



# Community & Voluntary Transport at



The TAS Partnership Limited  
Passenger Transport Specialists

## Newsletter No.20 May 2022

TAS has provided expert advice, guidance and support for the CT sector for over 30 years. This general newsletter follows from our well-received COVID-19 coverage between April & September 2020. Please let us know of any items that might be of interest to the wider CT sector. Back issues of these newsletters are uploaded on our website: <https://taspartnership.co.uk/TAS-news/>

### UK - DfT Ending the Sale of New, Non-zero emission Buses, Coaches and Minibuses

DfT: "The Department for Transport (DfT) is seeking feedback on proposals to progress ending the sale of new non-zero emission buses. DfT is also launching a call for evidence on phasing out the sale of new, non-zero emission coaches and minibuses. We are inviting views on:

- ) the challenges of transitioning to zero emission coaches and minibuses;
- ) what would need to be true or in place to withdraw the sale of these vehicles;
- ) what government could do to accelerate the transition to zero emission coaches and minibuses and
- ) setting a realistic date to end the sale of these vehicles

This consultation follows on from an initial consultation on ending the sale of new diesel buses, which ran from 15 March 2021 to 11 April 2021. "We note that DfT is consulting on targets between 2025 and 2032 for Class I and II, and M2 and M3 buses and coaches i.e. for 23 pax or more. For minibuses, see page 15 – no date yet proposed – and a request for more evidence.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ending-the-sale-of-new-non-zero-emission-buses-coaches-and-minibuses>



**Ending UK sales of new, non-zero emission buses and calls for evidence on coaches and minibuses**  
Consultation



## England - Bus Service Operators Grant: Revised Guidance for Community Transport Operators



DfT: Guidance is "Updated to reflect the eligibility requirements for the new zero emission bus incentive, which operators will be eligible to claim for from 1 April 2022..."

Operators of vehicles that hold a zero emission bus certificate may be eligible for a 22p per kilometre rate of BSOG for those vehicles.

Eligible buses must:

- ) meet the normal BSOG rules;
- ) demonstrate zero tailpipe emissions and
- ) have no internal combustion engine (for example, electric and hydrogen buses)

This will need to be verified by certification, which builds on the existing testing and certification process for the LCEB incentive. Vehicles for which operators receive the ZEB incentive are not eligible for any other incentives." Despite the revision to the community transport guidance, it is not clear to TAS that this applies to CT operators unless they are running full-size buses on a registered service under an O licence.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bus-service-operators-grant-guidance-for-community-transport-operators/bus-service-operators-grant-guidance-for-community-transport-operators>

## UK - Rising Fuel Costs Impact on Community Transport Services

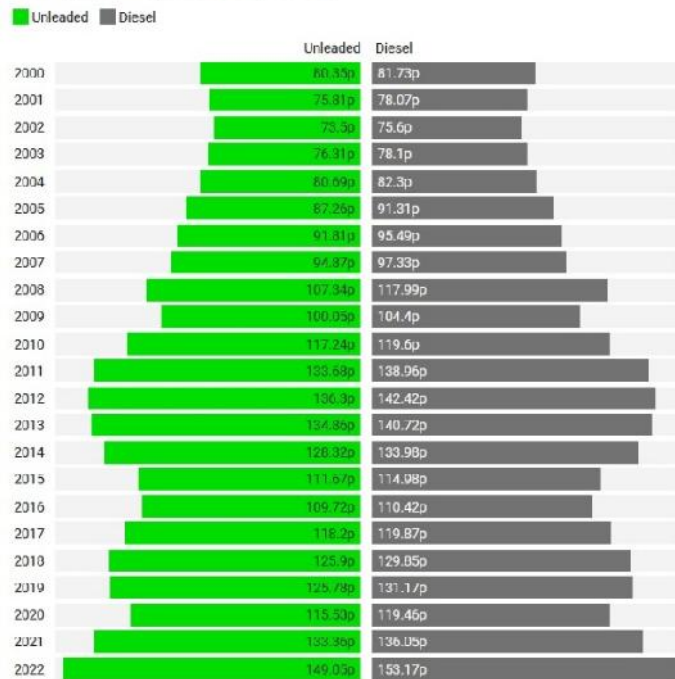
The increase in petrol and diesel costs is a major worry for CT operations at present and certainly makes recruiting volunteers for car schemes more challenging – see CTA's efforts (below) to persuade HMRC to increase the 45p per mile ceiling on non-taxable expense claims for car usage. The RAC has provided some analysis of fuel costs and recommend a number of fuel saving driving tips, including:

- ) Making sure you maintain your vehicle
- ) Gentle use of right foot and highest gear possible within the speed limit
- ) Anticipate and try not to lose momentum
- ) Cruise control only aids fuel economy when driving on a constant flat surface, hence why it is usually best reserved for motorway driving
- ) Remove any unneeded roof bars and boxes as they will create wind resistance
- ) Don't use your air conditioning unless you really have to as it uses engine power and therefore increases fuel consumption
- ) Combine journeys: a warm engine is more efficient
- ) Lighten the load - don't keep unnecessary items in your boot as they all add weight to your vehicle, which is not going to help your fuel economy in the long run.

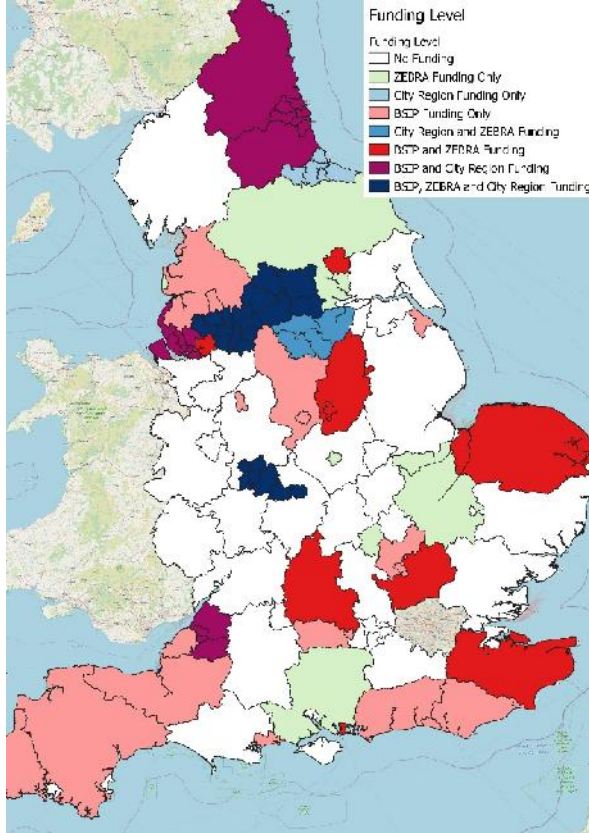
<https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/fuel-watch/>

### Average UK petrol and diesel prices by year

Current year's averages are for the year to date



## England – How Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Funding has been Distributed



services in rural areas. DfT now seems keen for BSIP funding to be used for bus priority, low / multi-operator fares and enhanced service provision. It has also stated specifically that this funding must not be used to support the continued operation of existing services. TAS has produced a map of England (above) to indicate how the various funding packages are to be distributed.

## England & Wales - Charity Commission Proposes New and Reworded Classification Codes

Gov.UK: "The Charity Commission currently collects information from charities about what they do, how they do it and who they help. This classification data forms part of the Register of Charities. To be a proactive and risk led regulator, the Commission needs to be able to segment the charity sector so we can analyse how different charities are affected by risks, tailor our advice and issue targeted messaging. Effective segmentation also means we can provide more relevant and detailed data to the public and other key stakeholders, such as government policymakers, to help them to understand the charity sector better and inform decision making.



Route One: "Only 31 Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) submissions in England out of the over 70 prepared by local authorities have been funded after an indicative total of £1.08bn was allocated to them. The Department for Transport (DfT) says the chosen areas have received money 'because of their ambition to repeat the success achieved in London.' It adds: 'As the government stated in last year's National Bus Strategy, Bus Back Better, areas not showing sufficient ambition, including for improvements to bus priority, would not be funded...The investment will be targeted at making buses "more frequent, more reliable, easier to understand and use, cheaper, or greener,' DfT says. Funding will also go towards increased priority measures and integrated ticketing."

<https://www.route-one.net/news/under-half-of-bsip-submissions-are-funded-in-1-1bn-award/>

The role of CT in the BSIPs was generally minimal but the funding will mean there is likely to be a small number of extra DRT services to bid for and at least some BSIP bids – notably the West of England and North Somerset scheme - aimed to expand CT



Currently, the classification categories do not provide sufficient detail for these purposes. For example, 'education and training' is a single category selected by 52% of registered charities to explain what they do. We have no way of identifying whether a specific risk is affecting particular types of educational charities such as schools, pre-schools or further education providers, making it difficult to target our response appropriately. Therefore, improving the 'what', 'how' and 'who' classifications has been identified as a top priority within our wider programme of work to improve our data about charities. We have worked with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to revise the classification codes and sought input from a range of sector stakeholders detailed at Annex B..." "Community Transport" is to be a specific new level 2 code under the proposals.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-classifications/proposed-new-and-reworded-classification-codes>

## Wales - Aberporth Councillors Unveil Plans for Community Bus



Tivy Advertiser: "An innovative scheme to run a community minibus in the Aberporth area is being launched by the local community council, working in partnership with local community transport provider Dolen Teifi. Aberporth Community Council plans to run the disabled accessible bus as a community pilot over the summer months. The community bus will be able to transport local residents from outlying villages into Aberporth and can also be used by community groups. There are also plans by the community council to provide a park and ride service to ease summer parking problems in the village. Volunteer drivers will

be an important part of the pilot scheme - if you are an organisation or a group that wants to use the minibus or an individual that wants to drive, full MiDAS driver training is given.

