



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey

(Dumfries - Stranraer)

Background

This survey is primarily aimed at Businesses primarily within Dumfries and Galloway.

In April 2026, Swestrans (The South West of Scotland Transport Partnership) was commissioned to undertake a feasibility study. The aim of this study was to assess measures to enhance sustainable transport options for Dumfries and Galloway, with the ultimate goal of improving its economic viability. This work was intended to update a previous appraisal undertaken in 2025.

The brief for the study explained that it would be conducted in accordance with Transport Scotland's Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG). The STAG Report concluded with a recommendation to re-open the rail line between Dumfries and Stranraer. However, as Swestrans have prioritised the duelling of the A75 road between Gretna and Stranraer, and funding was not going to be made available at this time for the feasibility study, I have decided to write the report myself. This report will either be used as the final report or serve as a foundation to encourage a report to be written. Essentially,

We would like to understand the problems faced and opportunities not being realised on the transport system and how this impacts on businesses in the area. We would also like to understand how transport problems can affect the attractiveness of the area to do business and/or discourage inward investment, and equally how transport opportunities could facilitate inward investment.

As such, we would appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey on behalf of your business. The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete

Finally, please be assured that information collected will be done so in a manner fully compliant with new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

complete it at any time by using the original link.

The deadline for participation is Monday, 26th October 2026.

Thank you for participating.



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey

(Dumfries - Stranraer)

about your Bussiness

1.A What is the name of your business?

1.B Please briefly outline the nature of your business

2. What is the principal sector in which you operate?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Agriculture, forestry and fishing? | ☐ Mining, quarrying and utilities |
| ☐ Manufacturing | ☐ Construction |
| ☐ Motor Trades | ☐ Wholesale |
| ☐ Retail | ☐ Transport and Storage |
| ☐ Accommodation and Food Services | ☐ (including tourism) |
| ☐ Information and Communication | ☐ Finance and Insurance |
| ☐ Property | ☐ Professional, Scientific and Technical |
| ☐ Business Administration and Support | ☐ Services |
| ☐ Education | ☐ Health |
| ☐ Public Administration | ☐ Other <input type="text"/> |

3.A Is your business based in Dumfries and Galloway?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey (Dumfries - Stranraer)

3.B Please select location.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Annan | ☐ Cargenbridge |
| ☐ Castle Douglas | ☐ Creetown |
| ☐ Dalbeattie | ☐ Dumfries |
| ☐ Eaglesfield | ☐ Eastriggs |
| ☐ Ecclefechan | ☐ Gatehouse of Fleet |
| ☐ Glenluce | ☐ Gretna |
| ☐ Kirkconnel | ☐ Kirkcudbright |
| ☐ Langholm | ☐ Locharbriggs |
| ☐ Lochmaben | ☐ Lockerbie |
| ☐ Moffat | ☐ Newton Stewart |
| ☐ Sanquhar | ☐ Stranraer |
| ☐ Thornhill | ☐ Whithorn |
| ☐ Wigtown | ☐ Other (within Dumfries and Galloway) |
| ☐ Other (Outwith Dumfries and Galloway) | |

4. Is the location which you noted in the previous question, your business....

- ☐ Main premises
☐ a local office/premises but not the main premises

5. How long have you operated from this location?

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Less than 1 year | ☐ 1 - 3 years |
| ☐ 3 - 5 years | ☐ 6 - 10 years |
| ☐ More than 10 years | |



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey

(Dumfries - Stranraer)

6. Approximately how many people do you currently employ at this location?

Full Time

Part Time

Seasonal

Apprentices

7. Approximately how many people do you employ at other locations within the UK?



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey (Dumfries - Stranraer)

About your People

8. Can you tell us where your employees live? Please select as many as apply and include any contractors based at your site.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Annan | ☐ Cargenbridge |
| ☐ Castle Douglas | ☐ Creetown |
| ☐ Dalbeattie | ☐ Dumfries |
| ☐ Eaglesfield | ☐ Eastriggs |
| ☐ Ecclefechan | ☐ Gatehouse of Fleet |
| ☐ Glenluce | ☐ Gretna |
| ☐ Kirkconnel | ☐ Kirkcudbright |
| ☐ Langholm | ☐ Lochaberbriggs |
| ☐ Lochmaben | ☐ Lockerbie |
| ☐ Moffat | ☐ Newton Stewart |
| ☐ Sanquhar | ☐ Stranraer |
| ☐ Thornhill | ☐ Whithorn |
| ☐ Wigtown | ☐ Other (within Dumfries and Galloway) |
| ☐ Other (Outwith Dumfries and Galloway) | |



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey

(Dumfries - Stranraer)

9. What do you consider to be the main mode of travel used by employees to get to work. (Please provide an estimated % by mode with answers summing to 100)

Car

Car-share

Train

Bus

Walk

Motorcycle

Cycle

10. Do you have any difficulties in attracting and retaining staff?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

11. Why do you think these difficulties arise? (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Transport issues make it difficult for staff to get to work at this location | ☐ Limited skills in the workforce |
| ☐ No capacity in the local workforce | ☐ Competition for jobs within my industry |
| ☐ Competition for jobs with other industries | ☐ Perception of Dumfries and Galloway as an area to work |
| ☐ Other <input type="text"/> | |



