FUTURE OF RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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OVERVIEW – A RURAL PERSPECTIVE

- Cornwall Context
- Background
- Service Provision
- Recent Funding BSIP / BFP
- One Network, Timetable, Ticket, Brand
- Key Challenges
- Lessons Learnt

CORNWALL CONTEXT

- Growing population, over half a million 10% growth by 2031
- 25% population over 65 compared to 18% for England & Wales, ageing at faster rate
- 2 in 5 people live in small settlements of less than 3,000 people rural
- Deep inequalities in health and wealth exist low average salaries
- Inequalities in health, education and safety outcomes between different groups of people and different places in Cornwall – some of which most deprived in UK
- House prices around 9 times the average wage
- Rural isolation is a key issue, especially for children and young people
- Politically strong support for public transport, shown by significant investment in buses and rail over the last 10+ years.

- infrastructure investment



BACKGROUND

- Rural authority •
- **Devolution Deal 2015** •
- £15m public transport • investment
- £35m+ Operator • investment
- Led to One Public • Transport System for Cornwall
- Voluntary Partnership • with operators
- New innovative tender •





102 new buses – delivered through Covid-19. Best rural fleet in UK?

SERVICE PROVISION

- First are main commercial operator, covering around 1/3 mileage.
- Innovative 8-year options tender 2019
- Ambitious Package bid agreed with Go Ahead for all tendered buses in Cornwall
- Integrated commercial and tendered mileage to provide better links, more connections and upfront investment in a new fleet
- Linked school journeys into the wider network to provide more cost-effective mileage
- Also includes delivery of one brand and customer service centre
- New network launched as Covid-19 hit, lost opportunity for launch
- Network remains largely intact, with significant subsidy from Cornwall Council

ONE TIMETABLE

Go Cornwall Bus & First South West joined forces to introduce a single public transport map featuring all bus services in Cornwall, accompanied in April by one set of 3 regional timetable booklets and then consolidated to one single timetable booklet in September.



GWR is also represented in our Enhanced Partnership and shares our vision for an integrated network. Working with GWR, on-board train announcements have been installed at the key bus / rail interchange points, announcing onward connections by bus and directing customers to <u>transportforcornwall.co.uk</u> for further information. Way finding between rail and bus stops has also been improved, alongside the rollout of TfC branding.



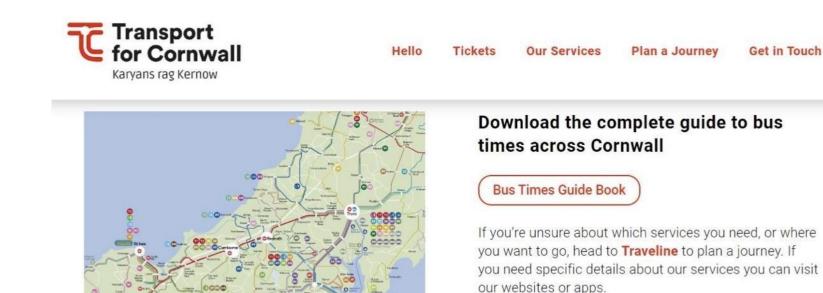


ONE NETWORK

Integrated information

In the last 12 months, and with the Enhanced Partnership in place from April, partnership delivery has stepped up a gear.

In January this year, Go Cornwall Bus, working in partnership with Cornwall Council and the other operators, developed a microsite to bring together all the transport information for customers. This website provides ticket information, bus network map, timetable booklets, operator contacts and a link to plan your journey.



ONE BRAND

Bus Stop

Transport for Cornwall

Karyans rag Kernow

Transport for Cornwall

Karyans rag Kernow





ONE TICKET



This year it's all coming together.











Bus Service Improvement Plan for Cornwall

Developed by Cornwall Council and the Bus Partnership Group October 2021









UNLIMITED BUS TRAVEL ACROSS CORNWALL FOR A FIXED COST



BSIP & BUS FARES PILOT

- One of the successful BSIP authorities, but massive shortfall in revenue bid for
- But, separate award for Bus Fares Pilot - £23.5m
- Allows 4 year fares trial to recover and grow patronage
- First year outcomes achieved – recovered pre-covid patronage
- Landed positively.
- DfT pilot £2 now in operation – challenge around how this is sustainable for longer rural journeys?

LESSONS LEARNT?

- No one size fits all Cornwall building from a strong base
- It needs a lot of investment Cornwall subsidise 50% of the mileage, but benefits are real and wide ranging
- Need to consider the 'whole' and how it fits together
 - Role of rail, school transport, CT, active travel, e-bike etc. DRT under review
 - How does good public transport support other areas social care, access to jobs etc...
- Have to accept some compromises and trade offs
 - School transport integration / post-16 college flows
 - Access to more rural locations v journey times / reliability of services
- Need to understand journey patterns and prioritise some movements
- Network is key, but so is customer service and ticketing needs to be seamless and reduce barriers to travel
- More work needed around interchange we can't provide direct journeys for all
- Behaviour Change could be a key tool, but under-funded / utilised to date?

KEY CHALLENGES

- Strategic vision, coupled with delivery expertise. Making transport a priority and joining the dots
- Funding rural transport networks are not commercially viable
- BSIP Priorities most rural areas want revenue funding to underpin service provision – they did not get this
- Attractiveness to the customer service levels are critical
- Fares DfT £2 scheme welcome but how viable longer term?
- Rural authorities often have longer journeys made....
- Cornwall has put in a huge amount of subsidy to deliver it is paying off with continued growth but will require ongoing funding.



PASSENGERS ARE RETURNING – THEY SHOULD BE AT THE HEART OF OUR THINKING.

PRIORITISE TRANSPORT-IT PROVIDES A LIFELINE AND CHANGES LIVES!



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