Community council chairman Cllr Aled Thomas said: 'We think this will be a valuable initiative for the area and enable us to plug gaps in the existing bus service. It will rely on volunteers to make it a success and I'd ask anyone interested to please get in touch.' Tom Cowcher, Chair of Dolen Teifi, said: 'We are really excited to be working with Aberporth Community Council. The minibuses will provide groups and organisations in and around Aberporth with access to essential community services.' The initiative was facilitated by support from Emma Bingham, Development Officer with The Community Transport Association. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Aberporth Community Council at

[clerk@aberporthcommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@aberporthcommunitycouncil.gov.uk). For further information on booking the minibus or MiDAS driver training please contact Dolen Teifi on 01559362403 / [info@dolenteifi.org.uk](mailto:info@dolenteifi.org.uk)." <https://www.tivysideadvertiser.co.uk/news/20003284.aberporth-councillors-unveil-plans-community-bus/>

## Wales - Brecon and Radnorshire MS Has a Busy Few Months

James Evans MS: "It has been a busy and varied couple of months as your Senedd Member for Brecon and Radnorshire... I visited Hay on Wye to meet Hay's very own 'Mr Dial-A-Ride'. The service offers a lifeline for many residents, enabling them to get out and about – for social, shopping, doctors' appointments and so much more. Services like dial-a-ride play an essential role in combating social isolation and loneliness, for all age groups. It is reassuring support from an organisation like 'Mr Dial-A-Ride' is available..."

<https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/19986266.brecon-radnorshire-ms-busy-months/>



## Wales - Community Car to Help Rural Areas in South Conwy

North Wales Pioneer: "Community & Voluntary Support Conwy has launched a community car project in South Conwy rural areas. Funded by the National Lottery, rural areas including Betws y Coed, Uwch Conwy and Uwchaled wards and those wards covered by Cerrigydrudion and Betws y Coed GP Practices are those that will receive help from the car. The car will be driven by volunteers and enable rurally isolated people, with no access to transport, to attend GP and outpatients appointments, and health and wellbeing activities. A social enterprise will be developed, giving the community ownership of the community car scheme.



The £99,000 grant over three years has paid for recruitment, training, overheads, start-up costs, and the salary of a part time project coordinator working 28 hours per week. Wendy Jones, Chief Officer, Community and Voluntary Support Conwy, commented: 'It has been a challenging couple of years, and this inevitably has impacted on the project. However, with the easing of restrictions, we are ready to forge ahead to develop this exciting project.' Robin Millar MP said: 'It was both enjoyable and rewarding to meet with the team at Community & Voluntary Support Conwy and I'd like to thank them for their warm welcome and, more

importantly, for all that they do in the communities that they serve. The community car scheme will make a hugely positive difference to rurally isolated people with limited, if any, access to transport and I applaud this truly grass roots solution to a grass roots problem. This is an excellent example of how community groups are often best placed to identify and understand local issues and to deliver solutions.'

John Rose, Wales Director at The National Lottery Community Fund, added: 'It's incredibly rewarding to see the incredible work that Community & Voluntary Support Conwy offer their community and it has been wonderful to see how they have managed to adapt their services throughout the lockdown period.' In 2013, the organisation also received an £842,999 grant to manage a portfolio of 5 projects delivered over 4 years. The portfolio facilitated, enabled and encouraged people in the 'harder to reach' groups to improve service delivery in their communities. Target groups included people with disabilities, disadvantaged and minority groups, single parents and Welsh speakers."

<https://www.northwalespioneer.co.uk/news/20018373.community-car-help-rural-areas-south-conwy/>

## Wales - Electric Vehicles Help Transport Newtown's Elderly and Disabled People

County Times: "Newtown & District Dial a Ride are now reducing their carbon footprint by using an electric car to transport elderly and disabled residents to appointments at GP surgeries, hospital and vaccination centres. The use of fully electric vehicles (EVs) has been made possible by TripTo, a community led, non-profit, electric car hire service based in Newtown. Stephen Evans, Dial a Ride manager, said 'We are so grateful to TripTo for providing us with an electric car, especially now petrol and diesel prices are so high. The cars are great to drive and very quiet which makes it much easier to hold a conversation with our passengers. Some of our passengers are now requesting that we pick them up in the electric car.' Working with Open Newtown, TripTo is a car club set up to enable community access to green transport in an affordable way. Mick Brown said, on behalf of Open Newtown: 'TripTo is a great scheme for the community because not everyone wants the expense and hassle of owning a car, or perhaps your family only needs a second car occasionally, this is much cheaper than owning and running one.'

TripTo has recently received funding from the Welsh Government to provide extra support to deal with the significant winter transport pressures. As well as providing low-cost green transport for local people, TripTo is now also able to provide EVs to some local charities and the voluntary sector free of charge.

TripTo also has car clubs in Welshpool, Machynlleth and Llanidloes. Andrew Capel, one of the founders of TripTo, said: 'Our fully electric cars have zero tailpipe emissions making them greener, cleaner and better for the environment. They are also much

nicer to drive since they have instant torque, which means they are very responsive. One of the first things drivers notice when switching to an EV is the quietness of the vehicle, which creates a far more comfortable driving experience.' The cars have a range of at least 160 miles but many people are still reluctant to make the change to EVs as they worry about running out of charge. However, there is no shortage of charging points locally. TripTo has installed charging points where its cars are parked and there are many other charging points at council car parks, visitor attractions, petrol stations and business, with several superstores now even offering free charging."

<https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/20055135.dial-rides-electric-vehicles-help-transport-elderly-disabled/>



## Northumberland - Charity's £50k Boost for Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Northumberland Gazette: "An Ashington charity has received a funding boost to help it mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. WATBus Community Transport is one of 93 organisations across the county to be awarded funding from the Platinum Jubilee Fund, which has been launched by The National Lottery Community Fund to celebrate 70 years of Her Majesty the Queen's reign. WATBus will use the £50,000 grant to provide transport to destinations throughout Northumberland and the surrounding areas allowing guided cycling activities for families, recruitment of volunteers and also working in partnership with Vision Northumberland (formally known as Northumberland County Blind Association) to provide trips to places of interest visited by Queen Elizabeth II during her reign.

Karen Cox, project coordinator at WATBus, said: 'We are delighted to receive The Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund award, this will enable us to provide free family cycle rides and outings for people with visual difficulties helping to keep people connected and less isolated. We are looking forward to working with Vision Northumberland and the people they support across Northumberland. We would like to thank the National Lottery players who help to make projects like this possible.' Julie Boyack, CEO of Vision Northumberland, said: 'Vision

Northumberland are delighted to be working with WATBus on the Jubilee Project. Visually impaired people have been especially affected by isolation during the last two years, many still haven't been out during this time. This project is





a fantastic opportunity to get people back out into local community, socialise, have fun and celebrate the Queens Jubilee.'

The Platinum Jubilee weekend – June 2 to 5 – will also be celebrated with The Big Jubilee Lunch. Blondel Cluff CBE, Chair of The National Lottery Community Fund, said: 'This Platinum Jubilee year is a special moment for the nation and, thanks to National Lottery players, many more people will have the opportunity to come together and celebrate. Charities and good causes we support will help capture community spirit and pride during this historic, celebratory year, enabling people to prosper and thrive in 2022 and beyond.' Culture Secretary, Nadine Dorries, said: 'Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is a wonderful opportunity to bring people together and this funding will play an important part helping more than 90 community groups get involved to celebrate 70 years of dedicated service.'  
<https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/news/people/charitys-ps50k-boost-for-queens-platinum-jubilee-celebrations-3621401>

## County Durham – Teesdale Charity Helping Residents Get Finances Back on Track

Teesdale Mercury: "A rural charity's drive to help people living in remote parts of Teesdale and Weardale cope with the rising cost of living is being supported by a grant. Utass (Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services) runs a range of projects and services for the community and farmers. The charity says it has seen an increase in the number of people looking for financial advice, as concerns grow about the rising cost of living. Staff are helping people regain control by finding appropriate support. A £3,000



Newcastle Building Society grant will help Utass meet this growing demand... Donna Stubbs, Newcastle Building Society's community manager, added: 'Utass provides a brilliant example of how a community organisation can make a tangible difference to the quality of life that people in their area can enjoy. Connecting communities to a better financial future is absolutely central to the society's way of working and we're very pleased to be supporting an initiative which aims for the same goal.' As well as financial support, Utass also organises other events, services, training and activities for dales people of all ages, including training, farm business support, youth drop-in sessions, retired farmers' lunches, music and memories singing sessions, group trips and outings and social sessions, such as discussion groups and weekly creative coffee mornings. Space is also available at its Middleton-in-Teesdale premises for groups to hold events. Utass also runs a community transport service which makes two fully accessible minibuses available for residents and organisations. The charity also hosts a satellite Post Office service two days a week. Call 01833 641010."

<https://www.teesdalemercury.co.uk/news/charity-helping-residents-get-finances-back-on-track>

## Nottinghamshire - Charity's Shock at Council's Decision Not to Fund Transport Scheme

NottsTV: "Staff at a Broxtowe charity say they are shocked at Nottinghamshire County Council's decision not to fund a transport scheme which helps people get to appointments and social events. The Helpful Bureau in Stapleford, which helps elderly and disabled people to live independently across the borough, said it has consistently received funding from Nottinghamshire County Council for its transport scheme in the past. But the charity discovered earlier this month that this year the scheme has not received any funding towards

its wheelchair accessible van. A council spokesperson said The Helpful Bureau did not meet all of the criteria in its application. The charity had applied for £24,000 of funding to go towards running costs and the salary of a new driver for its vehicle, which can transport one wheelchair user and four passengers at a cost of £1 per person per mile.

