

The Local Authority challenge



How important are bus services?

In the year ending March 2015:

- there were an estimated 5.16 billion bus passenger journeys in Great Britain, around two-thirds of all public transport journeys,
- of these 4.65 billion journeys were in England,
- of which more than half were in London



- There were around 9.8 million older and disabled concessionary bus passes in England, with an average of 102 bus journeys per pass per year



What is the role of the LAs?

- Under section 63 of the *Transport Act 1985*, English local authorities outside London have a duty to provide subsidised bus services where there are no commercial services *and where they think it appropriate*.
- A council is entitled to take account of the funding that is available in deciding what, if any, level of service is provided.



Support from public policy

- Transport Act 2000
- Local Transport Act 2008
- Making Sustainable Transport Happen 2011
- NPPF 2012
- Buses Green Paper 2012
- Door to Door 2013
- Total Transport Pilots 2015
- Buses Bill 2016



Result

- Bus passenger journeys in England decreased by 0.6% in 2014/15 compared with the previous financial year
- This was largely due to 10% reduction in mileage on local authority supported services outside London



No reduction in concessionary fare support.

Concessionary Travel Spend per passenger journey (subsidised and non-subsidised)

- 09/10 40.0p
- 10/11 41.0p
- 11/12 38.7p
- 12/13 39.4p
- 13/14 39.0p



Bus Service Operators Grant

per passenger journey (commercial and LA)

- 09/10 17.4p
- 10/11 16.6p
- 11/12 16.7p
- 12/13 13.7p
- 13/14 13.3p
- 14/15 12.9p



Net public transport support

per passenger journey (all services)

- 09/10 20.4p
- 10/11 19.8p
- 11/12 17.5p
- 12/13 16.7p
- 13/14 15.2p



Total net public sector support

per passenger journey (all services)

- 09/10 77.9p
- 13/14 67.4p



Where are we now?

Passenger journeys per head of population

- Cornwall 18.7
- Devon 37.6
- Dorset 23.9
- Gloucestershire 32.9
- Somerset 16.4
- Wiltshire 20.5



Where are we now?

Vehicle miles supported by LA

- Cornwall 2.8m 26%
- Devon 6.0m 31%
- Dorset 1.5m 24%
- Gloucestershire 3.1m 30%
- Somerset 1.8m 23%
- Wiltshire 3.3m 44%



The future?

- Somerset
 - May 2015
 - Reduction of £446,460 pa
- Devon
 - June 2015
 - reduction of £1.762 million pa
- Dorset
 - reduction of £1.5 million over two years from April 2016
- Wiltshire
 - Consultation with a view to cuts of over £2 million

