

OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR TRANSPORT

A Manifesto for Wales' Community Transport Movement



cta
community transport
association

CYMDEITHAS CLUDIANT CYMUNEDOL

Our Vision for Transport Equity in Wales

Transport is fundamental infrastructure for our lives, both individually and collectively. We believe that everyone should have access to transport that meets their needs; to enable them to access work and education, to socialise and connect with the people and places they love, to stay healthy and well, to care for others and receive care in turn.

Sadly, too many people in Wales are excluded from opportunities, work, education, health, or community because of a lack of accessible transport. A reformed Senedd and a new Welsh Government creates an unparalleled opportunity to craft a new, more equitable transport system that works for all of us, belongs to all of us, and is shaped by all of us, based on fair access for all. We want all political parties to join us in committing to this vision.



Denbighshire Dial a Ride

What is Community Transport?



Community Transport is all about community solutions to unmet transport needs. Local charities, community groups and social enterprises across Wales have stepped up to deliver accessible, affordable and sustainable transport services which provide vital connections and a lifeline to people experiencing disadvantage, poverty, and inequality.

From buses in Bridgend and dial-a-ride in Rhyl to car clubs in Machynlleth and patient transport in Llanelli, Community Transport serves all kinds of communities, from our biggest cities to our most remote villages, and all kinds of people, from older and disabled people to children and young people.

Community Transport utilises all kinds of modes, from coaches, buses and minibuses to bikes, cars and MPVs, and enables all kinds of journeys, from commuting to work and attending healthcare appointments to visiting family and friends.

Who are the Community Transport Association?

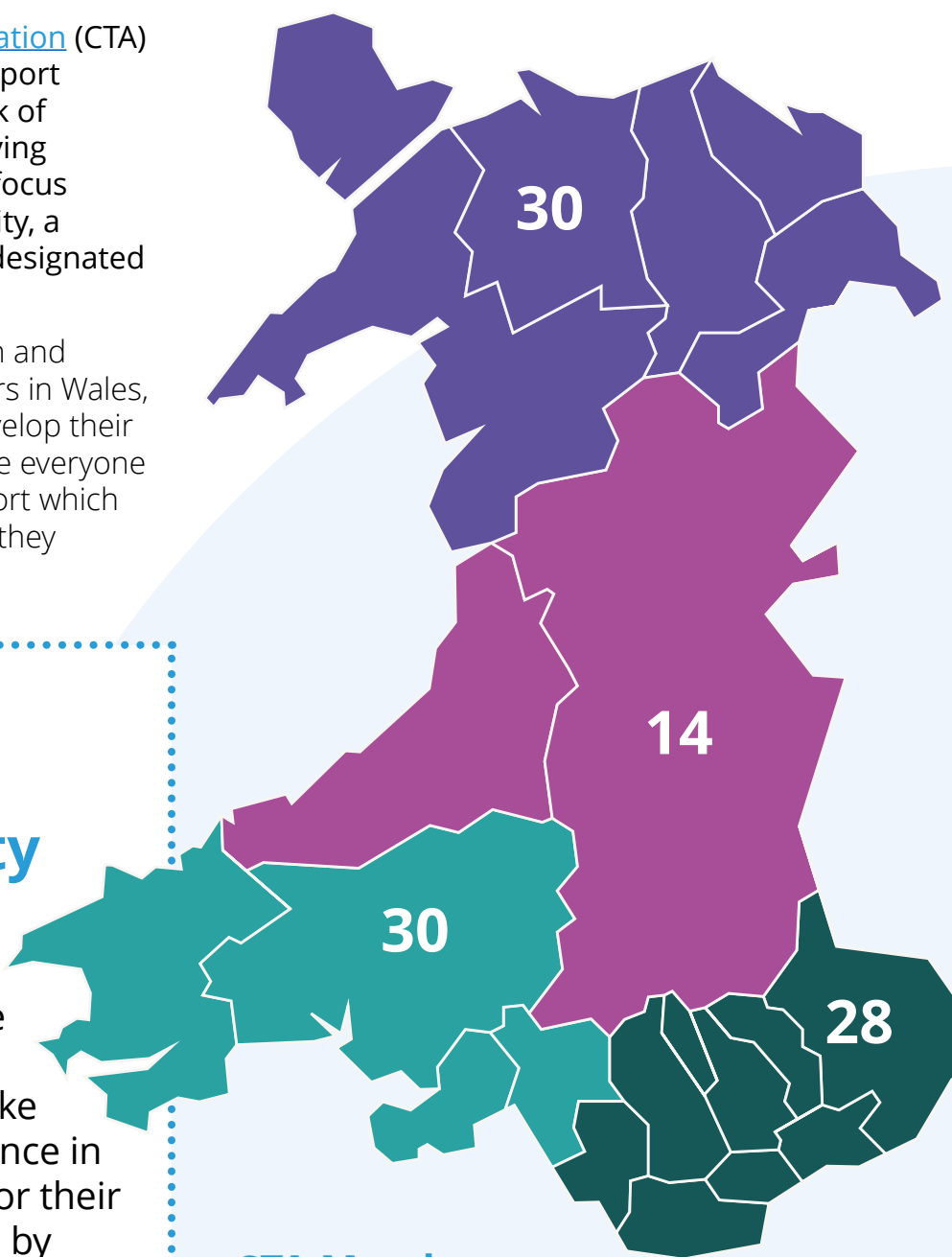
The [Community Transport Association](#) (CTA) leads a thriving Community Transport movement. We support a network of community-led organisations solving local challenges with innovation, focus and dedication. We are a UK charity, a membership organisation and a designated permit-issuing body.