Heather Bessant, operations and finance manager at the charity, said more than 600 people are registered to use the service, and it is used by around eight people a week. She said the charity was not expecting to receive the full amount – but was shocked to find it had received nothing. The charity did receive funding towards three of its other schemes, but Ms Bessant said the funds are ring-fenced and cannot be used towards transport costs. She said: 'Nottinghamshire County Council have funded our transport scheme for 40 years. Ten years ago they gave us the wheelchair accessible vehicle to support residents. Now we have had two weeks' notice that we don't have any funding for our next financial year. How are they expecting us to run the scheme without any funding? To get nothing is crazy, we were very shocked. Transport has a knock-on effect on our other schemes. Our transport brings people to lunch club, takes people on trips and helps people get to befriending groups. A trip to lunch club might be the only hot meal someone has that week. Socialisation really makes a difference to their lives and we have several wheelchair users who can't afford wheelchair accessible taxis.'

County Councillor Kate Foale (Lab) added: 'The Helpful Bureau does some fantastic work. What concerns me is that this scheme provides transport in the community for people who can't otherwise get out and about. It concerns me generally with funding that everything is ring-fenced. It feels like if you don't tick the criteria you can't do the work that we need in the community. If we care about people's independence, community transport ought to be a priority.' The charity also helps residents with gardening and decorating, as well as activities, day trips and befriending. It has started a campaign online to raise £5,000 to fund the scheme.



Ms Bessant added: 'We will lose the service if we can't get the funds – but that would be the last resort. The over-70s were the first to be restricted and have been for the longest time. Now people are out of lockdown restrictions they want to get out and about. We're seeing an increase in demand. We've got 14 volunteer drivers at the moment and they are busy.' Mark Walker, group manager for the communities team at the county council said: 'The Helpful Bureau applied for Local Communities Funding (LCF) towards five of its projects and was successful with three applications, meaning over the next four years they will receive a total of £120,540 in LCF money. This is one of the larger funding amounts we have allocated out of the 70 groups awarded this type of grant. To ensure that we are fair in our distribution of funds, all applications are very carefully assessed against the same set of criteria. This includes asking applicants to be clear on what plans and match-funding are already in place to maintain their projects. In the case of two of the Helpful Bureau's applications, not all of the criteria were met. As with any unsuccessful application, we have spoken with the Helpful Bureau to explain why we were not able to make an award in these two cases, and we have offered information about further help and support, including a reminder that we are still welcoming applications for one-off, smaller revenue bids of up to £5,000. We are happy to discuss this further with them. We are proud that our discretionary Local Communities Fund is supporting groups, charities and voluntary organisations across the county, especially as Nottinghamshire continues its recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Demand for this support has been unprecedented and £1.2 million has been allocated so far.'

<https://nottstv.com/charitys-shock-at-councils-decision-not-to-fund-transport-scheme/>



## York - Council Accused of 'Smoke and Mirrors' Over City Centre Access

York Press: "Disability rights campaigners have accused the council of using 'smoke and mirrors' as the authority presses on with measures it says will improve access to the city centre. A number of 'city centre access improvements' were approved by Cllr Andy D'Agorne on Tuesday, as mitigations – following the council's decision to remove the exemption which let blue badge holders park in the city's footstreets. But York Accessibility Action's Alison Hume, speaking afterwards, said they were 'tinkering at the edges'. Groups and charities supporting disability rights are united in their call for the council to reverse its blue badge ban, Ms Hume added. The decision, taken by City of York Council's executive in November, has provoked strong opposition and £10,000 has been raised to fund legal challenges.

The council say it is necessary to allow for the installation of bollards to prevent terror attacks. Campaigner Flick Williams criticised the council's claim it was improving 'safety and mobility for all within York's footstreet area' when the council has itself admitted some blue badge holders will be unable to access the city centre altogether. She said: 'Please stop using the word "all" when you have already accepted that some are excluded, left behind and are



permanently shut out of their own city – smoke and mirrors at every turn.' David Harbourne, chair of York CVS, said the council's initial decision-making process was 'deeply flawed'. The council's plan to improve access by creating more dropped kerbs and improving paving has been slowed due to the historic nature of the streets, including cellars and utilities being close to the pavement surface, but the £250,000 works are continuing.

There have been 32 new disabled bays created around the footstreets, but campaigners have said many are too far away, too small or that they are often used by food delivery drivers. A job advert for the role of an access officer, who will work with disabled people to improve access, is about to be put out. Other proposed measures include investing in dial-a-ride services, improving access to disabled toilets and updating the council's website with the latest information. Ms Hume said the council was not going to win campaigners over with such measures. 'The council is paying lip-service to disabled people in York,' she added. 'What is the point of consulting if you are not listening or hearing? There's been a gradual exclusion of disabled people in York over the years – the closure of the footstreets was the final straw.'

Cllr D'Agorne, executive member for transport, said the blue badge decision 'wasn't an easy one for the executive'. He added: 'This programme of work is very much to acknowledge that the city isn't accessible for all at the moment and we want to try to make it more accessible for as many people as we possibly can. The reports coming back to my decision sessions are to give transparency about what action is being taken and for the opportunity to give representations on things that we can be doing better.' A consultation is currently underway on plans to permanently remove all but a few vehicles from city footstreets.

<https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/20012788.council-accused-smoke-mirrors-york-city-centre-access/>

## Southend - Improvements Made but Work to do for SEND Transport Service

Southend Council: "Council-run transport services delivered by joint venture company Vecteo have got better but still need further improvement says a report to the council's audit committee. Vecteo is a joint venture partnership between Southend-on-Sea City Council and London Hire Community Services,



created to deliver transport services for home to school transport for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), adults with learning disabilities, supervised contact, Dial-a-Ride and independent travel training. The report is an overall summary of different reports following the poor performance of home to school transport to children with SEND in September 2021.

It acknowledges the results of a parent satisfaction survey carried out in December 2021, with 74% of respondents saying that improvements to the service have been made and 81.5% responding positively when asked about general satisfaction levels. Better communication is one of the improvements parents have made clear they are keen to see. The report also summarises the key themes and issues from an internal 'lessons learned' report, an independent audit carried out by Price Waterhouse Cooper, an internal audit into the awarding of the contract to London Hire for a joint venture (JV) partnership, and the parent / carer satisfaction survey...

Cllr Ron Woodley, cabinet member for transport, asset management and inward investment, said: 'It is clear from this report that council officers have worked hard to make improvements to the service and therefore need to develop better ways of working with London Hire to create a good JV partnership and therefore a better service, for our residents. It is also clear from this report that there is still a lot of work to be done. I'm glad these reports and audits have been compiled so we can continue with plans to tackle them head on. What happened in September can never and should never happen again – our residents deserve better.' The report recommends further internal audit work to keep track of future changes and improvements to the service and the contract..."

<https://www.southend.gov.uk/news/article/2525/improvements-made-but-work-to-do-for-send-transport-service>

## Woking - Bus Depot with 63 Spaces Approved for Bustler Community Transport

Surrey Live: "A new bus depot with 63 spaces has been approved in Woking for the borough's community transport service. Bustler says their relocation from Westfield to Maybury will help to speed up their changeover to electric vehicles. Woking Borough Council's planning committee gave consent yesterday (March 22) for a bus depot and MOT test bay in Monument Way West Industrial Estate, off Boundary Road. Bustler's dial-a-ride buses take Woking residents with reduced mobility or a permanent or temporary disability to shops, health centres and hospitals. Currently they are based by St Marks Church, with vehicle maintenance and MOTs done at Goldsworth Road Industrial Estate. Now they have planning permission to move to the former gas works off Boundary Road, a site that has been redundant for over 30 years. Two residents there had concerns about air quality from diesel fumes and said the junction from Boundary Road into Walton Road is already a bottleneck. Planning Officer Benjamin Bailey told councillors Bustler hopes half of their fleet will be electric by the time this becomes their base, and are aiming to have a fully electric fleet by 2030.



Woking Borough Council's policy only requires at least five per cent of the parking spaces to have active EV charging points, but after the meeting, managing director and CEO Guy Padfield-Wilkins said they were looking to have chargers in 50 per cent of the spaces, which would supply all the buses as they stay charged for two days. He said: 'The new location will provide for us the infrastructure for charging the electric vehicles, it will help speed up the process. We hope to have moved in there within the next couple of years.'

Access for buses into the site will be via a new

access road from Monument Way West. Ward councillor Tahir Aziz (Lab, Canalside) said in the planning meeting: 'I've no problem with relocating the buses, we have to rehouse them somewhere and it's not a bad spot. The only problem I can see is in the short-term until we have the new access road built this is a bottleneck and with additional buses coming in and out...'

Committee chair Louise Morales (LD, Hoe Valley) said: 'I live very close to their current site and it is just used for parking buses overnight and during the daytime it's empty. There is a tiny bit of movement at 7am and again at the end of the day but not very much in between.' There will also be 16 staff car parking spaces as well as a separate car park with 17 spaces accessible to users of the industrial estate. Southern Gas Network determined development can go ahead without affecting a nearby high pressure gas pipeline."

<https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/bus-depot-63-spaces-approved-23475861>

## Derbyshire - Brother with Down's Syndrome, 41, will 'Wither Away' if Day Centre Closes as Planned

Derby Telegraph: "A devoted sister is pleading with the council to keep a Derbyshire day centre open for fear of her brother feeling abandoned. She explained how she believes her brother would 'wither away' at home without the centre to support him. Scott Denman, 41, from Langley Mill, uses the Whitemoor Day Centre service in Belper three days a week. Living with severe Down's Syndrome and registered blind, the centre has helped him for the past 23 years. Dawn Denman-Jones, 49, a trading manager at Argos, from Heanor, has started a petition to try to save the service that supports her brother. Without it, she feels he would be left feeling abandoned at home. She said: 'He's been going there since he was 18, he's now 41. They do so much with him, they do drama, art, boxing and wrestling. Our dad had been really poorly for the past five years or so, and Whitemoor was the absolute lifeline for him and offered respite for my mum. 'When our dad passed away in August last year, I don't think mum would have got through without Whitemoor. They had Scott even on the days he wasn't down to go, it's not just a day centre for us, they're like a second family. I don't even know what it would mean for us if that stopped for Scott. If that stops for Scott, he would just wither away at home.'