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey

(Dumfries - Stranraer)

12. Do you feel that any of the following have a negative impact on your ability to attract and retain staff? (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Long travel times to get to destinations | ☐ Cost of travel |
| ☐ Limited choice of travel modes | ☐ Frequency of public transport services |
| ☐ Times of operation of public transport services | ☐ Number of interchanges required when using public transport |
| ☐ Safety concerns while travelling | ☐ Lack of direct public transport routes |
| ☐ Emissions from cars and public transport | ☐ No impact |
| ☐ Road congestion | ☐ Other <input type="text"/> |

About your Location

13. What do you feel are the key strengths of your current business location?(select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Transport links to get goods in / out | ☐ Transport links to get staff and customers in |
| ☐ and out | ☐ Access / proximity to customers |
| ☐ Access / proximity to suppliers | ☐ Large pool of local labour market |
| ☐ Natural resources nearby | ☐ Business rates |
| ☐ Facilities | ☐ Affordability of premises |
| ☐ Availability of suitable premises | ☐ Other <input type="text"/> |

14. What do you feel are the key weaknesses of your current business location?(select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Transport links to get goods in/out | ☐ Transport links to get staff and customers in and out |
| ☐ Access / proximity to customers | ☐ Access / proximity to suppliers |
| ☐ Limited pool of local labour market | ☐ Skills and qualifications of the local labour market |
| ☐ Lack of natural resources nearby | ☐ High Business rates |
| ☐ Poor Facilities | ☐ Affordability of premises |
| ☐ Availability of suitable premises | ☐ No weaknesses |
| ☐ Other <input type="text"/> | |

15. You answered above that available transport links are a weakness to your business location. Which of the following, if any, are the transport issues that cause these weaknesses? (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Congestion on the road network causing delays | ☐ Long travel times to get to destinations |
| ☐ Safety concerns on the road network | ☐ Cost of travel |
| ☐ Lack of direct public transport services | ☐ Frequency of public transport services |
| ☐ Number of interchanges required when using public transport | ☐ Times of operation of public transport services |
| ☐ Limited choice of travel modes | ☐ Emissions from cars and public transport |
| ☐ Poor walking and cycling links | ☐ Other <input type="text"/> |



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey (Dumfries - Stranraer)

Freight and Goods

16. How significant to your business is the physical movement of goods?

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ Very significant | ☐ Significant |
| ☐ Neither Significant nor Insignificant | ☐ Insignificant |
| ☐ Very Insignificant | |

17. What is your principal means of moving freight/goods/supplies or products as part of your business?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ LGVs / vans | ☐ HGVs / Lorries |
| ☐ Rail (container) | ☐ Rail (other) |
| ☐ Shipping (bulk) | ☐ Shipping (other) |
| ☐ Specialist equipment / plant | ☐ Tankers |
| ☐ Other <input type="text"/> | |



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey

(Dumfries - Stranraer)

18. Do you move goods in your own vehicles or use a freight haulage firm?

Own vehicles

Use haulage firm(please indicatename of firm)

Mix

Quantity of freight in and out

When, ie, every day, once a week....

Times, i.e.overnight deliveries, or, e.g. need to make the ferries at Stranraer....

Where do your goods go? E.g. direct to customer; to another mode of transport (e.g.container facility); to a logistics/consolidation hub etc....



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey

(Dumfries - Stranraer)

About Your Customers

19. How do you primarily engage with your customers?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ At my business premises | ☐ At another location (please state location in |
| ☐ Other box) | ☐ Online |
| ☐ Via telephone | ☐ Via social media |
| ☐ Other <input type="text"/> | |

20. How important is it for customers to be able to access your premises?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Very important | ☐ Important |
| ☐ Neither important or not important | ☐ Not so important |
| ☐ Not at all important | |

21. Are there any transport issues which affect customers when accessing your business premises?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

22. Which of the following transport issues, if any, do you feel affect your customers when accessing your business? (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Congestion on the road network causing delays | ☐ Long travel times to get to destinations |
| ☐ Safety concerns on the road network | ☐ Cost of travel |
| ☐ Lack of direct public transport services | ☐ Frequency of public transport services |
| ☐ Number of interchanges required when using public transport | ☐ Times of operation of public transport services |
| ☐ Limited choice of travel modes | ☐ Emissions from cars and public transport |
| ☐ Poor walking and cycling links | ☐ Ability to park at or near my premises |
| ☐ Other <input type="text"/> | |



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey

(Dumfries - Stranraer)

Your ideas for improvements

23. Are there any transport improvements you think would make a difference to your business? If yes, please describe below.

1

2

3

4

5

Further Comments

24. Do you have any further comments?



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey

(Dumfries - Stranraer)

Contact

Are you happy to be contacted by Transport Scotland or dumfries and Galloway Council to follow up on the information provided? If so, please complete the contact details below.

Name

Company

Website

Postal Code

Email Address

Phone Number



Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Transport Study - Business Survey

(Dumfries - Stranraer)

End of survey

I would like to thank you for participating in this survey.

Please return to **Scott Borthwick, 21 Aspen Crescent, Dumfries, DG1 4QF** or Scan and email to **2drscott@gmail.com**