We offer expert advice, information and support to more than 102 members in Wales, and to communities seeking to develop their own transport solutions. We believe everyone should have access to local transport which meets their needs, no matter who they are or where they live.

Our Priorities for Delivering Transport Equity

Wales' Community Transport movement is calling on Members of the next Senedd and the next Welsh Government to make a real and tangible difference in their constituencies and for their constituents across Wales by delivering Transport Equity. Our three key focus areas are:

1. Invest in Community Solutions
2. Improve Access to Health & Social Care
3. Accelerate Community-Led Climate Action



CTA Members Across Wales

North Wales	30
Mid Wales	14
South East Wales	28
South West Wales	30

Invest in Community Solutions



Community Transport grows local economies and builds community wealth and wellbeing. It helps people to earn and spend money locally through access to schools, colleges, universities and workplaces, as well as high streets and town centres. It creates vital connections for people and places, breaking down the barriers created by rurality, poverty, and inaccessible places and information. It retains local control and ownership of transport while creating quality jobs and volunteering opportunities.

Demand for the accessible and inclusive services provided by our members has never been higher, yet many operators are struggling to keep their services affordable for passengers due to rising costs including equipment, fuel, labour, and vehicles, and a stark history of underfunding.



We're calling on Senedd Members and the next Welsh Government to:

- ✓ **Deliver fair funding for Community Transport** through local government and public bodies which is multi-year, keeps pace with inflation, contributes to core operating costs and offers flexibility to operators. This must be transparent and consistent across Wales as we follow the 'Roadmap to Franchising' and beyond.
- ✓ **Extend the National Concessionary Travel Schemes to appropriate Section 19 services** to end the unfairness of a bus pass in name only for many older people, disabled people and rural residents.
- ✓ **Place a Statutory Duty on Local Authorities and CJs to engage with communities** to identify transport needs and explore potential solutions that inform the Wales Network Plan, as per the 5 ways of working in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015).

Why it matters

84% of Welsh voluntary sector organisations are worried

about their financial sustainability, with 38% considering closure within the next 6-12 months (WCVA 2024).

.....

Disabled people make

38% fewer journeys than non-disabled people.

Completely closing the transport accessibility gap for disabled people in the UK would deliver benefits in the region of £72.4 billion per annum. (Motability Foundation, 2022).

.....

Transport for Wales' forecast expenditure on bus and rail for 2025/26 is

£716m

Core funding for Community Transport via the Welsh Government has been static at around **£1.5m** per year for more than a decade (TfW, 2025).



"It is imperative that we support partnership working within our communities and invest in community led solutions to local need as we all know that transport links provide lifelines to all our rural communities, whether it be for social connections, vital health appointments or getting to and from work or education. Transport is an essential and basic need for people of all ages in our communities and creating effective working partnerships with those who can connect the dots is key to how we make those solutions happen."

Lyndsey Campbell-Williams, Chief Officer, Medrwn Môn (Ynys Môn)



Improve Access to Health & Social Care

Community Transport reduces pressure on social care, cuts NHS waiting lists and prevents delayed discharge. It tackles loneliness and isolation, prevents escalating clinical support needs, and helps older people to live well for longer in their own homes.

Community Transport enables access to GP surgeries, community activities via social prescribing, hospitals and day centres, which improves quality of life, prevents missed appointments and saves taxpayers' money. Yet these essential services are underfunded, undervalued and have the capability to do much more to assist NHS Wales and Wales Ambulance Service Trust in supporting our communities to be healthy and well.



Green Dragon Community Transport

We're calling on Senedd Members and the next Welsh Government to:

- ✓ **Ensure Local Health Boards work in partnership with Community Transport** to deliver a range of non-emergency patient transport services (NEPTS).
- ✓ **Integrate accessible transport into holistic, person-centred social care packages** to enable people to live well for longer in their own homes.
- ✓ **Expand the use of and funding for Community Transport within prevention and social prescribing** to boost mental and physical health and wellbeing, tackle exclusion, isolation and loneliness, and extend healthy life expectancy.

Why it matters

'I'd rather die of cancer than make the journey'

a Gwent resident was refused NEPTS for chemotherapy appointments due to her need for a carer to accompany her. She is now supported by CTA's Transport to Health project (CTA 2024).

.....