Scott uses a community transport link to visit the centre three days a week, and the other days he is on the computer doing activities with the centre remotely. Without the centre, Dawn worries that he would be stuck at home with nothing to do. Derbyshire County Council initially revealed its plans to close eight special needs centres across the county last month. Councillor Natalie Hoy, the authority's cabinet member for adult care, claimed closing the centres would enable the council to 'make better use of the resources we have available to help more people with learning





disabilities and/or who are autistic to lead more independent and fulfilled lives'. Dawn added that the way they were told about the closure also bothered their family. Receiving no information from their social worker, the family only found out about the reduction to the service when Whitemoor employees rang them directly. She added: 'It was really weird, in January or February, mum got a phone call from Whitemoor saying that Scott would be going on his usual Thursday and Friday, and then that would be it and he wouldn't be going anymore. I found it really strange that Whitemoor would ring up and say that. Three weeks ago we heard there was going to be a meeting about changes in Derbyshire for service users and that's when I got the information about the proposals to close eight of the day centres in Derbyshire. It always seems to be the vulnerable people that can't speak up for themselves that get the cuts. I have to speak up for them, as I know other people are, I wanted to do my bit to help. I know how devastating closing Whitemoor would be.' After launching a petition against the proposal to close Whitemoor and seven other day centres in the region, hundreds of people have shown their support. The petition has so far received more than 1,600 signatures, including from celebrity Katie Price. You can access the petition here: <https://www.change.org/p/derbyshire-county-council-keep-whitemoor-day-centre-belper-open>."

<https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/news/local-news/brother-downs-syndrome-41-wither-6848902>

## Devon - Community Transport driver Eric Honoured



Mid-Devon Advertiser: "The longest serving driver with Dawlish Community Transport has been honoured by having a vehicle named after him. Eric Smallridge retired last year after 30 years volunteering for the charity and having been involved since it was created. The charity's newest wheelchair-accessible Citroen Berlingo has been named after Eric in his honour. In a surprise unveiling at the community transport headquarters, Eric's name was revealed on the car. Office manager Sally Preston said: 'We thought there was no better name for the vehicle than Eric. He's been here so long, longer than anyone, we managed to surprise him and the mayor was there to thank him as well. We wanted to honour him and remind him although he has retired, he is always in our hearts.'

The vehicle joining the charity's fleet will be used to transport passengers to medical appointments and for social and wellbeing trips. The charity was gifted funds to buy a new vehicle as the charity generally keeps them for only about 10 to 12 years. However, due to a national shortage, they were unable to obtain the bespoke vehicle they actually wanted. This is a second-hand car which replaces one of the decommissioned vehicles until the bespoke one becomes available. Last year, Eric was presented with a special commendation at the National Community Transport awards as part of the Lifetime Achievement category. Eric, who is in his 70s, began volunteering in 1993 as a driver, having taken a work break and has been on board until retiring last year. Over the years he has served hundreds of people."

<https://www.middevonadvertiser.co.uk/news/community-transport-driver-eric-honoured-541132>

Also at Dawlish CT...



## Devon - Transport Charity is all the Stronger after Cash Boost

Dawlish Today: "A Dawlish charity has been awarded a share of more than £500,000 to support a new training initiative. Dawlish Community Transport is part of a Devon-wide partnership developing a 'Stronger Together' project aimed at creating opportunities for improving skills. It is one of 13 projects being supported by Devon County Council's successful bid to the Government's Community Renewal Fund. Announced in November, the county was granted £9.3 million, the largest funding allocation in the UK. The investment is supporting the 13 innovative projects, including a range of employment and training, environmental and community investment.

In total, the £9.3m programme is expected to help 3,500 people enter new training opportunities, support 350 businesses, and facilitate the creation of 800 new jobs. Of the funding allocation, a total of £510,459 has gone to Mid Devon Mobility for the Stronger Together initiative. The social transport and employment hybrid project, led by the Mid Devon Mobility VCS, working in collaboration with TRIP CTA, Dawlish CTA and Ivybridge Ring and Ride, supports individuals from harder to reach backgrounds in rural areas to access employment opportunities. The project will provide a new Give Back Scheme enabling both long and short-term volunteering opportunities, upskilling, accredited training and improve connectivity focusing on re-employability across Devon.

Sally Preston, manager of Dawlish Community Transport, said: 'We are really looking forward to working in collaboration with the three other community transport associations across Devon to deliver this project. It will bring a huge number of opportunities through training and upskilling and can support services to people throughout the whole of Devon. Our charities are known particularly for helping their older, less-able and disabled communities. However this project encompasses a new set of beneficiaries and is for the whole community to benefit, both younger and older. We believe the project and the collaboration partnership will build for a better future for our communities we strive to serve. As a community transport service in this area, we have an opportunity to support a recruitment drive of new volunteers to the charity and will offer specific courses directly related to transport. These may also be of benefit not only to the wider transport groups but also individuals in our community.'

Cllr Bob Deed, chairman of the Devon Districts Forum, said: 'The support this programme will provide, will benefit so many people across the county. It's great that so many diverse projects and businesses from all over Devon are being supported. The positive impact from this scheme will hopefully benefit many of our local communities and businesses.'

<https://www.dawlish-today.co.uk/news/transport-charity-is-all-the-stronger-after-cash-boost-543679>



## Cumbria - Penrith MP's Call to Tackle 'Rural Isolation' with Funding for Bus Services

The Cumberland News: "A call has been made for collaborative working to address connectivity issues in rural Cumbria. Penrith and the Borders MP Neil Hudson has issued a call to address a lack of connectivity in rural areas of Cumbria. In a debate on Levelling-Up rural communities in Cumbria, Mr Hudson urged the Government to set out suitable funding strategies to support councils and operators in providing enough public transport services. The Penrith and the Borders MP said that 'rural isolation' is a major issue in his constituency which is the largest by land mass in England.



Mr Hudson said: 'These major infrastructure projects that are going up and down the land are very important these major arteries, that's very good. But we also need to consider the veins and the capillaries. In rural areas, the capillaries are things like rural buses and rural roads and we very much need to address that. For buses, we very much need to look at the funding structure, I very much welcome the Rural Mobility Fund and Cumbria will benefit from that. Sadly in 2014,

Cumbria County Council took the decision to stop using Central Government monies to subsidise commercial services and unfortunately some services had to close because of that and that left a big gap. I think we need to revisit that at Central Government and local government levels, we have fantastic volunteer schemes in Cumbria. We have the Fellrunner Bus, the Border Rambler Bus and we have council run schemes like the Rural Wheels, Village Wheels and Community Wheels in Alston Moor. But I really want Central Government and local government to work together with local operators. I've met with many private operators who stand ready and waiting to reinstate many of these services that were cut and actually if we get the funding structure right and if local government spends the money that is given to it sensibly by Central Government, I think we can fulfil that need.'

A spokesperson for the council said: 'Cumbria County Council has not subsidised commercial bus services since 2013, due to receiving no funding to do so. Bus services in Cumbria are now run on a purely commercial basis – where there is demand and where operators can run a sustainable service, they will run. The council's role is to explore community transport alternatives, such as Rural Wheels or voluntary driver schemes, where a bus service is not viable – details of these are available via our website.'

<https://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/20021351.penrith-mps-call-tackle-rural-isolation-funding-bus-services/>

## Leicestershire - Lutterworth Transport Charity Celebrates a National First by Launching a New Wheelchair-accessible Electric Vehicle

Harborough Mail: "A trailblazing Lutterworth transport charity is celebrating a huge ground-breaking national first by launching a new wheelchair-accessible electric vehicle. The Harborough district town's Town Crier Pete Hollinshead launched Lutterworth Community Transport's pioneering project in his own inimitable way at Lutterworth Ford on Friday night (March 25). The versatile new vehicle is thought to be the first to come into service with a community transport operator anywhere in the UK. The charity, which has been operating since the 1990s, supports people in the Lutterworth area facing rural and social isolation by providing transport for them. Public-spirited volunteer drivers make up the backbone of the hard-working organisation as they take local people away on trips as well as ferrying them to vital appointments.

Boosted by grant funding, Lutterworth Community Transport has now bought a battery-powered Nissan MPV converted to transport a person in a wheelchair plus up to three passengers. As most trips are local, a usable range of 150 miles between charging is proving to be ample. Today Graeme Thomson, manager of Lutterworth Community Transport, told the Harborough Mail: 'This new service for the residents of Lutterworth and surrounding villages has only been possible due to the incredible generosity of GLP Ltd, the developers of Magna Park through their Local Area Community Fund, and Leicestershire County Council.'







Cllr Janette Ackerley, representing the firm's Local Area Community Fund, said: 'We were delighted to get involved as this is a vital service as so many people can't access essential services due to lack of transport.' Cllr Rosita Page, a county councillor for Lutterworth ward, said: 'I was given a budget by the county council to spend on rural transport in my area. And when I heard that Community Transport were looking to buy an electric vehicle to enable them to carry people in their wheelchair this was the ideal project for the money,' she said. It ticks so many

boxes, being green, improving access for people with disabilities and supporting the voluntary sector.' Lutterworth Community Transport is operated by Lutterworth Volunteer Centre, a registered charity. You can find out more about the well-established local set-up here:

<https://www.luttct.com/>.

