

Bishop's Waltham Minibus Group

New Minibus Survey – Summary

All minibus drivers and escorts were invited to complete a survey on the essential criteria for the next minibus. This will inform the drawing up of an outline specification for the best minibus to suit our needs.

95% of the drivers and escorts completed the survey.

The most important criteria (over 75% preference):

- Capacity for 14 passengers
- Automatic gearbox
- Disabled access
- Accommodation for one wheelchair
- Luggage space at the expense of two seats

Priority criteria (over 55% preference):

- A new vehicle rather than used
- Category D1 licence driver
- Diesel engine
- Driver operated passenger door

Other criteria (over 45% preference):

- Hydraulic passenger lift rather than a ramp

Comments were offered on:

- More capacity for walking frames
- Look to the future when deciding on the minibus
- The possibility of hire rather than purchase
- The possibility of a hybrid minibus
- Short overhang behind rear wheels
- Electric step lift

Further comments relating to ancillaries, once the minibus is chosen:

- Air conditioning
- Front and rear parking sensors as well as a good rear view camera
- Yellow bars to assist partially sighted passengers
- Stricter training for passenger assistants

From the above results, a range of minibuses can now be viewed with the aim of selecting the one that best meets the criteria.