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**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes

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**National Assembly for Wales**  
Enterprise and Business Committee

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Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru	National Assembly for Wales
Y Pwyllgor Menter a Busnes	Enterprise and Business Committee
Gwasanaethau Bysiau a Thrafnidiaeth Gymunedol yng Nghymru	Bus and Community Transport Services in Wales
BCT 05	BCT 05
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda	Hywel Dda University Health Board

## Consultation questions

**Question 1** – how would you describe the current condition of the bus and community transport sectors in Wales?

There are examples of excellent practice in some areas where collaboration between statutory, voluntary, commercial and community transport providers. This is particularly evident in improved access to health care when service changes have taken place and greater partnership working.

**Question 2** – why do you think the number of bus services and the number of bus passengers is declining in Wales?

There remains a public perception that there is very little in the way of public and community transport available in their areas. This has resulted in less uptake of these services based on the fact that the public are not aware of what is available.

There is also a view that central funding for bus services to Local Authorities has been reduced resulting in bus routes being reduced.

**Question 3** – what do you think is the social, economic and environmental impact of recent changes in bus and community transport service levels?

Reduced bus routes directly impacts on people being able to go to work while also penalising those who are dependent on public transport i.e. older people.

**Question 4** – what do you think the Welsh Government should do to support bus and community transport in Wales?

They should introduce a charge of £10 per annum for each individual accessing concessionary fares. This income estimated at £4.1 million per year could then be reinvested into bus and community transport across Wales.

**Question 5** – what do you think Welsh local authorities should do to support bus and community transport services?

They should encourage further collaboration with the NHS to streamline current provision with a view to releasing resources to maintain effective bus and community transport provision.

Collaboratively they should encourage the development of social enterprises through the Community Transport Association. Thus complementing and supporting current bus and community transport across Wales.

Further emphasis on transport should be included in Rural Development Plans therefore attracting external funding to strengthen local provision.

**Question 6** – what do you think about proposals to devolve bus registration powers to Wales? How should these be used?

Much will depend on what additional resources accompany these powers, as will the flexibility on how these powers can ensure equitable access to effective bus transport.

One area of work which the regulations need to focus on is to simplify the registration process whilst encouraging collaboration wherever possible.

**Question 7** – please tell us whether you think further powers to regulate the bus industry in Wales are required and why?

Further powers are required if only to stimulate healthy competition and incentives to stimulate partnerships across communities.

Encouragement should be given through these powers to engage employers and their staff in making best use of public transport.

Reduction in bureaucracy will be key in ensuring that all providers comply with the regulations and encourage bus and community transport across Wales.

**Question 8** – what other action can be taken to ensure that bus and community transport services meet the needs of people in Wales?

A full analysis of current provision needs to take place in order to measure public awareness of what bus and community transport is currently available.

Welsh Government need to measure the impact of planned reductions in Local Authority funding for bus and community transport.

Please tell us anything else you would like to mention this topic, thank you for contributing to our inquiry.

It is imperative that there is no further reduction in bus and transport provision across Wales at a time when collaboration across all sectors is increasing. The latter promoting greater value for money, improved access to services benefitting local communities.