<https://www.harboroughmail.co.uk/news/people/lutterworth-transport-charity-celebrates-a-national-first-by-launching-a-new-wheelchair-accessible-electric-vehicle-3630893>

See also: <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/lutterworth-town-crier-visits-local-transport-firm-to-announce-electric-vehicle-launch/>

## South Africa - Special Needs Transport Suspended Following Taxi Violence in Cape Town



Cape Town Etc: "The City of Cape Town has suspended its Dial-A-Ride service in Nyanga, Phillipi, Crossroads and Samora Machel following the alleged taxi violence on Friday, 18 March. The Dial-A-Ride is an essential service for commuters with special needs who cannot make use of conventional transport. According to the City's Mayoral Committee for Urban Mobility, Rob Quintas, the City cannot risk the lives of passengers and its staff while the violence continues. 'It's very disheartening to think that

these individuals with special needs, who are most vulnerable and dependent on the City's assistance, have to be left stranded in difficult economic times. With the service now being suspended, residents do not have certainty about their transport to work or important appointments,' Quintas said.

Quintas further indicated that the City will only resume operations once it is safe to do so as they are monitoring other volatile areas and may need to suspend the service in other parts of the city as well. 'The service provider will keep users informed. I appeal to all to remain calm as the violence will not solve anything, in fact, it will only make matters worse and must stop,' Quintas added. Meanwhile, the Golden Arrow Bus Service has also suspended its operating service in Nyanga after two of its buses were torched during alleged taxi violence. According to a statement by the bus company, they had no option but to institute these measures as their main priority is the safety of their passengers and staff. 'Unfortunately we have had to move out of Nyanga completely and are operating from the N2/Borcherds Quarry. Khayelitsha buses also have diversions in place but officials will be on the scene,' the statement said."

<https://www.capetownetc.com/news/special-needs-transport-suspended-following-taxi-violence-in-cape-town/>

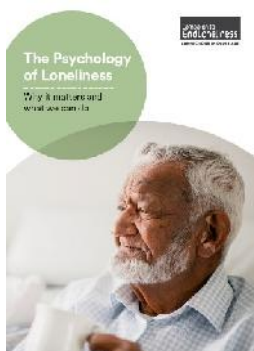
## CTA – New Director Appointed

CTA: "A big welcome to Caroline Whitney - our new Director for England! We're thrilled to have her as part of the team supporting our fantastic members!" Caroline was previously Chief Executive Officer with CVS Cheshire East.

<https://twitter.com/CTAUK1/status/1513472089180811273/photo/1>



## CTA England - Potential Small Grants Fund for Tackling Loneliness Projects



CTA, Sean Ray: "In January, CTA applied to the Department for Transport's Tackling Loneliness with Transport Fund to run a small grants scheme for 12-month pilot projects that help build an evidence base about 'what works' in tackling loneliness interventions through community transport. We got through Stage 1 and need to submit a comprehensive Business Plan. CTA's project proposal includes:

- ) administering revenue grants of between £10,000 - £35,000 to up to 20 community transport operators;
- ) providing capacity building and fundraising information, training and support to help participating operators increase their income and continue their schemes beyond the 12-months of the pilot;
- ) establishing a Peer Network for the participating operators to share learning as the pilot schemes progress and ensure we capture key information to cascade across our wider CT networks;
- ) develop a Knowledge Building Hub on CTA website and best practice resources for tackling loneliness interventions; and
- ) developing a 'CT Friends' training model similar to the Dementia Friends model, encouraging drivers, passenger assistants and volunteers to all contribute to the national conversation around loneliness.

Back in December 2021, we shared information about the Fund in our News Brief and asked you what you thought – a number of you have confirmed your interest in applying for a grant if our bid gets through this second stage. We now want to make sure we give everyone a fair opportunity to express interest, and build up a strong case for our sector..."

## CTA Northern Ireland - Community Transport: Help Unlock its Full Potential

CTA, Noeleen Lynch: "Northern Ireland goes to the polls on May 5th to choose 90 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) across 18 constituencies. This is a key opportunity with the upcoming election to review, renew and strengthen the important relationship that Community Transport has with our elected representatives, potential government ministers and government departments.

Department for Infrastructure (DFI) is a key partner for the Community Transport sector in Northern Ireland as most Community Transport operators receive critical financial support through government grants. These grants come from the Rural Transport Fund (RTF) and The Transport Programme for People with Disabilities (TPPD) both administered by DFI. RTF primary objective is to give people in rural areas improved access to work, education, healthcare, shopping and recreational activities and by so doing assists in reducing their social isolation. This is achieved through the Rural Community Transport Partnership's (RCTPs) 'Dial a Lift' scheme and the service is predominately used by the elderly and people with disabilities. TPPD funds Disability Action Transport Scheme (DATS) who provide a

specialised transport service for people living in towns or cities who find it difficult to use public transport. In partnership with our members across Northern Ireland, we have developed CTA's manifesto for NI's Assembly Elections: Community Transport – Help unlock its full potential." Manifesto is available here: <https://ctauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/NI-Manifesto-Community-Transport-Help-unlock-its-full-potential.pdf>  
<https://ctauk.org/community-transport-help-unlock-its-full-potential/>

**cta** Community Transport Association  
Community Transport Association  
Community Transport Association

**Community Transport - Help unlock its full potential**  
CTA NORTHERN IRELAND MANIFESTO AHEAD OF THE 2022 ASSEMBLY ELECTION

**Who are the Community Transport Association?**  
The Community Transport Association (CTA) is a national charity representing all those who provide community transport services. CTA has a large presence in Northern Ireland, working with over 100 members who provide essential and specialist transport for all.

**What is Community Transport?**  
Community transport is a service that provides transport for people who are unable to use public transport for their usual needs. It is a vital part of the transport system for people who are unable to use public transport for their usual needs. It is a vital part of the transport system for people who are unable to use public transport for their usual needs.

**Support Sustainable and Multi-Year Funding**  
Support fair and equitable funding for the community transport sector in Northern Ireland. The current funding is insufficient to meet the needs of the sector and is at risk of being cut. We need a multi-year funding agreement to ensure the sector can plan and invest in the future.

**Address Poverty and Prevent Loneliness**  
Community transport is a vital service for people who are unable to use public transport for their usual needs. It is a vital part of the transport system for people who are unable to use public transport for their usual needs. It is a vital part of the transport system for people who are unable to use public transport for their usual needs.

**Collaborate with Community Transport to Deliver Net Zero**  
Community transport is a vital service for people who are unable to use public transport for their usual needs. It is a vital part of the transport system for people who are unable to use public transport for their usual needs. It is a vital part of the transport system for people who are unable to use public transport for their usual needs.

**What Next?**  
Share your manifesto. Contact your local MP or MLA to discuss your manifesto. Contact your local MP or MLA to discuss your manifesto. Contact your local MP or MLA to discuss your manifesto.

### CTA - Statement of AMAP Rates and Volunteers

CTA: "The Community Transport Association is calling for an immediate review of the approved mileage rate that can be claimed by volunteers owing to its growing impact on volunteer recruitment and retention. Although the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP) rate is primarily aimed at employees driving on company business it is also used to reimburse volunteers using their own cars in providing journeys through volunteer car schemes. The current rate was established in 2012 at 45p per mile (after an increase of 5p) and since then, according to the RAC Foundation, the cost of motoring has increased by more than 25% and this was before the fuel cost increases as a result of the invasion of Ukraine. The Community Transport Association is calling for an immediate review of the approved mileage rate that can be claimed by volunteers, due to its growing impact on volunteer recruitment and retention and what that means for people who rely on community transport services..."

Volunteer car schemes are one of the most cost effective means of enabling people with mobility difficulties to retain their freedom and independence. These services are an essential part of the transport system in helping people access vital public services, particularly to NHS appointments. This was recognised in the NHS England Non-Emergency Patient Transport Review Report published in August 2021 which noted 'Although around three million people formally or informally volunteer in providing transport generally, healthcare schemes have reported struggling with volunteer recruitment and retention'. Without such services people would need to rely on costlier forms of transport and we would be likely to see a growth in missed appointments, with the associated risks to health and wellbeing and additional public service costs that can come with that. In addition, Volunteer Car Schemes provide important social contact for people who are experiencing loneliness and isolation for those who would otherwise struggle to make social contact.

We understand that companies are able to make an extra payment over the approved amount which must be treated as part of an employee's salary and disclosed to HMRC. However, this is of little benefit in respect of volunteers who are not salaried and therefore outside of the payroll processing which would manage the provision of such an additional allowance. If a



community transport provider is willing and able to pay over the approved rate it places a burden on the individual volunteer to complete a self-assessment tax return. The likely impact of this would be a further barrier to volunteer recruitment and retention. A separation of the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment for volunteers together with index-linked increases, appears to be a fair and workable solution which would give organisations the option to enhance their reimbursement without creating an additional administrative burden for themselves or their volunteers.

We recognise that what may be required is a short-term fix, given the likely growth in use of electric vehicles which requires a more fundamental reassessment of how to fairly reimburse volunteers. We are calling upon other charities affected by the impact of the increased cost of motoring, the HMRC and the Department for Transport to work with us and our members to find a solution to this growing problem for the benefit of all those vulnerable people who rely on

volunteer car schemes to have a good quality of life and access the essential services that keep them in good shape. We also call upon the commissioners of services involving volunteer car schemes to make adequate provision for enabling an increased allowance that will ensure providers are able to recruit and retain sufficient volunteers to fulfil their commitments.

