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New bus service provides boost for local people

A school bus service is being extended to help local people travel between Nantwich and Leighton Hospital

The new number 68 service was previously a school-only service but has now been made available to all passengers as a public transport route.

This service, which runs from Leighton Hospital to Nantwich Bus Station via Walley's Green and Church Minshull, has been introduced as part of the regular tendering process which allowed for a number of improvements at no additional cost to the Council.

It was originally a service for Malbank High School and Worleston School pupils only. The Council's transport team has sought to integrate services to maximise the use of resources by opening up one contract to serve both school and public transport needs.

The service also provides a limited daytime timetable on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Cheshire East Councillor David Topping, Cabinet member for service commissioning, said: "This is good news for local people, helping boost connectivity and social inclusion while reducing traffic congestion and curbing carbon emissions. It's a win-win situation for everyone.

"Local government is going through an unprecedented period of change. Cost pressure and rising expectations mean that councils must constantly look for ways to improve services while delivering value for money – doing more for less. We have firmly grasped the nettle in Cheshire East.

"This Council is also working hard in other areas, where operators have decided that it is not in their commercial interest to continue a bus service, to seek to ensure that public transport services are maintained as much as possible.

"This new scheme is another example of the real potential to work differently and innovatively to deliver better services in the local community and offer better value for money to the council and the taxpayer."

For more detailed information about the 68 service visit the Council website at:

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport

or visit the link below:

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport/bus/bus_service_timetables/nantwich_rural_services.aspx

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