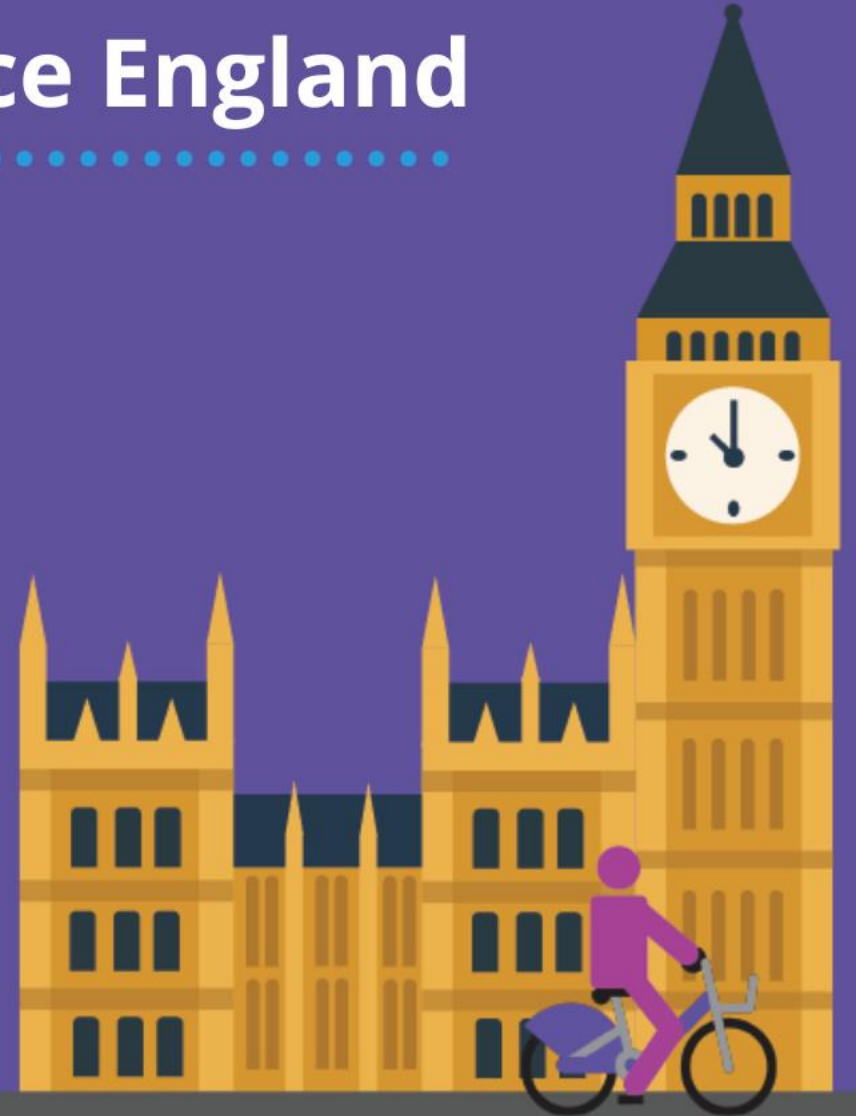


ConneCTing England 2025

Community Transport Conference England

Tues 16 Sep | 9am - 4pm
Coram Campus, London



ConneCTing England 2025

Community Transport Conference England



Welcome

Victoria Armstrong,
Chief Executive, Community Transport Association

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CONNEctING
england's community transport sector

Perspectives in Partnership: Government and Operator Insights

Panel

- **Sharon Payne**, Regional Rural Mobility Manager, Transport East
- **Simon Barnett**, Integrated Transport & Enhanced Partnership Manager, Suffolk County Council
- **Chris Parkinson**, Public Transport Manager, Transport for West Midlands
- **Jane Evison**, CT Development Officer, East Yorkshire Community Transport

Chair - Victoria Armstrong,
Chief Executive, Community Transport Association

Community Transport Funding

Chris Parkinson
Partnerships Manager

Working in Partnership

- TfWM has worked with the Community Transport Operators in the West Midlands for a number of years
- Recognising that the CT sector has an important role to play as part of the overall public transport network
- Regular meetings between TfWM, CT operators and the CTA
- Place on the West Midlands Bus Alliance Board, with 6 monthly reports to the board on the sector

Integration



Walsall Community Transport operate a number of tendered services for TfWM and we have helped fund the rebranding of their buses to bring them into the West Midlands Bus brand family.

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a diverse crowd of people of various ages and ethnicities. The people are depicted with simple, friendly facial expressions. Overlaid on the image are two large speech bubbles: a white one at the top left and a purple one below it. At the bottom right, there is a purple banner containing logos and text.

Let's Chat

Meet new friends, get advice, or find out more about local services and support groups. Everyone's welcome, so pop in for a cuppa and a chat!