While we welcome the temporary reduction in fuel duty, we know this won't be enough to support the army of volunteers who power CT across the UK. We are calling upon other charities affected by the impact of the increased cost of motoring, the HMRC and the Department for Transport to work with us and our members to find a solution to this growing problem, for the benefit of the thousands of people across the country who rely on volunteer car schemes to enjoy a good quality of life. To get involved, contact the team on [hello@ctauk.org](mailto:hello@ctauk.org). If you are a charity or community group experiencing similar difficulties to CTA's members with recruiting volunteer car drivers or a membership body seeing this issue within your network please contact us via [hello@ctauk.org](mailto:hello@ctauk.org). It would be great to collaborate!" <https://ctauk.org/cta-statement-of-amap-rates-and-volunteers/>



## CTA Scotland - Scottish Town Centres Inquiry; CTA's Response

CTA, David Kelly: "Many of Scotland's town centres are struggling. The impact of the pandemic, as well as the inexorable rise of online shopping, the unrestrained growth of out-of-town retail and other changes in public policy and consumer behaviour, have changed our local high streets. Revitalising the high street is increasingly a focus for politicians and policymakers. The Economy and Fair Work Committee of the Scottish Parliament is conducting a timely inquiry into 'town centres and retail' as we recover from COVID-19. MSPs will make recommendations to the Scottish Government, local authorities and others that they conclude will create 'living and resilient town centres' in this new era. We've submitted a response to the Committee's call for views, because we believe it is important that MSPs understand the role of community-led initiatives like Community Transport schemes in building connected, thriving and sustainable communities.

It's been clear during the pandemic how many Scots rely on Community Transport to safely access town centres and retail...We hope that the Committee will recognise that efforts to revitalise Scotland's high streets by increasing car dependency – rather than supporting



accessible, inclusive and sustainable travel to town centres and retail by investing in Community Transport – are damaging and counter-productive. We're also taking our CTA manifesto to local candidates ahead of the Scottish local elections on 5 May to call on them to protect funding for Community Transport schemes and build more sustainable communities. Find out how you can join our campaign here:

<https://ctauk.org/scottishlocalelections2022/>.

What do you think of our submission to the Committee? How do you think Community Transport can help revitalise town centres? Send your feedback to [david.kelly@ctauk.org](mailto:david.kelly@ctauk.org)."

<https://ctauk.org/scottishlocalelections2022/>

## England - £2.5 Million Package Announced to Help Disabled People Travel More Confidently

DfT: "The government has today (29 March 2022) announced a £2.5 million package to support disabled people travel more confidently on our transport network as it reopens after coronavirus (COVID-19). The new funding will include £1.5 million allocated to support all 13 Mobility Centres across England roll out a 'Hubs Mobility Service'. These vital services help people stay mobile after they have been advised to stop driving or if they are unable to learn to drive due to their disabilities, offering them advice on alternatives such as powered wheelchairs, community transport and local services. The hubs have been successfully piloted at 7 of the centres over the past 2 years and have already helped over 4,000 people regain and retain confidence to travel. The real-life benefits of staying mobile were highlighted in the Inclusive Transport Strategy, which sets out the link between reduced mobility and access to transport with loneliness and social isolation". The Driving Mobility charity has already been piloting the principles at seven of its centres.

The announcement was overshadowed when DfT also tried to claim that £1 million to improve access at seaports serving the Isle of Wight and the Isles of Scilly was new funding. Disability News Service had to question DfT twice before it finally admitted that the seaport funding had been announced in last year's much-criticised National Disability Strategy..."

Ahead of the announcement, Accessibility Minister Wendy Morton visited Queen Elizabeth's Foundation (QEF) for Disabled People's Mobility Centre in South London last Thursday (24 March 2022), where she met people who had benefitted from the Mobility Centre's services, to help them stay connected and independent. Wendy Morton Accessibility Minister said: 'This funding will help people travel with confidence and comes just in time as our nation rebuilds from COVID-19. We want to help everyone to be mobile and these vital Hubs Mobility Services will provide life-changing travel advice, keeping people connected to their friends, work and support networks. I was delighted to meet people benefitting from this service and to hear about the difference this important work has made to their lives.'

The visit coincided with QEF's 40th anniversary, celebrating opening the UK's first Mobility Centre and their first Mobility Open Day since the pandemic. The Minister was able to see and experience some of the assessments funded by the Department for Transport and carried out at Mobility Centres, including for people interested in using wheelchair accessible vehicles, adapted cars and powered wheelchairs.



Karen Deacon, QEF Chief Executive, said: 'We were delighted to welcome Minister Wendy Morton to QEF's Mobility Service to discuss how important it is to support people to improve their independent mobility and access public transport, to enable people to live the life they choose. Whether that be for young children through the fantastic Bugzi powered wheelchair, or people with a life-long disability or who have had a life changing medical event. Independent mobility and public transport should be equally accessible to everyone and it was great to see the Minister personally experiencing the challenges some face when relearning to drive in an adapted car and listening to the day-to-day travel challenges disabled people face on public transport'..."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/25-million-package-announced-to-help-disabled-people-travel-more-confidently>

## UK - Research Raises Questions over Use of 'Wheelchair Standard' in Public Transport'

Disability News Service: "The current 'wheelchair standard' used to ensure that vehicle and infrastructure designs across the transport sector are spacious enough only covers about half of all mobility aids used by disabled people in the UK, according to a government study. The new research, commissioned by the Department for Transport (DfT), says the government may need to consider updating the reference wheelchair standard to allow a greater proportion of disabled people to use rail, bus, taxi and private hire vehicles and transport infrastructure. It says that its 'key finding' is that 'the current reference wheelchair specification' covers only 54 per cent of all mobility aid users. The research was published this week as part of the government's ongoing review of the standard, which is due to report next year.



This week's report says that mobility aids are becoming bigger and heavier as disabled people expect them to have 'increased functionality and range', and this trend is expected to continue over the next 10 years. This is causing problems with on-vehicle spaces and toilets that are too small, and with insufficient height clearance in taxis and private hire vehicles. But the report warns that there are 'trade-offs' between making transport more accessible to those with larger mobility aids and 'the practicalities for transport operators to accommodate larger and more diverse mobility

aids within the physical space limits of conventionally sized public transport vehicles'. Wendy Morton, the accessible transport minister, told MPs this week that the research findings would be used 'to help form the broader evidence base to determine the design of future vehicles and transport infrastructure to meet mobility aid users' needs'.

<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/research-raises-questions-over-use-of-wheelchair-standard-in-public-transport/>



## Hertfordshire - Tory Councillor 'Embarrassed' by Government's Ukraine Refugees Support After 2,500 Mile Journey to Deliver Aid using Buntingford Community Area Transport

Hertfordshire Mercury: "A Conservative councillor has said he felt 'embarrassed' by the Government's response to supporting Ukrainian refugees after he made a mammoth 2,500 mile journey to deliver aid. County and East Herts district Councillor Jeff Jones (Conservative) drove to the Polish border last week with a minibus of donations to help those fleeing the Russian invasion of the country. However, he was left frustrated after Home Office delays meant they were unable to bring a family back from Poland, despite having a sponsor in Buntingford because their visa had not arrived in time. A Government spokesperson said the Home Office has made the visa process for refugees 'quicker and easier' to support Ukrainian refugees.



Cllr Jones, along with Ray Gough, Ben Gough and Richard Hall, set off on the trip on Monday, March 21 and returned on March 26, after delivering food, medical supplies and pet food to camps and centres on the border. The group had never undertaken a journey like this before, but said he felt the urge to do something after seeing pictures of the conflict. He said: 'We've been watching the dreadful scenes in Ukraine and you just feel like you want to help, you want to do something. You just feel like you want to help. We've got a community transport project in Buntingford, whereby we've got a minibus and the idea is it shuttles people around the town, and during Covid of course it couldn't run, and we suspended the service. The bus was sitting there, and I kept thinking to myself "this bus could be so useful out on the Ukrainian border, helping transport people".'

Around the same time, volunteers from the HertsLynx bus service suggested driving across Europe to help in some capacity. Cllr Jones added: 'They approached me and said they would like to do something for Ukraine, and he felt a bit helpless. They said "what about your minibus, can we borrow it?", and I said not only that, you can borrow it but I'm coming with you - and we'll put together a humanitarian aid trip.' The group collected tinned food, medical supplies, sleeping bags from locals in East Hertfordshire, as well as taking donations from local charity Rehoming Animal Telephone Service (RATS), which provided equipment and food for pets taken by refugees on their journeys.

In Przemysl, on the Polish-Ukrainian border, the group saw a former supermarket converted into a refugee centre housing 'hundreds' of people leaving the country. There, charities and organisations were grateful for the donations from Hertfordshire especially for items that were in short supply. However, delays to processing visas meant the group were unable to transport anyone back to Hertfordshire. Cllr Jones said: 'What was very rewarding was, because we had a priority list of donated items, the pet food, the medical supplies, tents, it was very good to realise we were taking the items they needed. It was very rewarding to know that we had helped out. The only downside we had was coming back, we were hoping to bring a Ukrainian family back with us to Buntingford as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We had made contact with the family, they were safe in an apartment just north of Warsaw, so the idea was on the way back we would be able to get the family back but the Home Office still hadn't issued their visa even though it had been way over a week, so that was really frustrating.'



The group did offer to transport them to Calais ahead of receiving a visa, but decided against moving the family away from their current apartment without a firm plan in place. Instead, the group were able to take one refugee towards Amsterdam airport, who then flew to Ireland, but the experience left Cllr Jones frustrated at the British response to helping refugees. He said: 'You can see it there, they've got a line of desks with the flags above the desk for each country and the idea is the desks are manned by volunteers helping people with their onward travel to those

destinations. The refugees would queue up there and put in their requests for onward travel, and of course at the UK desk there was no one at it. I asked the question, "where's the UK representative?" and they said there is a representative around but nobody wants to go to the UK because of the visa situation, so that was very disappointing to see.'

'It was embarrassing as a Brit, it would have been lovely if there was a group of people there wanting to go to the UK and we could say, "right we've got space on our minibus, let's go" - but there was nobody there.' Cllr Jones is hoping to complete the journey again, which involved two days of travelling either way, to provide more help to those still fleeing the conflict. He said councillors had used some of their locality budgets to fund the trips, and said they have enough raised to do 'four or five' journeys, if needed, but Cllr Jones hopes that Britain will do more to resettle those currently waiting in refugee centres. He added: 'I'm sure if the Home Office took a trip out there and saw the situation they may look at if this is the right thing, do we need all these checks and can we streamline it somehow?'"

