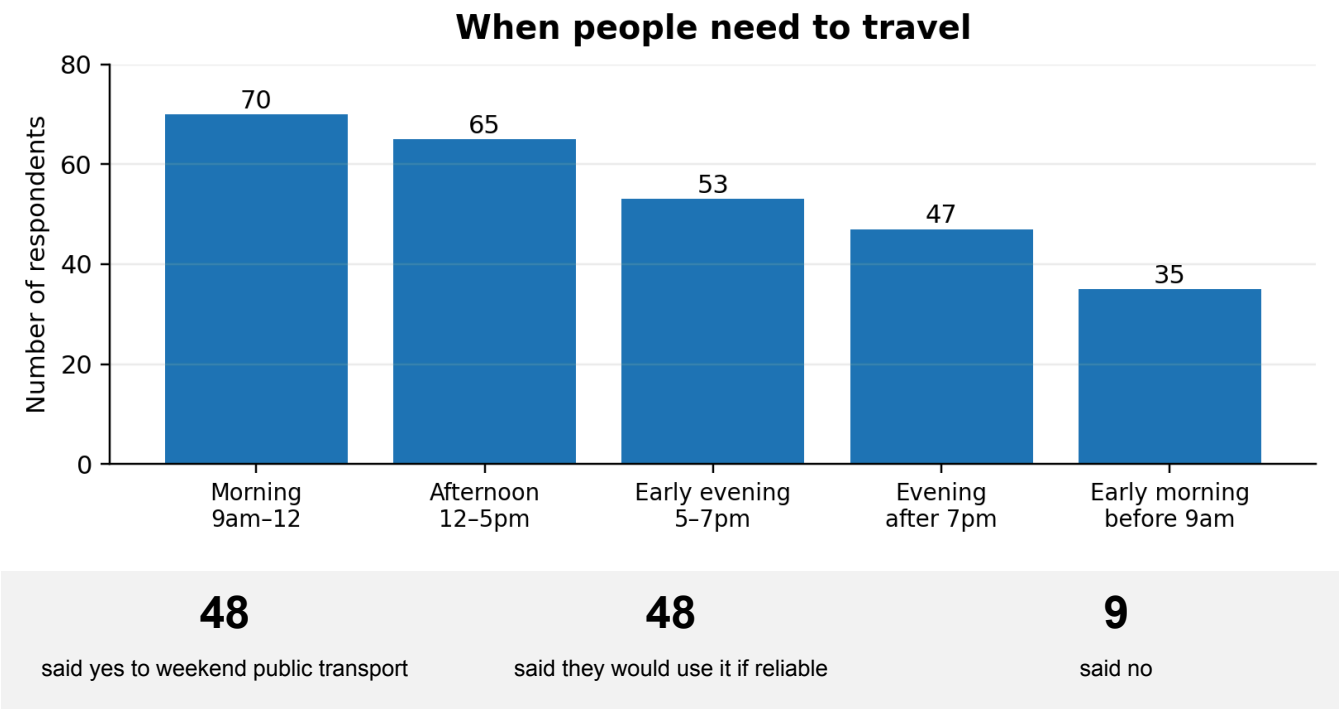
What journeys would people make?



The impacts described in written comments included reliance on cars or lifts, difficulty getting to health appointments and shops, reduced independence, social isolation, difficulties for young people, and concern about what will happen when older residents can no longer drive.

People need transport across the day and at weekends

Of the 97 people who answered the question about travel times, demand was spread across the day. Morning and afternoon were most common, but there was also substantial demand before 9am and after 5pm.



Weekend demand is particularly strong. Of the 105 people who answered the weekend question, 96 (91%) said yes or said they would use public transport if it was reliable.

Car dependency

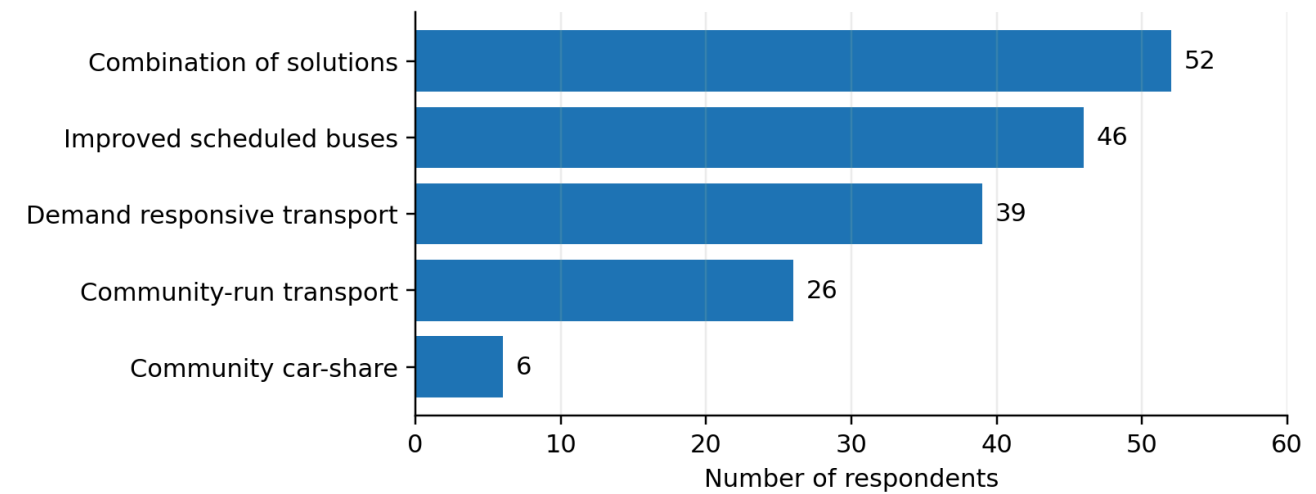
73 respondents (68%) said they feel forced into car ownership because of the lack of reliable public transport. Of the 88 people who then answered whether they might give up a car if better public or shared transport existed, 34 said yes and 26 said maybe. Several comments also said that, even where a household would keep its car, a better service would reduce car journeys.

Dunbar is a key destination and connection point. Of the 31 route descriptions entered in the survey, 26 mentioned Dunbar. Respondents referred to shopping, health services, the railway station and onward public transport, with the Cockburnspath–Dunbar corridor appearing frequently.

What kind of service do respondents want?

There was no single preferred solution. Respondents could select more than one option, and the most frequently selected answer was a combination of transport approaches.

Which transport approaches respondents selected



This suggests the next stage should test how different forms of provision could work together. The survey points to the importance of reliable connections between villages and Dunbar, access to shops and health services, links to rail and onward bus services, early morning and evening travel, and weekend provision.

Community support

There is also some willingness to help develop a local solution. Of the 105 people who answered the volunteering question, 31 offered a specific form of help and a further 25 said they might be willing to help. This included help with information and publicity, joining a steering group and volunteering as a driver.

Overall finding

The survey provides a strong indication of unmet transport need among respondents. It does not identify one service model on its own, but it gives a clear evidence base for testing practical options and developing the next stage of the Community Transport Ambition.

About the survey

The survey ran from 2 February to 5 March 2026 and received 107 submissions. It was a self-selecting community survey rather than a statistically representative sample of the whole East Lammermuir population. 86 respondents (80%) were East Lammermuir residents. The age profile was weighted towards older respondents: 85 of the 105 people who gave their age were 51 or over. Some questions allowed more than one answer, so totals for those questions exceed the number of survey submissions. Personal contact details collected through the survey are not included in this report.