People aged 65 years or older are projected to account for nearly a

quarter of the total population in Wales

by mid-2032, compared with 21.5% in mid-2022. By 2060, the population aged 65 years or older in Wales is projected to reach over one million (ONS, 2022).

.....

More than a quarter

of survey respondents reported missing or being late to a health appointment, due to issues with transport (Older People's Commissioner for Wales, 2021).

.....

There is a 17 year gap

in healthy life expectancy for women living in the most deprived areas of Wales, compared with the least deprived parts of the country (Public Health Wales, 2022).



"Dolen Teifi now delivers thousands of health-related journeys every year for people who cannot use public transport, taxis, or the NHS patient transport service. Only a few years ago, we were delivering none. Demand continues to rise, and we are filling the deep gaps left by cuts to statutory provision including changing eligibility criteria, NHS transport cancellations at the last minute, or when centralisation forces people into longer journeys that are impossible to make without support. Each cancellation/refusal erodes trust, leaves families anxious, and adds financial burdens, with no choice but to call on the voluntary sector.

We are already subsidising statutory services through unpaid volunteer hours, subsidised fares, and hidden organisational costs. That is the wrong way around. It is neither fair nor sustainable to expect the voluntary sector to shoulder statutory responsibilities without proper investment."

Rod Bowen, Development Officer,
Dolen Teifi (Ceredigion &
Carmarthenshire)



Accelerate Community-Led Climate Action



Community Transport tackles climate change and supports a Just Transition to net zero, which is essential when more than 22% of Welsh households are living in poverty. It empowers people to make more sustainable travel choices by delivering affordable and inclusive local buses, shared cars and shared bikes in urban and rural communities, which reduce private car use, air pollution and carbon emissions in some of Wales' most underserved communities.

Yet a lack of ambition and support from government is holding back community-led climate action. To avoid leaving people behind in the collective efforts to adapt to the climate and nature emergency, we need a Just Transition which supports people to develop locally-delivered transport solutions, with sustainable investment in community-led transport that recognises the value and unique contribution Community Transport can and does make.



We're calling on Senedd Members and the next Welsh Government to:

- ✓ **Expand community-owned sustainable transport options** in every community in Wales.
- ✓ **Invest in Community Transport's transition to zero-emission fleets** and develop Wales' EV charging network in partnership with the CT movement, to meet the needs of local operators and the communities they serve.
- ✓ **Establish a new fund and a clear timeline** to encourage Corporate Joint Committees (CJs) and Local Authorities to reallocate road space to bus priority schemes, wider pavements, cycle lanes and on-street cycle parking, to enable equitable access to better choices for all.

Why it matters

Transport currently accounts for

16% of all carbon emissions in Wales, and is the third highest greenhouse gas emitting sector (Welsh Government 2021).

One in eight adults

have been unable to make an essential journey – including to work and health appointments – because they couldn't afford the cost of travel (Bevan Foundation, 2024).

61% of Welsh people support the implementation of bus priority measures (CPT 2021).

More than

75% of the Welsh CT movement are taking climate action, through shared transport, e-bike hire, alternative fuels, and fleet decarbonisation (CTA 2025).



"Awel Aman Tawe's core mission is rooted in tackling the climate emergency and supporting resilient communities. Community-led climate action is not just a desirable add-on; it's fundamental to achieving our long-term goals and ensuring a sustainable future for our area.

Climate change impacts everyone, but the specific challenges and opportunities vary by location. Community-led initiatives like ours are uniquely positioned to understand the local context. This means solutions are tailored to our community's specific needs, addressing issues like rural transport access, vulnerability to extreme weather, or the availability of local resources. When the community is involved from the ground up, they feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for the initiatives. This significantly increases the likelihood of success and long-term sustainability, as solutions are not imposed but rather co-created."

Sachá Petrie, Community Development Officer, Awel Aman Tawe (Neath Port Talbot, Swansea & Carmarthenshire)



From Vision to Reality

When solutions are embedded in and driven by the needs of the community, it is possible to respond to those needs in real time. When solutions are designed with the highest level of need in mind, then they are accessible to all. When investment is made in community-led solutions that put people before profit, we all benefit.

At the Community Transport Association, we aren't looking for a magic money tree. We're simply advocating that everyone's access needs are important, and we believe that the Welsh Government should be prioritising investment and support in ways that benefit us all. This goes beyond politics and to the heart of

stronger communities – equitable access to transport is an essential part of making Wales the best place to live, the best place to work, the best place to grow up and the best place to grow old.

A Wales fit for the future must include low carbon, accessible and inclusive transport options that widen opportunities and enhance life chances for everyone.

To discuss further or access support from CTA on how Transport Equity could form part of your Manifesto and a potential future Programme for Government, get in touch on gemma@ctauk.org.



Welsh Border Community Transport





community transport
association

CYMDEITHAS CLUDIANT CYMUNEDOL

0161 351 1475
wales@ctauk.org
www.ctauk.org



x.com/CTAUK1



facebook.com/CTAUK1



linkedin.com/company/
community-transport-association-uk