<https://www.hertfordshiremercury.co.uk/news/hertfordshire-news/tory-councillor-embarrassed-governments-ukraine-6879903>

## Bristol - Four Towns & Vale Link Community Transport Fleet is Among Vehicles Set on Fire

Bristol247: "Fifteen minibuses and between eight and ten cars and vans have been almost completely destroyed in a spate of arson attacks. Fires were started in the early hours of Sunday morning in Stoke Gifford, Bradley Stoke, Little Stoke and Patchway. The attack on the Rolls Royce carpark in Patchway destroyed the Four Towns' entire fleet of community transport minibuses used by schools and charities. The first vehicle was set alight on New Road in Stoke Gifford, with cars also ablaze on Gatcombe Drive and Sandringham Road.

Some residents were woken up by vehicles' fuel tanks exploding but there have been no reports of injuries or damage to buildings.

In a statement, Avon & Somerset police said: 'Police and fire crews are investigating after a number of vehicles were deliberately set on fire in South Gloucestershire. The first call came in at around 1.30am on Sunday 3 April, reporting a vehicle fire in New Road, Stoke Gifford... At this early stage the



damage is making it difficult to identify vehicles in order to notify the owners. We'd like to hear from anyone who finds their own vehicle has been damaged, as well as anyone with

information or dashcam, CCTV or other footage which could help our enquiries.' In a tweet, Angela Morey, a Labour councillor on Bradley Stoke Town Council, said that it was 'such a low day for our happy area...Can't believe the malice in torching the Four Towns' community minibuses, a vital service for so many in north Bristol. This cruel act has long lasting repercussions and I will do whatever I can to help.' In a video message, Morey added that she will be able to do 'whatever you need' for anybody who has been affected.

<https://www.bristol247.com/news-and-features/news/dozens-of-vehicles-set-on-fire-across-north-bristol/>

Also follow up story here: <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/school-transport-back-normal-south-6908242>.



BBC: " A charity that offers transport to vulnerable people has condemned an arson attack on 12 of its vehicles as 'despicable and mindless'. Four Towns and Vale Link Community Transport said half of its fleet was lost when 23 vehicles were set on fire across north Bristol on Sunday morning. Another charity, The Ark Bus, lost both of its minibuses in the attack, which it described as 'a pointless waste'. Police said CCTV footage suggests two people may have been responsible. Four Towns and Vale

Link Community Transport is used by people in the Patchway, Filton, Bradley Stoke, Almondsbury and Thornbury areas, taking people to hospitals, schools and offering lifts to those with special needs. Its fleet of minibuses is parked at the Rolls Royce base in Filton, one of several locations targeted by the arsonists.

The charity's chair of trustees Dick Whittington said: "This is a despicable and mindless attack on a charity that provides a vital service to so many people, young and old. 'Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers are doing everything they can to keep the service going, we know how important it is to all our users.' The charity said it had been able to carry out 'most' of Monday's journeys but that some services had been cancelled. The Ark Bus lost both its minibuses, which were also parked at Rolls Royce. Jenny Bourne, who runs the charity, expressed her sorrow for everyone that had been affected by and lost vehicles during the incident. 'It's a pointless waste. It's going to affect so many people in different ways,' said Mrs Bourne. She said the two vehicles were used in outreach sessions in and around Bristol, offering free hot drinks and food and games session for children. 'The vans are an integral part of our work. We've been around for a decade and the vans are who we are and what we do,' she said. 'When I came home and saw the news and the level of destruction, you think it's not just us, it's people struggling at the moment with everything else. This is not what people need. It's really scary for everybody and I'm so sorry for everybody affected. It's just tragic.'" <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-60983979>

### Bristol - Metrobus Shattered with Driver Inside in Portway Attack

ITV: "An M1 Metrobus was attacked in Bristol – with the driver inside – leaving the passenger doors shattered. The vehicle was targeted in the early hours of Saturday 9 April on the Portway. The driver of the bus was on board when the attack took place but managed to escape unharmed. Jimmy Summerville, the general manager for HCT in the South West, said it was fortunate nobody has hurt. He said: 'This was the second incident we've had on the Portway in two months. Luckily the driver was





coming back to the depot with no passengers on board as the out of service sign was on but this is not something I expected any of my staff to go through. I feel that someone is going to get seriously injured so we have engaged with the police and the local authorities to see what we can do to deter this.'

The impact smashed the passenger doors and it is believed the culprit was stood far away from the vehicle when an object was thrown. It is not yet clear what was used to cause the damage but CCTV footage is currently being reviewed by Bristol Community Transport and the local authorities. Since January, there have been nine bus offences – including vandalism on public transport – in areas such as Inns Court and Bradley Stoke. In 2021, there were reports of rocks being thrown at buses although the cause of the damage in this case has not yet been identified.

<https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2022-04-12/bristol-metrobus-shattered-with-driver-inside-in-portway-attack>



## Devon - Late Christmas Celebration for Honiton Carers



Mid-Week Herald: "Honiton Carers Support Group held their Christmas celebration on Wednesday, April 6, after Covid forced them to postpone the event in December. The group gathered for a three-course lunch at the Hare & Hounds and drew the winning tickets in a raffle which raised more than £400. The prizes were three 'pamper hampers' packed with gifts and treats. Winnie Cameron, chair of Honiton Carers, said: 'The food was wonderful and expertly served by the lovely staff who proved nothing was too much trouble for them. We would like to thank the Hare & Hounds for a wonderful meal and TRIP Community Transport for driving some of our carers safely there and back home. We'd also like

to thank all the local businesses, far too many to mention, and all the carers who donated some lovely gifts for the hampers, as well as everyone who bought and sold tickets..."

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/honiton-carers-late-christmas-lunch-8892748>

## Scotland - Can Jeanetta Get Back on Dundee's 'Blether Bus' after Council Slashes Community Service?

The Courier: "Jeanetta Black has been campaigning for better public transport for her and her Dundee West End friends. Dundee City Council (DCC) recently cancelled her 'Blether Bus' to save money. The service helped elderly, often frail, passengers in the city who found it difficult to reach their nearest bus stop. Councillors agreed the local authority could no longer afford to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds subsidising "socially necessary but commercially uneconomic" bus services. Jeanetta and her husband Harry live in Newhall Gardens. The couple now face walking a potentially treacherous steep incline to reach Perth Road — their nearest bus route.

'Getting up the brae is the hardest thing,' she said. 'It's not just me. There are people living here who are even older and have heart stents and things like that.' With local elections fast approaching — what can Jeanetta do next? What support did the Blether Bus offer? While Jeanetta said the Blether Bus wasn't perfect it helped many in her community access essential

medical treatment. 'It would at least take you places where you could then easily get a bus into town or Ninewells, even if it didn't directly take you where you needed to go.' The retired nurse said: 'But now we have to get a taxi when we have appointments at Ninewells.'

The service ran in the West End, Clepington and Lochee. Is such a service too expensive for a local authority to run? The Blether Bus was initially taken off the roads during lockdown. The council said at the time the removal was only a temporary measure. DCC eventually blamed low passenger numbers and costs when finally cutting the service. But the service did not need to be as expensive as it was, Jeanetta claimed. She cites a public meeting set up by the council which saw lots of people say they'd like the bus to stop near them, but then were nowhere to be seen when the Blether Bus actually ran.

Jeanetta said: 'Why say you want something but then never use it? It was well used by people in Newhall Gardens. There were people here who relied on it.' What other options are available? Bringing back the Blether Bus, or something akin to it, has been a passion project for Dundee West End councillor Fraser Macpherson. He almost saved it from the axe at a council meeting last year. When councillors voted on the service, the Liberal Democrat councillor moved to keep the service. But Fraser's intervention was narrowly defeated, sealing the fate of the service. But he remains undeterred. At a more recent council meeting he put forward a motion urging officers to bring back the Blether Bus to Dundee by exploring partnerships with the third or private sector. That motion passed unanimously. A report on the findings is expected by the end of summer.

Fraser said: 'We have elderly people off the beaten track and we need to ensure there is better engagement going forward.' David Kelly is director of the Community Transport Association in Scotland. He hears from communities 'every day' whose transport needs are unmet. 'There is real demand for these kinds of services in Dundee,' he said. However, David fears working with commercial enterprises is not the way to go. 'We believe that working in partnership with local charities and community groups to deliver accessible services is more cost effective. It delivers better outcomes and represents a better option rather than turning to the private sector.' David and his colleagues say they are working with DCC on 'growing' community transport links in the city."

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/business-environment/transport/3169055/blether-bus-dundee/>

## Scotland - SPT Donate £32,000 to Two Local Inverclyde Good Causes



Greenock Telegraph: "Two lifeline Inverclyde organisations which help vulnerable people get out and about will share a cash boost of more than £32,000. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) has donated £22,500 to Ardgowan Hospice's patient transport service, and Port Glasgow Voluntary Transport Group has received £10,000. SPT has made the donation to show its support for community transport projects. The Ardgowan Hospice patient transport service helps Inverclyde residents get to and from hospital

for cancer treatment, and to outpatient hospice appointments. Port Glasgow Voluntary Transport Group provides accessible, affordable transport for economically disadvantaged groups, voluntary groups and third sector organisations all over Inverclyde. Both organisations will use the funding to help with vehicle running costs, expenses, and staff and volunteer driver costs.

Councillor David Wilson, chair of SPT's operations committee, said the projects bring 'tremendous benefits' to the people of Inverclyde. Graham Gardiner, CEO of Ardgowan

Hospice, said: 'The difference this service makes at an already stressful time is amazing. It reduces stress and anxiety, as well as making the journeys physically easier and more timely for patients.' Pearl Simpson, treasurer of Port Glasgow Voluntary Transport, said: 'This is an important boost for us, especially after a very unsettling two years. The elderly, disabled and other service users are now returning to their daily and weekly groups and the feedback we're receiving is very positive.'

