

# Community Transport Roadmap for 2045

**The Community Transport Association's vision is that, by 2045, community transport is recognised, embedded and valued as part of an integrated transport network for Wales.**

## What is the context for this vision?

**The Welsh Government is currently working on the development of a 25-year transport strategy for Wales. The Wales Transport Strategy (WTS) will provide a framework for all aspects of transport including road, rail, bus, active travel and community transport.**

In developing this document, we have worked with our members and key stakeholders across Wales to explore the strengths and needs of the sector. We have taken the feedback from these engagement sessions to shape our vision for community transport as a truly integrated part of Wales' transport network.



## What is community transport?

**Community transport puts the community at the heart of all it does, taking a ground-up approach to transport solutions that work for everyone. Services offer so much more than just a journey, empowering people by opening up opportunities for those who would otherwise be excluded. The sector's community led approach means operators can offer outstanding value for money with bespoke, localised services, delivered on a minimal budget.**

Services typically support:

- Those in rural areas where transport services are either infrequent or non-existent.
- People who are marginalised and face barriers to accessing other transport services.
- Those whose travel needs fall outside of peak hours e.g. hospital visitors, shift workers.

Services are run by an army of staff and volunteers with a passion for making a difference to peoples' lives. Embedded in the community, operators have the local knowledge required to provide a reliable service. Strong relationships and high levels of trust mean that operators have the support of the local community.

These are often referred to as 'lifeline' services which allow those who would otherwise be isolated to access food, healthcare, education and social activities.

## Community Transport: Roadmap for 2045

Community transport staff and volunteers have a critical safeguarding role and often raise the alarm in the event of problems. Services are critical for ensuring health and well-being with many passengers unable to leave the house without this support. In many rural areas, the cost of running a vehicle is high with fuel at a premium and long distances to travel. Community transport services offer cost-effective, affordable transport options that allow people to make vital journeys, and can work with Shopmobility schemes to increase the independence of passengers at their destination. Overall, this helps to reduce inequality, reduce fuel and transport poverty and ensure people can access jobs, services and facilities.

The sector is innovative and can adapt quickly according to local needs. This has never been more apparent than in recent months as the sector has responded to the Covid-19 crisis, ensuring that those in need can access much needed support.

Throughout this time, the sector has mobilised volunteer support and is currently considering ways to harness the good will that exists in communities. Whilst innovation is something the sector excels at, continuity is also important with passengers looking for the same services they accessed before.



## Our Ideal World

**Our members have helped us to describe our vision of what a truly successful community transport sector would look like in 2045, delivered through the mechanism of the Wales Transport Strategy:**

Overall, we want to see a better, more integrated local passenger transport network in Wales that can meet the needs of all passengers and be the first and best choice for making a journey. This will have positive benefits for people, our communities and our environment.

In 2045, **community needs will shape the sector** as they always have done. **Welsh Government and local authorities will be committed to providing an adequate and consistent level of support**, including multi-year funding agreements to provide stability which allows organisations to grow.

Community transport operators will have delivered the innovation required to push forward **decarbonisation** through **alternative vehicle technologies**, ensuring maximum efficiencies. **A clean vehicle fund** will have been maximised to support the sector to shift to a low-carbon fleet. This will have been supported by a **network of accessible charging infrastructure** that facilitates rural and urban transport connectivity.

Having recognised the importance of digitisation, the sector will be fully utilising **digital technology for booking, journey planning and vehicle checks**. This will allow operators to deliver flexible services and real time information for passengers, as well as promoting greater connectivity with other transport modes.

The growth of **vehicle sharing schemes** across a range of vehicle types and **stronger links with other transport services** will have been hugely beneficial for passengers and operators in opening up a wider range of accessible transport options. The sector will have been **supported to grow substantially** with more communities developing their own services and existing operators co-producing new initiatives.

## Community Transport: Roadmap for 2045

Volunteers are at the heart of what we do and the sector's dream is for **vibrant volunteer involvement at all levels** and new people getting involved. The current public health crisis has shown the levels of goodwill that exist in our communities and we will have captured and built on this in the years to come.

In our future vision, funders, planners and commissioners will **ask how transport has been considered in the development of every new project proposal** before granting approval. Community transport operators will be involved in the development of plans for core and grant-funded projects to ensure effective transport solutions provide **access for all**.

Our vision is for a community transport sector in 2045 that has been supported to achieve its' full potential, where **community transport is properly valued and recognised as an essential part of this integrated transport network**.



## How can we make this vision a reality?

**In order to provide the framework required for the community transport sector to reach its potential, the Wales Transport Strategy should:**

- Deliver a new strategy for community transport to ensure a framework that recognises the value and contribution of the sector.
- Ensure consistent support for community transport across local authorities, which should include multi-year funding agreements that provide a foundation on which organisations can develop and grow.
- Set a requirement for funders and planners to show how transport has been considered in proposals. This should include details of community engagement to ensure new developments provide access for all.
- Provide a clean vehicle fund to support decarbonisation of the sector.
- Support the sector to develop a strong and recognisable Welsh community transport brand as part of an integrated transport network.

**“Our dream is for a fully working partnership between third sector and private sector transport providers enabling access for all.”**

### More information

For more information about the Community Transport Association and our vision for the future you can get in touch with us via the details below



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