

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 13	BCT 13
Grahame Nelmes	Grahame Nelmes

Consultation questions

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

Healthy in the cities and valleys although dependent up on concessions but a general decline in rural areas and suburbs.

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

Bus companies and local authorities are caught in a vicious circle. They do not have enough money to maintain any but the most popular services and so they cut other services which mean fewer bus users which in turn leads to fewer services. Early morning or evening services disappear so it is difficult to get to work. More buses are concentrated on main arterial routes so anyone off route needs a car so will use it for all travel. Community transport depends on volunteers which is difficult to organise. Fares have increased well beyond what

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

Socially, it means older people will have fewer opportunities to travel and become more isolated. Local bus travel is a great social experience for elderly.

Economically, those who do not have a car will find it more difficult to travel to work especially as they cannot afford to live in city centres. The bus industry will gradually disappear from all but towns and cities.

Environmentally, it will mean there is less chance of meeting climate change targets as more cars are driven into cities by daily commute.

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

- make it more expensive to use cars to commute
- greater subsidy of public transport
- integrate modes of transport
- develop new types of public transport
eg. railbuses, light railways, trams,
express bus lanes on new M4.
- develop infrastructure
- pollution taxes
- encourage community schemes through purchase of minibuses

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

- use planning to develop integrated public transport
- develop local infrastructure eg. bus stops
bus shelters
- subsidise essential routes
- develop community schemes to improve rural transport
- circulate the relevant information to encourage bus use.

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

- The powers are only useful if there are the financial means to maintain and improve public transport. They should be used to:
- develop new schemes such as South Wales Metro as quickly as possible
 - integrate transport - rail/bus; Park and ride; community / express bus
 - develop new express cross country routes because of lack of rail alternatives

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

Increased regulation is perhaps useful in certain areas such as:

- health and safety issues
- enforcing timetable changes to avoid disruption of services
- enforce joint tickets - the ability to use tickets on any bus in an area
- enforce some standardisation of fares p/kilo/mile particularly in commercial hubs.

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

The Government needs to decide how much it is prepared to prioritise bus over car and rail because it has as a priority the electrification of the railways and the development of the M4 which may not meet the needs of bus users particularly those in rural areas and outside South Wales

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