<https://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/20048863.spt-donate-32-000-two-local-good-causes/>

## Scotland - Two Ayrshire Community Transport Groups Receive Funding Worth £280,000 to Keep them Motoring

Daily Record: "Two Ayrshire groups who provide transport to the socially or economically disadvantaged have been handed a welcome windfall. South Ayrshire Community Transport (SACT) is to receive more than £200,000 from SPT (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport) to help the projects they run locally. And Coalfield Community Transport will receive more than £80,000 for their efforts in connecting people in East Ayrshire. South Ayrshire Community Transport is made up by a consortium of local community transport operators and third sector organisations, formed in 2016. They provide accessible, affordable transport for socially or economically disadvantaged groups, voluntary groups and third sector organisations in South Ayrshire. SACT also operates a MyBus Rural service on behalf of SPT. In total SACT will receive £203,942 from SPT.

SPT chair, Dr Martin Bartos said: 'The last couple of years and the impact of the Covid-19 global pandemic on our everyday lives saw those in Community Transport having to alter many of their usual activities to take on new roles to continue to support their local communities. Yet again, those working in CT proved they provide lifelines services for so many of the individuals and groups they support and help. Ensuring funding for their future operation and development is key to their success and will ensure they continue to deliver vital services in our urban and rural communities.'



Cumnock-based Coalfield Community Transport is a community transport service too. Their mission is to provide 'accessible, affordable and appropriate' transport solutions for eligible groups and socially or economically disadvantaged individuals. Their award totals £82,291, which includes £50,000 to support their core transport activities and running costs, with an additional £32,291 to allow continuation of its Cumnock / Sorn Connector Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service. The finance boosts are part of funding totalling £1.2m from the SPT."

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/ayrshire/two-ayrshire-community-transport-groups-26549991>

## Ile of Man - Dial-a-Ride Unlikely to be Anti-competitive Says the Office of Fair Trading

Ile of Man Today: "A long-delayed Office of Fair Trading report that concludes dial-a-ride is unlikely to be anti-competitive was laid before Tynwald this week. It follows a preliminary investigation launched back in late 2019 into complaints from the taxi trade that they were being driven out of business by Bus Vannin's ConnectVillages service. ConnectVillages was launched as a 12-month trial in December 2018, with pre-booked minibuses replacing some scheduled bus services in the north of the island. There have been claims that cuts to timetabled bus services have left communities cut off. But supporters say the door-to-door



service has proved popular with some. Auditors Grant Thornton were subsequently brought in as independent consultants to help conduct the OFT inquiry.

They concluded that ConnectVillages appears to have had a limited impact on the taxi trade in the north of the island and is unlikely to be anti-competitive. It said the service has shown a slight but not material increase in passenger numbers following the replacement of previous off-peak bus routes but has achieved a goal of making transport in the area more accessible.

The report said off-peak services would have been cut regardless of whether or not ConnectVillages had taken to the road. But the OFT report does add, however, that without further information from the taxi operators, 'we cannot conclude definitively that there has been no significant impact on the taxi trade as a result of the implementation of the ConnectVillages service'. Dial-a-ride had left a 'minor gap in the market', it notes, as there was now no evening service to most of the north of the island with the exception of Jurby, although Bus Vannin has submitted an application to cover Friday and Saturday evenings.



The report does, however, say there may be merit in the claims about unfair competition from the state-funded ConnectPorts service.

This service was set up to provide a service to households who could not get to the airport for the early morning flight using normal scheduled buses but went on to primarily provide a patient transfer service. The report concludes there is no indication that ConnectPorts was set up with predatory intent and is unlikely to be anti-competitive as there has been no indication of the abuse of a dominant position. But the consultants considered there was risk it could contravene government recommendations on state funding. Bus Vannin agreed a budget of £125,000 with the DHSC to run the patient transfer ConnectPorts service, while also providing a commercial service to fee paying passengers.

Grant Thornton said it had not been provided with any financial information to confirm that the patient transfer service does not subsidise the commercial service, nor that charges are in line with those that a normal market operator would charge. Industry body Unite Taxis has criticised the report, claiming there were 'fundamental flaws in its definition of the market'. It said it failed to recognise pre-booked taxis were already providing a demand responsive service. And it argued that a proposed island-wide roll-out of dial-a-ride would have a devastating effect on the taxi trade and would 'destroy jobs'."

<https://www.iomtoday.co.uk/news/politics/dial-a-ride-unlikely-to-be-anti-competitive-says-the-isle-of-mans-office-of-fair-trading-515869>

## Derbyshire - Ashbourne Community Transport takes three EVM Citylines

Route One: "Ashbourne Community Transport has taken delivery of three Mercedes-Benz Sprinters with EVM Cityline low-floor conversions, supplied by Dawsongroup. The two-tone green minibuses are for use on the Moorlands Connect demand responsive service and are to a high specification. That includes wood-effect flooring, high-backed seats, USB charging points and panoramic double-glazed side windows. A driver's protection screen is also fitted, while a 12kW saloon air-conditioning unit and convector heaters with thermostat control are provided along with a Mercedes-Benz multimedia system with roof-mounted speakers. Says EVM Sales and Marketing Director



Peter Flynn: 'The vehicles have been designed for easy accessibility. With 18 passenger seats and room for seven standees, the Cityline is perfect for service operations.'

<https://www.route-one.net/deliveries/ashbourne-community-transport-takes-three-evm-citylines/>

## Cambridgeshire - Volunteer drivers needed for 'extremely busy' car scheme in Ely

Ely Standard: "An independent non-profit organisation in Ely is looking for volunteer drivers for its 'extremely busy' car scheme. Voluntary & Community Action East Cambs (VCAEC) based in Forehill is looking for individuals to help with its social car scheme. The majority of the charity's trips involve taking people to hospital or the doctors, but volunteers also take people shopping, to the hairdressers or to visit relatives.



A spokesperson for VCAEC said: 'We have drivers who prefer further afield such as Addenbrookes or QEH Hospitals and others who prefer local journeys – the choice is yours.' They added: 'We are a friendly bunch of people and you will be rewarded with 45p per mile for your help, a summer BBQ and a Christmas party too. Our volunteers say how rewarding the role is as they are helping others whilst also keeping themselves busy and staying in touch with others.' If you can spare a minimum of half a day on a regular basis and would like to help others, contact Mark on 01353 666166 or email [m.goldsack@vcaec.org.uk](mailto:m.goldsack@vcaec.org.uk)." <https://www.elystandard.co.uk/news/business/ely-charity-looking-for-volunteer-drivers-8914620>

## Yorkshire - Northallerton volunteer driver celebrates 20-year milestone

Darlington & Stockton Times: "Hambleton Community Action volunteer Les Lowther started his volunteering journey in 2002 when he retired and signed up to help as a volunteer community car scheme driver. He soon became a familiar friendly face to people around Northallerton using their community transport scheme. Liz Lockey, chief officer, said: 'I'd like to congratulate and thank Les for 20 years of service to the charity – 20 years is an incredible gift to people in and around Northallerton. It's wonderful to have dedicated people like Les supporting others in the community.'

Mr Lowther is one of the finalists in the Community Spirit Award for the 2022 Love Northallerton Business Awards. The winner will be announced at a gala black-tie awards dinner to be held at the Golden Lion Hotel on Saturday, April 30. To mark his 20th anniversary of volunteering, he was presented with a certificate from car scheme co-ordinator Claire Barnbrook. Volunteer drivers provide transport using their own vehicles to help people who are unable to access public transport in Northallerton, Bedale and surrounding villages. The charity is seeking more community car scheme volunteers to meet increasing demand from people seeking transport to medical appointments and social activities. There are a wide range of other opportunities for volunteering as well. Call the Northallerton-based charity on 01609 780458 or emailing [volunteering@hambletoncommunityaction.org](mailto:volunteering@hambletoncommunityaction.org)." [https://www.darlingtonandstocktontimes.co.uk/news/2006647\\_northallerton-volunteer-driver-celebrates-20-year-milestone/](https://www.darlingtonandstocktontimes.co.uk/news/2006647_northallerton-volunteer-driver-celebrates-20-year-milestone/)



## UK – DfT's New Guidance Toolkits

DfT has published four new guidance toolkits aimed at local authorities.

Demand Responsive Transport: Local Authority Toolkit - How local authorities can implement a demand responsive transport service that can benefit communities has been published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/demand-responsive-transport-local-authority-toolkit/demand-responsive-transport-local-authority-toolkit>

Transport in Rural Areas: Local Authority Toolkit - How local authorities can encourage sustainable transport options in rural areas is here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-in-rural-areas-local-authority-toolkit?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm\\_source=b9322e0d-6bf6-40d0-b377-0f43187c84f4&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-in-rural-areas-local-authority-toolkit?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=b9322e0d-6bf6-40d0-b377-0f43187c84f4&utm_content=daily)

Car Clubs: Local Authority Toolkit - How local authorities can support, introduce and expand car club operations is here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/car-clubs-local-authority-toolkit](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/car-clubs-local-authority-toolkit/car-clubs-local-authority-toolkit)

Zero Emission Buses: Local Authority Toolkit - How local authorities can decarbonise local bus services is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/zero-emission-buses-local-authority-toolkit/zero-emission-buses-local-authority-toolkit>

## UK – DVSA Updates

HGV and PSV inspection manuals have now been updated here:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDVSA/bulletins/312dc55>

Revised guidance on categorisation of defects is here:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDVSA/bulletins/3143b41>



If you require any advice or support please contact us on 01772-204988 or email [john.atkins@taspartnership.com](mailto:john.atkins@taspartnership.com)