Find out more at
tfwm.org.uk/loneliness



Transport for
West Midlands



West Midlands
Combined Authority



Department
for Transport

Let's Chat Hubs







**BSIP
Community
Transport
Service Grant
Funding**



The Opportunity

Following the National Bus Strategy – Bus Back Better in 2021, Local Authorities were asked to create a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) in which they detailed how they would improve public transport for residents and passengers.

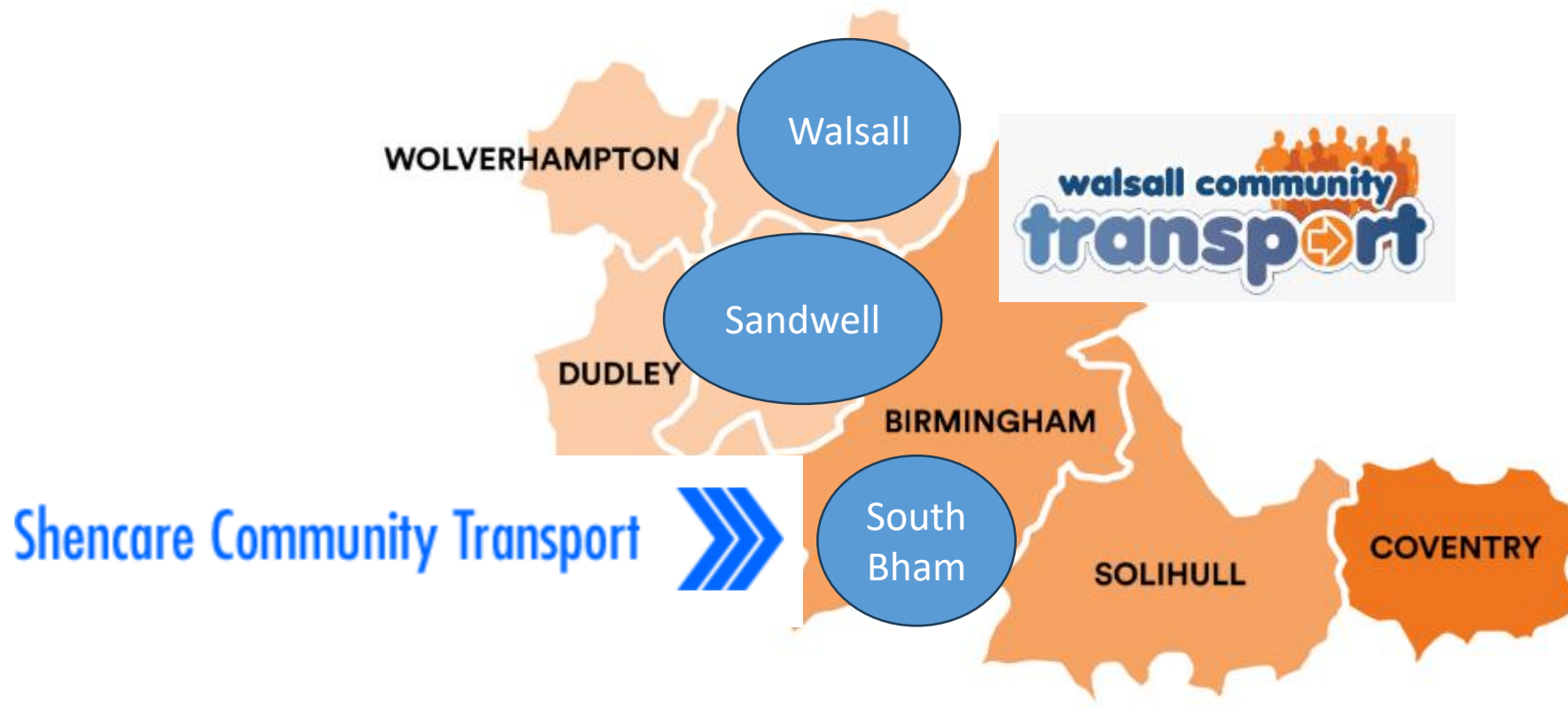
Our 2024 BSIP seeks to integrate Community Transport (CT), Ring and Ride (R&R) and Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) services into the wider integrated public transport network.

The existing R&R and DRT services are tailored to provide travel for individuals. These services are not currently designed and do not have the capacity to provide travel to group sessions designed for citizens with specific needs.

Due to the cost of transport a number of groups are no longer meeting and supporting these citizens. Whilst we can provide travel for individuals to these group activities, we can't guarantee it due to the limited capacity and demand responsive nature of existing services.

Following receipt of funding from BSIP Phase 3, we are seeking to provide dedicated additional capacity through our partners including Third Sector transport providers to meet this demand to July 2026.

Operating Areas



A new delivery approach

Walsall Community Transport partnering with a charity based in West Bromwich who will:

- Operate the new “Sandwell Community Bus”
- Store the vehicle and provide drivers
- “light” mini-bus purchased to allow self drive as required
- Operate regular shopping trips
- Advertise the service to local groups
- Use the West Bromwich Community Hub to build local links

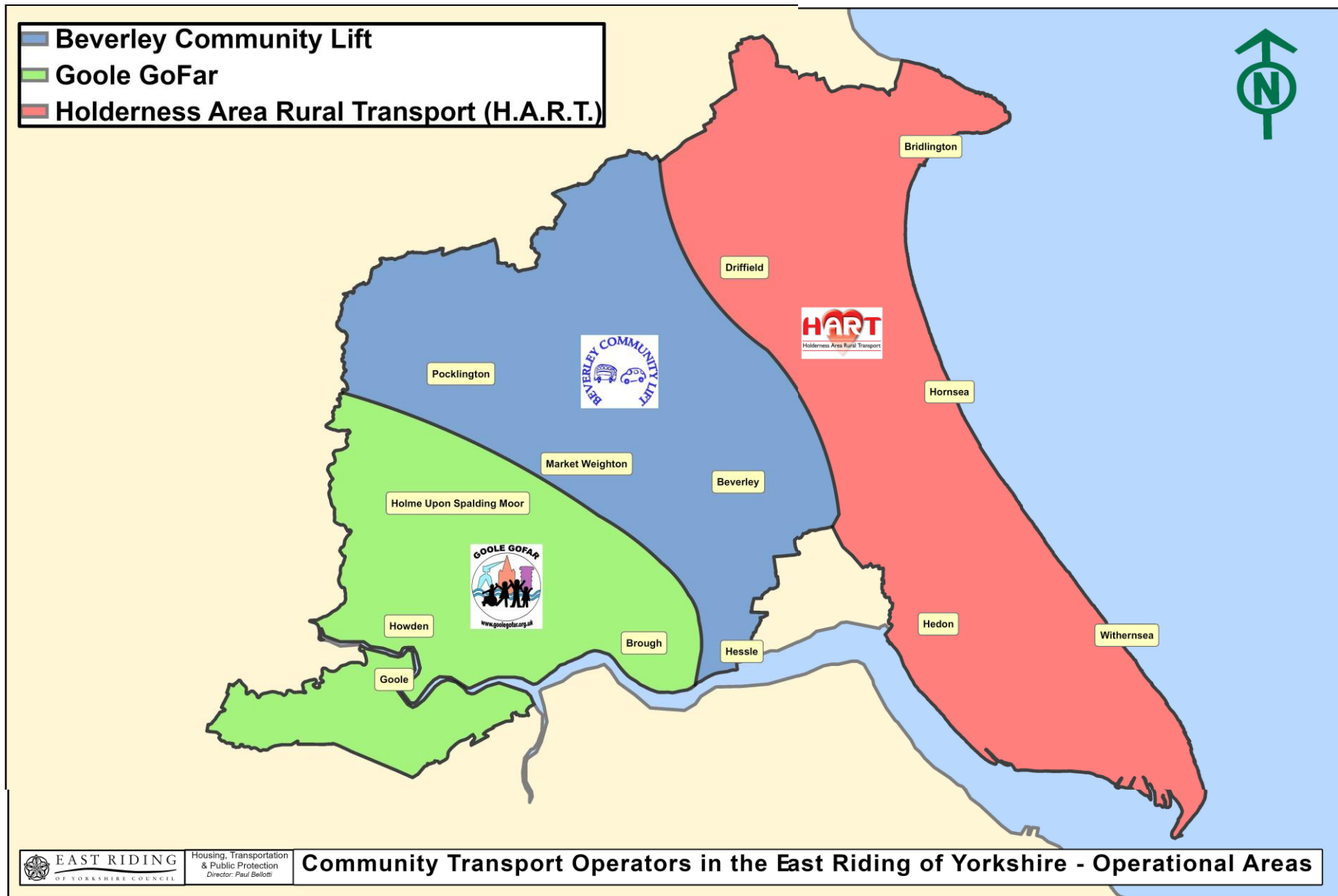
Shencare

Since BSIP funding has been in place Shencare Community Transport has been able to support numerous groups in the South Birmingham Area with subsidised transport.

It has enabled groups of people to go shopping, attend lunch clubs, day centres and other social activities. With the project getting off the ground in March 2025, Shencare had completed **3,429** passenger trips up until the end of July 2025 and is going from strength to strength.



Transport for
West Midlands



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Goole GoFar –HART – Beverley Community Lift



LOOKING FORWARD

- Growth in CT fleets and ongoing Council support for vehicle replacement and service development
- Attract more volunteer drivers through taster sessions we have introduced
- Pursue the need for partnership working with Health
- Continue to raise awareness of the work of community transport
- Potential involvement in rural connectivity pilots through BSIP/ Mayoral Combined Authority funding

WORKING TOGETHER WORKS

Promoting Accessibility

Community transport ensures everyone has the mobility to participate fully in society, fostering inclusion for all residents.

Supporting Sustainable Growth

Ongoing support and collaboration are vital for the sustainable development of community transport networks.

Building Stronger Communities

Working together strengthens our connections and creates a more inclusive, engaged, and resilient community for the future.

